



2008 – 2009 Young audiences annual report



Young
Audiences
Arts for
Learning

Oregon & SW Washington

Our mission:

To enhance children's learning with creative resources from the arts community.

Young Audiences of Oregon & SW Washington has steadily grown in scope and programming since we were founded in 1958. We've evolved from presenting only a few classical music performances to currently providing a roster of over 200 skilled teaching artists with programs in multiple artistic disciplines and cultures. We connect these artists with classroom teachers and together they use the arts to make learning come alive for their students.

In the 2008-2009 school year, Young Audiences of Oregon & SW Washington:

- Served 223 schools in 39 districts
- Provided arts experiences to nearly 90,000 children
- Helped 93 area schools raise over \$675,000 through Run For The Arts
- Presented 241 residencies and 319 performances by professional teaching artists

Artists on our roster have been selected through a rigorous application process. We collaborate with and support these teaching artists by providing opportunities for them to hone their skills and develop new and exciting programming. As part of our commitment to artist professional development, Young Audiences presented the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' seminar *Artists as Educators: Planning Effective Residencies for Students*. Artists developed arts-integrated residencies in which students engage in a creative process that connects an art form and another subject area, meeting evolving objectives in both.



We also work with teachers and provide professional development opportunities for them to explore new ways of using the arts to empower learning. Last year in four Hillsboro schools, Young Audiences piloted Arts for Learning Literacy Lessons. The Arts for Learning Literacy Lessons form a groundbreaking literacy program that blends the creativity and discipline of the arts with cutting edge learning science to raise student achievement in reading and writing.

Through Young Audiences' Run For The Arts, schools raise the funds that make it possible to bring artists into their classrooms, purchase art supplies and pay for field trips to performances and exhibitions.



Learning comes alive!

Here's the story of how the 2nd grade students of Prune Hill Elementary and Young Audiences of Oregon & SW Washington worked together to make the arts a part of their learning and transform their school.

Prune Hill Elementary in Camas, Washington, participated in the Run For The Arts, an annual jogathon coordinated by Young Audiences to raise funds to bring the arts to their students. Young Audiences provided detailed instructions, tips for success, sponsor sheets, promotional posters, guidance and support, motivational prizes and t-shirts. The school provided an on-site coordinator. The students provided enthusiasm and leg power, collecting pledges and running laps. It was a great success.

The Run For The Arts funds raised were equally divided among the classes. The 2nd grade students of Prune Hill wanted to create a mural, something that would last and could be enjoyed by all the students for years to come. A Young Audiences School Liaison worked with teacher Lori Bright to connect her with the best artist for this project. Together they decided that Kaaren Pixton, a longtime Young Audiences roster artist, would be perfect.

Kaaren has led many school mural projects and, because of her expertise, has mentored other artists through Young Audiences' award-winning Coaching Cadre program. At the residency planning meeting, the 2nd grade teachers shared with Kaaren that their classes had been studying oceans and writing about sea creatures, coral and tide pools. Together, they came up

with a plan to create a collage mural of the ocean as a great way to integrate learning about the oceans into a creative project. Kaaren guided them through the process of creating a collage mural that would cover three walls of their school.

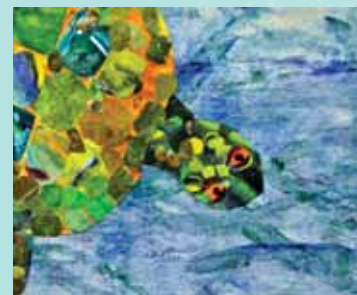
Side by side, the students and Kaaren brainstormed, explored, designed, planned, learned and created. First everyone painted the special Tyvek paper in vibrant colors, and then cut it into various shapes and sizes. From these each student created their own sea dweller then together the class assembled one collective piece. In the class that made the turtle, the students were asked, what shapes can be used to create a turtle? Then they divided the duties and the entire class worked together to make that turtle. Once the ocean inhabitants were completed, the 2nd graders painted the walls using rollers and sponges.

When it was time to put it all together, Kaaren worked with parent volunteers to assemble the piece. They affixed the students' creations to the wall, building tide pools and coral reefs and populating the ocean. Everyone involved learned the value of public art and experienced firsthand the power of the arts to create community.

The 2nd graders, who are now 3rd graders, feel ownership not only in their mural, but also in their studies and their school. This project transformed the school for the entire community, adding color and warmth. It created a focal point that sets the students' minds going in fun, creative ways. This is what we want for all students throughout our region.



Prune Hill Elementary Second Grade Mural



Arts-Integrated Literacy in Action

Empower teachers so they can empower students. That is the goal for Young Audiences' Arts for Learning Literacy Lessons. These five literacy-focused, arts-integration professional development units are making learning exciting and raising student test scores in classrooms across the country, including Hillsboro, Oregon.

In the 2008-2009 school year, 23 teachers from four elementary schools in Hillsboro - Orenco, Quatama, West Union and Lenox - took part in a professional development workshop led by Young Audiences of Oregon & SW Washington. They then went back to their classrooms with materials and a series of guided lessons in two of the five Units - Graphic Story Adventures or Words in Motion. Four of the classes took part in a national evaluative study of the effects of the lessons on student learning.

After reading the children's classic *My Father's Dragon*, fifth graders at Orenco wrote and illustrated their own graphic story adventure sequel. Teachers remarked on how this process, based on the instructional model of How People Learn, engaged even the most reluctant learner.

For fourth-grade Quatama Elementary teachers, the art forms of dance and spoken-word poetry came together as a way to teach the literacy skills of prosody and metaphoric language. Students wrote their own free-verse poems and practiced reading them with expression, adding dance movements to communicate the meaning of specific lines.

Arts for Learning Literacy Lessons and the companion teaching artist residencies offer schools a tested, inexpensive teacher professional development model that increases literacy learning while introducing arts-integration methods.



Art + another subject area = creative learning

As part of our commitment to artist professional development, Young Audiences presented the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' seminar *Artists as Educators: Planning Effective Residencies for Students* on September 29 and 30. Sixteen teaching artists from Young Audiences and regional arts organizations immersed themselves in studying and experimenting with arts integration, an approach to teaching in which students engage in a creative process that connects an art form and another subject area, meeting evolving objectives in both.

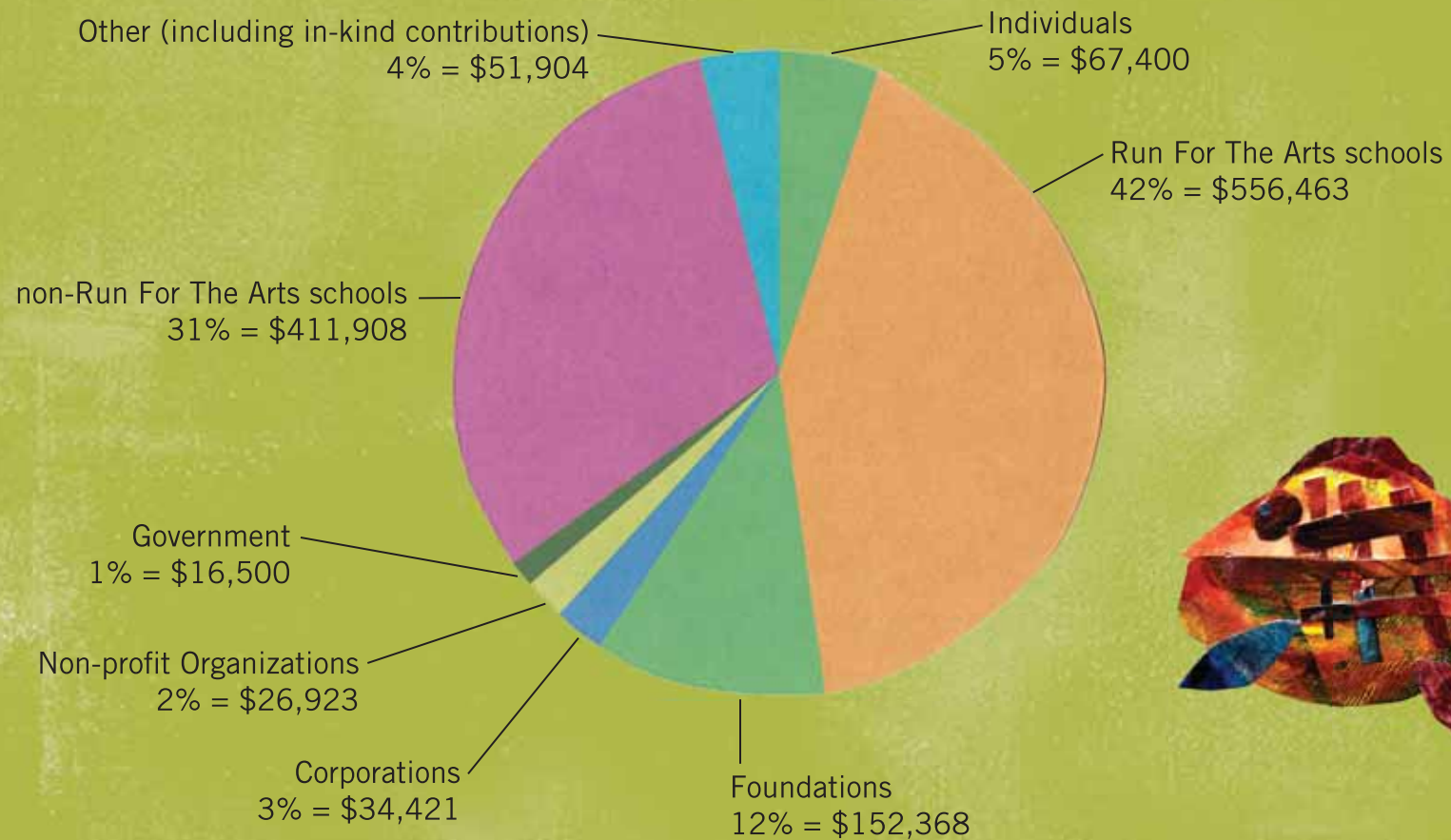
By the end of the cutting edge, 16-hour seminar led by Kennedy Center arts educator and facilitator Randy Barron, each participant had developed an outline for an arts-integrated residency that was later refined and piloted in schools. More than 12 teachers and their 360 students in low-income schools took part in these residency pilots. Examples of some of the residencies: *Creating Watercolor Cartography* (Peggy Ross); *International Folk Dance: Exploring History, Geography & Cultures* (Anya Klimova-Preston); *Reader's Theatre: Leaping into Literacy* (Caren Graham); and *Earth, Air, Fire, Water: Using Clay to Understand Changes in Matter* (Annie Stecker).

Young Audiences was able to offer this dynamic learning opportunity to our artists through the financial support of the Laird Norton Family Foundation, the Oregon Cultural Trust and the Oregon Community Foundation.



Financials

Total Revenues: \$1,328,139



Total Expenses: \$1,578,427



Net Asset Balance: \$367,677



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Young Audiences of Oregon & SW Washington

1220 SW Morrison Street, Suite 900, Portland, OR 97205
phone: 503.225.5900 or 360.693.1829 www.ya-or.org

