

upstArt ARTS ACCESS 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



2023 Annual Report

upstArt Arts Access & Engagement Programming

2023 saw Lincoln Arts fully sink its teeth into a more robust upstArt initiative, a reconceived approach to our arts access programming post-COVID that expanded our programming beyond school confines into communities across the city. upstArt is now organized into three areas of focus:

1. School-based projects, including school-year programming via after-school CLC arts programs and summer camps.
2. Community partnership projects that focus on enhancing the work of local human-service organizations through arts programming; and
3. Public projects in which we take the arts to where the people are, including in public spaces and at public events.

107 projects were planned for the year, 100 of which were completed. Not all projects were completed due to logistical hurdles such as partner staffing changes, venue viability, and teaching artist availability.

upstArt 2023 by the Numbers



teaching artists



school partners



non-school partners



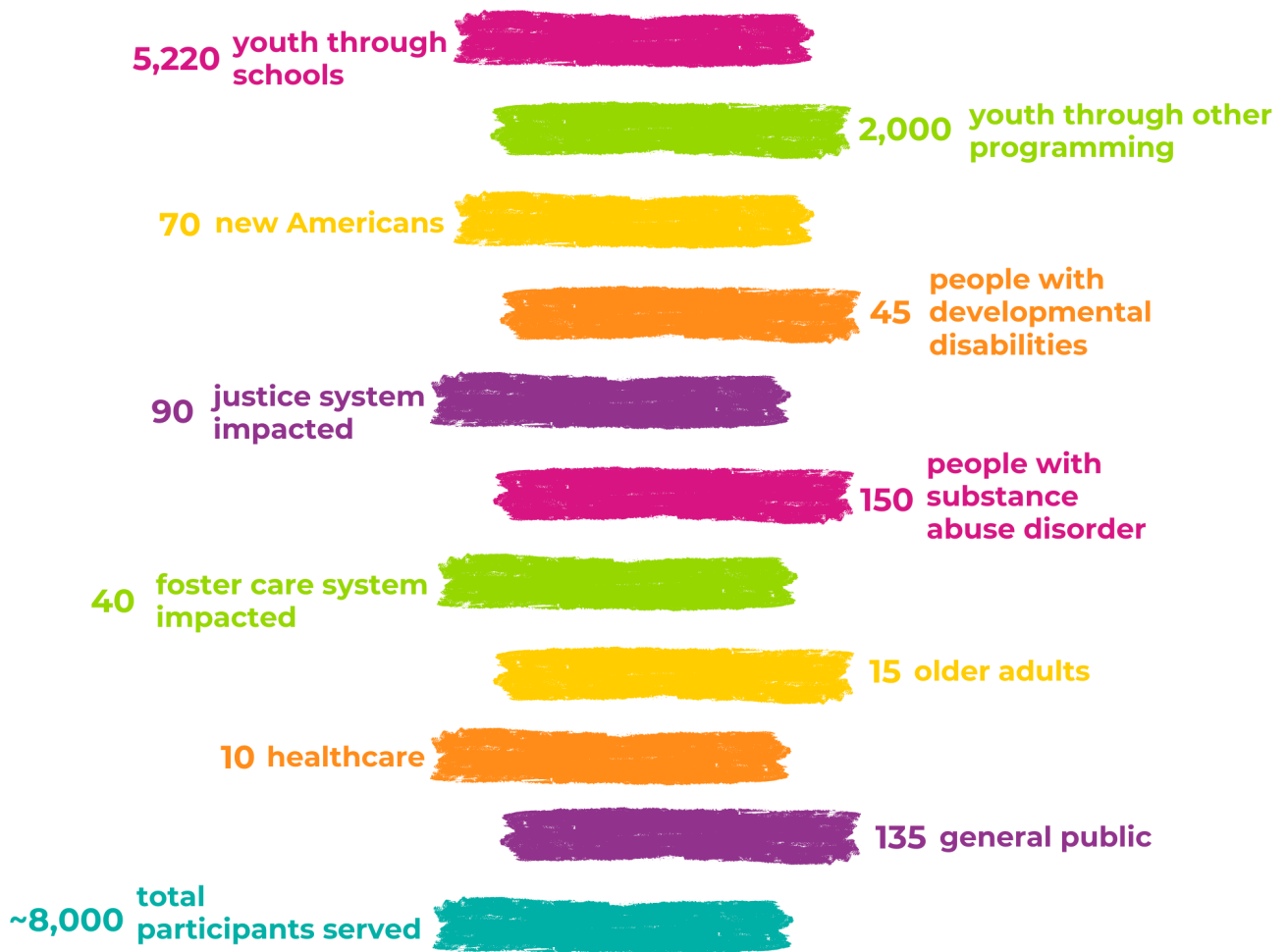
projects



hours of arts interaction



hours of instruction



The numbers above only include estimates for the 82 projects conducted by Lincoln Arts and its partners. It does not include the 18 projects funded by upstArt grants.

► **School-Based Projects (66 total)**

1. After-school arts programs (33)

We coordinated and funded 33 after-school **LPS Community Learning Center (CLC) arts programs**. These are extracurricular opportunities for interested students to explore the arts in a small setting with professional artists. Subjects (chosen by the school) range from visual art, music and theater, to dance, photography and digital design. Students typically meet weekly for two months and cover all of LPS geographically, spanning all grade levels.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
15	10	540	288	4,320	10 schools

Partners: YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Malone Center, Parks and Rec, CEDARS, Civic Nebraska, Family Service, Lincoln Housing Authority, Northeast Family Center and Willard Community Center.



Holmes Elementary School students pose with their instruments during a weekly session for their music CLC art program taught by teaching artist Oscar Rios.

2. Middle & high school music mentoring (10 mentorships)

LAC partnered with 10 music students at **UNL** to offer **mentoring to middle and high school students**. Promising students received extra training on their instrument. Each mentor provided up to 30 mentoring sessions – a total of 300 mentoring sessions.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
10	2	75	300	1,500	10 schools

Partners: Lincoln Public Schools, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

3. LPS World Music Tour (10 tour stops)

We partnered with musician **Daniel Martinez** to present a **'World Music Tour'** that will visit every LPS school over the next 5 years. After Daniel spends three days workshopping with students about indigenous and world music his band Jarana performs a school-wide assembly program. The first 10 schools happened in the 22-23 school year.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
4	2	3,250	40	3,750	10 schools

Partners: Lincoln Public Schools, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Jarana



Daniel Martinez performs with his band Jarana and Culler Middle School students in a culminating musical showcase as part of the LPS World Music Tour.

4. Summer Arts Camps (6 camps)

In collaboration with **LPS** we are offered six half-day **summer arts camps**. Students spent mornings at the camps (which focused on art, photography, theater and textiles), were served lunch, and were then bussed to an LPS afternoon summer learning program.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
7	6	105	140	2,100	5 partner sites

Partners: Constellation Studios, Nebraska Sports Foundation, BLIXT, UNL, Urban Legends Art Studio



Students at a summer camp session reach for beads during an activity led by artist instructor and Urban Legends Art Studio owner Anna Alcalde.

5. LGBTQ+ poetry and art workshops (2 workshops)

We offered two weekend-long LGBTQ+ high school **poetry and art workshops** at Lincoln High with **Siwar Massanat** and **Lindsey Weber**.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
2	1	20	8	160	1 school

Partner: LPS

6. Pathfinder Youth Detention Center (4 courses)

Expanding from just art instruction, we offered both **art and music instruction** at the **Lancaster County Youth Detention Center Pathfinder school**. In total, there were four months of arts programming at Pathfinder – eight weeks of art and eight weeks of music.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
2	1	75	72	1,800	1 school

Partner: LPS



A painting by a student in Nancy Konrardy's art residency.

Below, a song written by a student in Daniel Martinez's music residency:

<https://shorturl.at/kswxU>

7. Classical music introduction and listening experience

We collaborated with **Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra** to have composer **Tyler White visit the six high school orchestras to talk about his music and the state of classical music in our time**. Tickets to an LSO concert were offered to families.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
1	1	160	4	640	5 schools

Partners: Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra, LPS

upstArt School-Based Projects in the media - [CLICK HERE](#)

► Community Partnerships (12 total)

1. Autism Family Network

Growing from last year's successful partnership with **Autism Family Network**, we expanded from 12 monthly activity nights to 24 – now in art *and* music. Anna Alcalde offered **monthly art classes** to children on the spectrum at Urban Legends Art Studio, and Daniel Martinez offered **monthly music classes** at Union College.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
2	3	45	48	1,080	2 partner sites

Partners: Autism Family Network, Urban legends Art Studio, Union College



A mother and son pose with their latest art creation at Urban Legends Art Studio under the guidance of Anna Alcalde. Through partnerships with the studio and Autism Family Network, upstArt connects children with developmental disabilities to a means of self-expression and communication through visual and musical arts.

2. Lincoln Aging Partners

Utilizing the Nebraska Arts Council's Creative Aging program, we offered **mosaic making classes** at **Lincoln Aging Partners'** new East Lincoln location. These classes were led by mosaic artist Carrie Strope.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
1	1	15	12	180	1 partner site

Partner: Lincoln Aging Partners

3. Dance for Parkinson's

In a partnership with Ruth Davidson Hahn, one of last year's Creative Aging instructors, we helped fund **therapeutic movement sessions for Parkinson's Disease patients** as part of her **Dance for Parkinson's** program, which she founded after receiving special training.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
1	2	10	10	100	1 partner site

Partners: Dance for Parkinsons, Nebraska Ballet Theatre School



Ruth Davidson Hahn guides participants during a dance and movement class through the Dance for Parkinson's program. Ruth's 10-week series helps students regain movement, balance, memory, and confidence.

4. The Bridge

At **The Bridge**, a live-in facility for men recovering from addiction, we continued to offer **weekly water-color classes** for residents. These sessions complement the talk therapy and other counseling services they receive on site.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
1	1	150	100	15,000	1 partner site

Partner: The Bridge

5. CEDARS

At **CEDARS**, a live-in facility for children undergoing family crisis or housing insecurity, we offered three months of **improv classes**.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
1	1	40	20	800	1 partner site

Partner: CEDARS

6. El Centro de las Américas

At **El Centro de las Américas** we offered **monthly bilingual night-classes for parents and their children**. The classes, hosted at the LUX Center for the Arts, focused on using the arts to facilitate forming a language bond between first-generation immigrants and their assimilating children.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
2	2	40	20	550	1 partner site

Partners: El Centro de las Américas, Lux Center for the Arts



A mother and daughter create small sculptures during a night-class at the LUX Center.

7. The Dark Room

At **The Dark Room**, a new organization in town that focuses on providing **arts opportunities to disaffected youth** who are struggling to find a space for themselves in more traditional environments, we offered a multi-week pottery class.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
1	1	10	20	200	1 partner site

Partner: The Dark Room

8. Midwestern Museum of African Art

We have **provided a full set of world music percussion instruments** to the **Midwestern African Museum of Art** for them to use in their outreach activities both on-site and with their partner schools.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
1	8	100	18	1,800	1 partner site 8 schools

Partners: Midwestern Museum of African Art, LPS



Seth Mock, founder and director of MAMA, leading an African drumming activity at Lincoln High for teachers and students. —with drums loaned to MAMA by Lincoln Arts.

9. Parenting Across Color Lines

Supporting biracial adoptive families and the identity struggles they face, we joined with **Parenting Across Color Lines** to bring an **interactive African musical traditions demonstration** and performance to blended families.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
1	2	25	2	50	1 partner site

Partners: Parenting Across Color Lines, Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association

10. Lincoln Literacy

In a partnership with **Lincoln Literacy**, we hosted a **week-long summer arts festival focusing on traditional Ukrainian art and music** for the Ukrainian expat and refugee community. The camp offered traditional Ukrainian art and music activities. On one of the days, the camp attendees joined our Robert's Park outdoor music concert in an art activity that celebrated their Ukrainian and Nebraskan heritage.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
4	2	30	10	300	2 partner sites

Partners: Lincoln Literacy, Community Action Center, City of Lincoln Parks Department



Participants of Lincoln Literacy's Ukrainian Camp paint door decorations shaped like the state of Nebraska to celebrate their heritage and culture.

11. Vital Services

Lincoln Arts **provided musicians, painters and a storyteller** to **Vital Services** annual family fair.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
4	1	100	4	400	1 partner site

Partner: Vital Services

12. Beyond Prison

In support of children with an incarcerated parent, we provided **monthly art activity evenings** via **Christian Heritage's** Beyond Prison program.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
2	1	15	15	225	1 partner site

Partner: Christian Heritage

upstArt Community Partnerships in the media - [CLICK HERE](#)

► **Public Space Projects (4 projects total)**

1. Art Vibes, Park Sounds

Complimenting the music programming at the **Art Vibes, Park Sounds** - formerly Lincoln Calling in the Parks - we added arts programming to the festival. This included **on-site interactive activities** with new and seasoned Lincoln Artists.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
3	2	750	12	500	3 partner sites

Partners: City of Lincoln Parks Department, Lincoln Parks Foundation



Lincoln Arts' free concert series, "Art Vibes, Park Sounds" saw a revolving door of interactive arts activities for attendees to try while enjoying the concert—including this collaborative craft led by BlackIsBeautifulNE.

2. Streets Alive

With **Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln** we provided **music and story-telling activities for adults and children at their Streets Alive neighborhood block party** to promote healthy living.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
2	1	500	4	100	1 partner site

Partner: Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln

3. KZUM

A Family Art activity center was offered at 10 Thursday night summer concerts in Stransky Park with **KZUM**.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
2	3	250	20	5,000	1 partner site

Partners: Lincoln Parks and Rec, KZUM, Urban Legends Art Studio

4. Lincoln Arts Festival

We hosted **family activity and demonstration booths** at the 2023 **Lincoln Arts Festival**, showcasing several of our teaching artists in art, music, and storytelling and exhibiting artwork created by residents at The Bridge through our residency there, and displayed a skate deck art installation from a CLC project at Lincoln High.

Teaching Artists	Partners	Participants Reached	Instruction Hours	Total Interaction Hours	Locations
7	5	400	10	4,000	Canopy Street

Partners: The Bridge, LPS, Urban Legends Art Studio, Audubon Society.



Teaching artist Sharonda Harris-Marshall encourages upstArt program participants and Lincoln Arts Festival attendees to try their hand at creativity with an arts-focused activity.

upstArt Public Space Projects in the media - [CLICK HERE](#)

► upstArt Grants (18 total)

For many years Lincoln Arts has offered very small project grants to partner arts organizations. In 2023, utilizing upstArt funds that went unused during the pandemic, in combination with a smaller endowment that has been used for project grants for arts organizations for many years, we expanded the grant program and have moved it under the upstArt umbrella. We offered grants up to \$2,500 to nonprofits (both arts and human service organizations) with a focus on collaborations between the arts & human service communities that bring engaging arts opportunities to under-resourced populations. Those projects were selected in January, 2023 by a community panel of arts and human service representatives. Selected projects include:

Arc of Lincoln. In collaboration with local artists, the Arc of Lincoln provided art and social experiences once a month at Hands of Heartland for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities as well as their parents, siblings, and caregivers, through their Come Together and Friendly Faces programs. These initiatives engaged participants in enriching art endeavors and social networking. Individuals with disabilities and their siblings learned, created, discussed, displayed, and/or performed art.

Art Bus LNK. In the spring of 2023, Art Bus LNK partnered with Vital Services, a Lincoln-based organization that prioritizes helping people with developmental disabilities learn life skills. This collaborative project took place at Vital Services weekly for eight weeks, March through May of 2023, and allowed Art Bus LNK to provide free, accessible community programming to this group through their mobile art studio.

Asian Community & Cultural Center.

Untold Migrant Stories is a digital storytelling program for refugee and immigrant youth in Lincoln that encourages students to document their lived experiences and share them with the public through community showcase events. Through this project, students learned photography



A student sharing with the community about a transformative experience using photos and digital media as part of the Asian Community & Cultural Center's Untold Migrant Stories project.

and video editing skills to document a story that is important to them or someone in their community and share their completed projects with others. This project took place in various Lincoln Public Schools throughout the Spring 2023 semester and also included a showcase held at the Asian Community & Cultural Center on March 3rd, 2023.

Capital Jazz Society. Capital Jazz Society provided local and visiting jazz musicians and ensembles of all ages with a performance venue in Lincoln's Storm Cellar as part of the Society's Monday Night Big Band project. Through this concert series, student and adolescent musicians connected with composers, arrangers, and seasoned professional musicians. Together, they enjoyed the opportunities to learn from and support one another. The concerts took place every Monday evening.

Civic Nebraska. With the support of Lincoln Arts and the LUX Center for the Arts, Civic Nebraska created community-led art installations in the University Place neighborhood. Through this project, facilitators matched community residents to artists to create art installations that were displayed in yards, small businesses, and more, with a vision of strengthening social bonds in the neighborhood.

Eastmont Foundation. The Eastmont Foundation encourages two generations to learn from one another by using the visual arts to convey a message of how art "bridges the gap" between generations. Middle school art students interview Eastmont's senior residents about their experiences in youth and create works of art that convey those experiences.

ECHO Collective. ECHO Collective offers three ongoing creative circles and four 8-week art courses on quilting, bead weaving, and textile weaving to refugee and immigrant women. Through this programming, participating women can spend time bonding with one another, building a sense of community, and creating. This ongoing project takes place at ECHO Collective and Educare.

F Street Church. On the second Tuesday of each month in 2023, F Street Church hosted residents of Center Pointe Residential Rehab for an art-focused outing. At the church, residents received supplies and instruction to craft or create art projects, such as drawing, painting, or tie-dyeing. This outing also provided Center Pointe's residents with the opportunities to build connections with the community and one another.

Flatwater Shakespeare Company. Flatwater Shakespeare Company brought free Shakespeare productions to Lincoln parks through Short Shakes: 75-minute, family-friendly productions with no intermission. During the summer of 2023, five performances were offered in five Lincoln Parks, including Belmont Park, Cooper Park, Havelock Park, Henry Park, and Trago Park.

Lincoln Calling. Lincoln Calling's annual fall festival is a celebration of arts that embraces discovery, bringing in multiple bands across eight stages. In 2023 Lincoln Arts and Lincoln Calling merged. Under the Lincoln Arts umbrella, Lincoln Calling presented a Labor Day weekend Backlot Barbeque concert behind Duffy's Tavern with food and a reduced roster of acts on a single stage. It also offered Art Vibes, Park Sounds in three Lincoln parks in August in partnership with Lincoln Parks and Rec and the Lincoln Parks Foundation. A revitalized and fully formed Lincoln Calling will return May 3-4, 2024.

Lincoln Literacy. FLAIR is a university-designed program that teaches immigrant and refugee children while helping their parents gain English language literacy. Through the program, children of an immigrant or refugee family engage in English language activities, while their parents receive classroom instruction in the same facility. In 2023, Lincoln Literacy served approximately 200 children with an arts-enriched FLAIR program, providing participants with opportunities to express themselves and tell stories through 12 art projects throughout the year. This project took place monthly in 2023 at the various Lincoln Literacy program sites.

Lincoln Music Teachers Association. The LMTA Music Outreach Program provides low-cost music lessons, instruments and their upkeep, sheet music, and community performance opportunities for up to 50 area limited-resource children. K-12 students must meet Federal free/reduced lunch guidelines.

Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra. For over a decade, Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra (LSO) has partnered with Family Literacy, a program through Lincoln Public Schools serving students and their families in the immigrant and refugee community. Through this partnership, LSO staff visits Family Literacy classes to discuss the concert programs, before providing families with free tickets to attend an LSO family night concert at the O'Donnell Auditorium, NE Wesleyan on February 5, 2023 or April 23, 2023. To promote arts accessibility, LSO partners with LPS transportation and Star Tran to provide busing for these families wishing to attend a concert.

LUX Center for the Arts. Open Art Saturdays provided up to 300 diverse and low-income students from three Title 1 schools (Clinton, Hartley, and Huntington elementary schools) with the free opportunity to explore visual art using Montessori-inspired learning activities. During these sessions students experimented with a variety of artmaking materials, tried out new techniques, and learned to express their own creative voice. This project occurred on 10 Saturdays in 2023 at the Lux Center for the Arts.

Midwest African Museum of Art. The Midwest African Museum of Art showcased the beauty of African culture in schools and community centers throughout Lincoln by teaching traditional African Drums, dance, music, and storytelling, with a vision of bringing diverse groups together and encouraging respect for the values incorporated within the African tradition.

Mourning Hope. In partnership with The LUX, Mourning Hope offered four community-based “Art from Our Heart” programs to Lincoln’s bereaved children and teens at the Mourning Hope Grief Center in June, July, September, and December 2023. To develop and nurture children's personal growth, grieving youth were connected with local artists for an expressive media project focused on emotional healing.



“Art From Our Heart” participants explore the development and movement of grief through a crafting project designed to encourage reflection on their healing journey.

Nebraska Brass. Brass Goes to School is an educational outreach program that provides concerts to students in Lincoln Elementary Schools. Nebraska Brass brought this program to Adams Elementary School on January 31, 2023, in addition to performing three public concerts throughout Lincoln at South Gate United Methodist Church on February 26, 2023, Vine Congregational United Church of Christ on April 2, 2023, and St Paul’s United Methodist Church on May 21, 2023.

Yankee Hill Bells. Each Monday in January and February 2023, residents of Yankee Hill Village gathered to share in community, singing, and ringing chimes in a partnership with Southwood Lutheran Church. Together Yankee Hill residents built shared experiences, storytelling skills, and an appreciation for the arts and music.

upstArt Grants Program in the media - [CLICK HERE](#)