Dear Friends,

You helped make this another fantastic year for Creative Action’s kids!

Over the past year, we’ve worked diligently to continue to strengthen and build Creative Action’s programs to best meet the needs of the community.

Because of your support, we have made great strides in providing youth the tools to achieve long-term success in their academic, social and professional lives. Yes, we are making learning fun by using the creative arts! But what our Teaching Artists do in their classes goes deeper into practicing skills like teamwork, conflict resolution, empathy, creative thinking, public speaking, listening, leadership and more. Being a 4C student - Creative Artist, Courageous Ally, Confident Leader and Critical Thinker - is a pathway to becoming a successful adult.

In the last year, Creative Action has deepened our programs at area schools. With our Spark Schools program, students in Austin and Round Rock are engaging in arts-integrated education throughout the day. Students make murals, films, computer animations, video games, original songs, dance performances and plays. They are learning directly from professional artists and growing their own skills to eventually become a part of the creative economy. At these schools, we’ve seen some amazing things happen - an increase in teacher retention, better student attendance rates, higher test scores, and a decrease in behavior problems. Students and educators are thriving in this collaborative program.

It’s been exceptional to see our programs reach more students last year. Our teen programs expanded with the introduction of our Youth Cinema Collective. This collective of 14 to 18 year-olds work together to produce original films about issues affecting their peers. Their first short, Tokenized, is already being accepted into festivals around the country. Changing Lives Youth Theatre Ensemble performed their original play, Playing Against the Roles, to more than 3,200 Austin students. Creative Action’s interactive classroom performances visited more than 9,800 students last year. This means nearly 10,000 students learned more about bullying, empathy, and how to be better friend.

It’s been an amazing year and we are already on our way to making a bigger impact in this current school year. Thank you for joining us as we impact the lives of youth across Central Texas!

With love and gratitude,
Karen LaShelle, Executive Director

WHAT DID Teachers SAY AFTER THE PROGRAM?

- **97%** of teachers reported their students learned constructive ways to express emotions
- **92%** of teachers saw students using conflict resolution strategies like sharing and taking turns
- **88%** of teachers reported an increase in students being courageous bystanders when confronted with issues of bullying
OUR IMPACT

30,000 HOURS OF CREATIVE ACTION PROGRAMMING

485 CLASSROOMS FIVE DISTRICTS

126 LOCATIONS

21,066 STUDENTS & FAMILIES SERVED

75% OF YOUTH SERVED ARE FROM LOW-INCOME COMMUNITIES

After School Students

91% DEVELOPED COLLABORATION SKILLS
88% IMPROVED AS ARTISTS
75% INCREASED THEIR CONFIDENCE

Teen PROGRAMS

100% UNDERSTOOD AND VALUED GROUP DIVERSITY
98% DEVELOPED CONFLICT RESOLUTION SKILLS
94% INCREASED THEIR PROBLEM SOLVING ABILITIES
"I’VE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT BEING A CONFIDENT LEADER AND BEING BRAVE TALKING IN FRONT OF PEOPLE, BECAUSE YOU NEED TO DO THAT WHEN YOU’RE A LEADER."

ELLA after school student, Bryker Woods Elementary

"Exposure to the arts is everything. Our scholars are embracing HEALTHY RISK-TAKING as they learn through arts-integration."

KEITH MOORE principal, Media & Performing Arts Institute

"WE SUPPORT IMPACTFUL NONPROFITS AND CREATIVE ACTION IS AT THE TOP OF OUR LIST BECAUSE THEY GUIDE YOUNG PEOPLE TOWARD FULFILLING FUTURES."

CARLY & CLAYTON CHRISTOPHER board member & donors

"A lot of people are creative, but it’s dormant. If somebody HELPS YOU UNLEASH IT you’ll be surprised at what’s down there."

ZENOBIA ORIMOLOYE student, Continuing Creativity
“My two kids learn in very different ways, and Creative Action meets both of their needs so that every day they’re happy and excited to go to after school.”

CYBIL  after school parent

“I get to see creative teaching strategies and I’ve learned so much that I’ve been able to put into practice in my classroom.”

DIANA DULL  educator, Becker Elementary

“By supporting and nurturing the next generation of activists and leaders I know I’m positively impacting society.”

ETHAN PARKER  teaching artist

“My students are so bright, and it’s gratifying that they all work together to create something to share with their peers and families.”

MICHAEL LOVE  dance instructor, Lee Lewis Campbell Elementary Media & Performing Arts Institute
At Creative Action, we make certain your donation goes far to ensure all children have access to creative youth development in our community. In addition to a strong base of support, our programs operate on a highly sustainable funding model that utilizes earned revenue from school district contracts and a small number of fee-based programs to provide no-cost programming to youth in low-income communities throughout Central Texas.

80% of our After School students attend for free or at a reduced cost.
OUR DONORS

Creators ($500-$999)

- Austin Foodshed Investors
- Paula & Kevin Burns
- Becky & Raman Dewan
- Kirsten & Brandon Dickerson
- Sam Elkin
- Robert Francis
- Marina Gorbis & Chris Sleischut
- HomeAway
- Hunter Quartermane Salon
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- Sherry Matthews
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- Veritas Foundation

Sparklers ($1,000-$4,999)

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- Texas Commission on the Arts
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Leaders ($25,000-$49,999)

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- Deep Eddy Vodka
- Shantel & Dave Ferdman
- H-E-B
- Mueller Foundation
- National Endowment for the Arts
- Webber Family Foundation

Dream Makers ($100,000+)

- City of Austin Cultural Arts Division
- City of Austin, Department of Health & Human Services

*Donors $500+ included in Creative Action’s last fiscal year
The mission of Creative Action is to spark and support the academic, social and emotional development of young people.

Through interactive classroom performances, after school arts residencies and community-based programs, Creative Action’s team of professional Teaching Artists inspire youth to be Creative Artists, Courageous allies, Critical Thinkers, and Confident Leaders in their community.

By discovering their own voice, gaining confidence in sharing their perspective, wrestling with big ideas, and deeply engaging in the world around them, youth become better prepared to work through social, emotional and academic challenges to become the next great thinkers, doers and makers.

We envision a more just, caring, joyful and compassionate world. When youth build meaningful connections with peers and positive adult role models and holistically develop their creativity, compassion, confidence and critical thinking skills, they are better equipped for success as adults who contribute to making the world a better place.