

2019  
ANNUAL  
REPORT



# ART IS OUR SUPERPOWER





## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



### Dear Friends,

Groundbreaking research in neuroscience reveals that our need to connect with other people is even more fundamental than our need for food and shelter. **Social connection is a super power** that makes individuals smarter, happier and more productive.\*

At Kennedy Heights Arts Center, we have seen how arts and culture connect us—to start conversations we might not otherwise have, to celebrate our commonalities, to overcome differences.

*Teens collaborate with professional artists and each other to create projects about issues they care about—and make a difference in their community.*

*Diverse artists of all practices and skill levels come together in a supportive, nurturing space. They create much more than artwork—they create community.*

*Residents view artwork by Lebanese artists and experience Arab culture, bringing to light social, cultural and political issues in the Middle East—bridging cultural divides.*

*Students create art installations, play in jazz ensembles, perform plays, dance, and sing in a chorus—soaring beyond their expectations.*

In 2019, Kennedy Heights Arts Center provided free and low-cost arts experiences for more than 5,000 people, including art education classes for youth and adults, summer camps, artist residencies in the community, programs in public schools, art exhibitions, public art projects, and cultural events.

And because of contributions from people like you, **100% of these experiences were accessible to everyone** regardless of income.

Thank you for being a Super Hero. Your support of Kennedy Heights Arts Center creates social connections and builds vibrant, inclusive communities for all of us.

With gratitude,  
Ellen

*\*Matthew Lieberman, Social, 2013.*



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# FUELING CREATIVITY



## EMERGING JAZZ SUPERSTARS

Launched Elementary Jazz Academy in partnership with Cincinnati Public Schools. 28 students in grades 4-6 participated three days a week in extraordinary music instruction and performance opportunities at KHAC, led by world-class jazz musicians at no cost.

**FIRST ELEMENTARY GROUP EVER INVITED TO EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY JAZZ FESTIVAL!**

## ARTS AND CULTURE ACADEMY

3rd year of arts partnership with Woodford Paideia, K – 6 public school with 100% of students eligible for free lunch. Coordinated 8 artist residencies, 26 fine art field studies, and teacher training in arts integration.

**Woodford's Department of Education rating improved from F to C. Earned A in important "Gap Closing" score.**

**"I LEARNED WE CAN GO BEYOND OUR DREAMS."**  
- STUDENT



## CREATIVITY AND LEARNING FOR ALL

**930** youth participated in enriching arts classes and camps at KHAC,

and in **15** public libraries, schools, and organizations.

**61%** of participants received free or reduced cost tuition



## TEEN ARTISTS FOR CHANGE

Mentored by professional artists, teens created media-based projects that make a difference in the world around them. Students created a video for The Caring Place food pantry and Tellus zine for teens, by teens.





## BRIDGING CULTURAL DIVIDES

In partnership with SOS Art, **Voices from Lebanon** featured prints by contemporary Lebanese artists expressing social and political issues they face.

Local residents experienced Arab art, music, dance, food and culture through the exhibit and a Lebanese Festival at KHAC.

"(THE EXHIBIT) ILLUSTRATES THE POWER OF ART AS A VOICE FOR A BETTER WORLD,"  
-CURATOR SAAD GHOSN.



## CREATIVE COLLABORATION

Artists-in-residence Nancy Gamon (Cincinnati) and poet Wendy McVicker (Athens, OH) led residents in a 4-week community art project **Common Threads**, combining text and textiles.

"I FOUND MYSELF DEEPLY INVESTED ... THE EXPERIENCE WAS MORE PERSONALLY MEANINGFUL THAN I HAD EXPECTED."  
- PARTICIPANT



## ENLIVENING NEIGHBORHOODS

12 community events like 15th annual Winterfest, Jazz in the Heights and Play in the Park brought together more than **2,500** diverse residents

86% OF PARTICIPANTS SAID THEY FELT MORE CONNECTED TO THEIR COMMUNITY



## SPARKING CONVERSATION

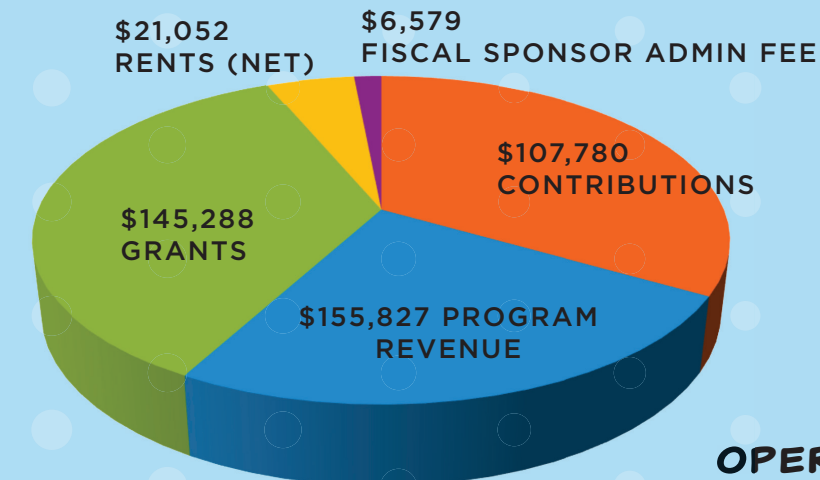
Presented **9** solo and group exhibitions that inspired social change through art. **You are My Sister** celebrated diversity and solidarity of women of different races, cultures, religions, and socioeconomic levels in contemporary quilts.

# BUILDING COMMUNITY

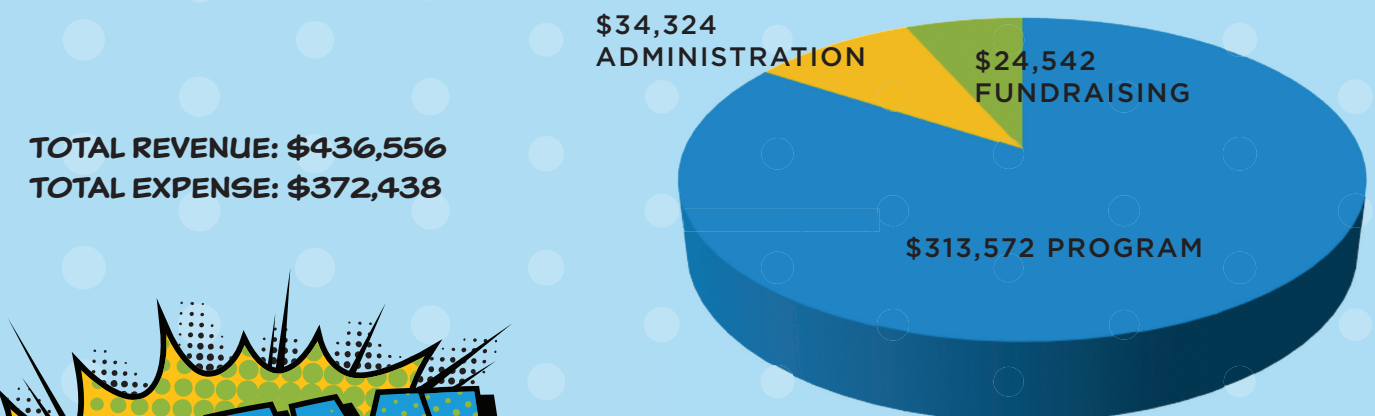
## FINANCIAL SUMMARY



### OPERATING REVENUE & SUPPORT:



### OPERATING EXPENSES:



TOTAL REVENUE: \$436,556  
TOTAL EXPENSE: \$372,438



## MAJOR SUPPORT





**THANK  
YOU!**

**TO OUR  
AMAZING DONORS!**

### **SUPERHERO**

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*\*Includes all contributions of \$100 and above  
given between January 1 - December 31, 2019.  
We apologize for any omissions.*