



THE ARTS COMMISSION
INSPIRING A VIBRANT TOLEDO

2021

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Young Artists at Work apprentices, photo by The Arts Commission staff



Street Seats by Pneuhaus, photo by Swatch Studios



Aegela Middle Eastern Dance, photo by Todd Gaertner Photography

As the world saw continued challenges in 2021, The Arts Commission focused on providing safe opportunities for local creatives to earn income through their work. Our board and staff worked closely with artists and the community to construct programming meant to meet their needs in a time of ongoing uncertainty. Through grant opportunities, paid performances and installations at events, and new public artworks The Arts Commission paid over \$1.4 million to 548 artists.

WELCOME TO AN ADAPTIVE FUTURE GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND THEMES

- Art is Work
- Enhancing Public Spaces Through Art
- Safe + Self-Guided
- Deepening IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access) Work

RECOVERY FROM COVID-19 ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE ARTS

Between 2019 and 2020, creative industries in the Toledo region lost approximately 2,500 jobs (-15.41%) and over \$455 million in economic output (-18.80%). (Center for Regional Development, Economic Contribution Analysis of Ohio's Creative Industries, 2022)

The COVID-19 pandemic had a disproportionately severe negative impact on creative industries when compared to all industries in the Toledo region.

The arts play an essential role in creating flourishing communities. Providing artists of all backgrounds opportunities to be paid for their work creates a better place to live for everyone.

ART LOOP



\$25,000

PAID TO 139 ARTISTS & PERFORMERS
IN THE LOCAL AREA

This year the Art Loop program returned to in-person programming with a change from monthly events to 3 events a year - held in July, September, and October.

A long history of relationship building with community leaders led to a successful collaboration between the Food Truck Fest and July's Summer Spectacular. The event brought together folks from various neighborhoods and communities throughout downtown Toledo.

- Partnerships with local businesses, such as Handmade Toledo, resulted in a Mini Makers Mart for artist vendors.
- TAC offered a passport card for a self-guided art scavenger hunt that included works in the city of Toledo's public art collection, murals, and pop-up works. Participants submitted their card for a chance to win a bag full of quality art supplies and local gift cards.
- The event was recognized in a community visioning session for ConnectToledo as a shining example of how important cultural and inclusive cultural events are to our city's future.

ART BOX

After gleaning insight from the two pilots of this initiative in 2020, this box was robust and cohesive based on a principle of art (i.e., line, shape, color). The theme of pattern and repetition allowed artists of various disciplines to participate, from painters to poets. Eight Toledo artists developed step-by-step print and video lessons for all ages and skill levels. This box also highlighted works in the public art collection related to the theme.

The Art Box initiative continues to provide earned income and a viable portfolio piece for artists while creating a packaged, educational, creative experience to connect with the community. \$10,775 was paid to participating artists.



Pumpkin Painting at Haunted Harvest, photo by Todd Gaertner



Mini Maker Mart hosted by Handmade Toledo, photo by Todd Gaertner Photography



THE Modern Dance Company at Summer Spectacular, photo by Todd Gaertner Photography

TOUR GUIDE TRAINING PILOT

This year, staff piloted a training program to develop a cohort of arts and cultural ambassadors to lead public tours sharing Toledo's history, culture, creative community, and public art. The program functions as a leadership development tool that supports The Arts Commission IDEA work. The goal of this cohort is to reflect the diversity of the city with an emphasis on hiring those living and working in Downtown Toledo.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

PROJECTS FOR THE YEAR

The Art in Public Places (APP) program completed a few key projects while taking on an unprecedented amount of new work this year and moving into 2022. The Art in Public Places program paid local artists, conservators and contractors \$346,273 this year. Projects, such as the Signal Box Wraps, were intentionally designed for local artists of a variety of media - including photography, painting and graphic design. We continue to utilize local contractors for work that is commissioned by out-of-town artists to keep as much money in the local economy as possible.

Through a partnership with Mercy Health, the installation of “Vessel” at the Cherry Street and Manhattan Boulevard roundabout was completed. This sculpture, by RDG Design, stands as a beacon of hope and a tribute to the neighborhoods surrounding the Cherry Street corridor.

Eleven artist designed Signal Box Wraps were installed along Jefferson Avenue. An additional seven wraps were installed along Main Street in partnership with Young Artists at Work. Both projects support local artists and create connectivity between neighborhoods and Downtown. The theme of local flora and fauna ties in to our effort to connect residents to the surrounding natural world, specifically the Maumee River and nearby greenspaces.

Through a partnership with ProMedica, an additional five murals (and one mural extension) were completed along Water Street as part of the Momentum Festival. This year’s effort brings the total number of murals along the concourse tunnel system and Water Street to eleven major works including five murals by local artists.

To get a better understanding of the demographics of local artists that work in the public realm, APP has started to collect optional demographic data from those who apply for projects and commissions designed for local artists. The goal is to change how we communicate opportunities to increase submissions from the community in which the art is installed.



“Vessel” by RDG Planning & Design, photo by Doug Hinebaugh



“Signal Box Wrap on Jefferson Avenue” design by Amber Lefever, photo by Schooler Studios



“Never a Wrong Note” by Jacob Parr and Brad Scherzer, photo by Arts Commission Staff

 **\$604,955**
PAID TO 18 ARTISTS

 **\$346,273**
PAID TO LOCAL ARTISTS

2021 ACCELERATOR GRANT RECIPIENTS



Travis Geiman, Rebekah Alviani, Timothy Stover, Chuchen Song, Shannon Eis, Oradella Wilson, Timothy Spurchise, Theo Brooks, Simone Spruce, Robert Vanitvelt, Joni Johnson, Kayla Williams, Kai Newby, Michael-Anthony Boyd, Kristin Kowalski, Kathryn Henzler, Beth Genson, Dan Denton, Amber LeFever-Soboleski, David Bush, Keegan O'Brien, Sara Kear

2021 MERIT AWARD RECIPIENTS



Brenda Singletary



Ashley Pryor Geiger



Hoseok Youn



Kimberly Mack

ARTIST SERVICES

MAJOR PROGRAMS

THE ACCELERATOR GRANT is a competitive program offering financial support with a quick turnaround for local artists to advance their creative projects and their careers. In 2021, 22 artists were funded over the five rounds of the Accelerator Grant Program. A total of \$20,003 was granted.

THE MERIT AWARD program recognizes outstanding local literary, performing, and visual artists, rewarding the many hours and personal resources each artist dedicates to their artform. This year, 4 artists were recognized with a total of \$5,500 in funding.

THE TOLEDO LUCAS COUNTY RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM helped to provide additional support for artists in a time of need. In January, The Arts Commission received \$319,000 from the City of Toledo and Lucas County to support artists affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Toledo Lucas County Relief Grant Program awarded 190 individual artists with grants in the amount of \$2,500 or \$1,000. By marketing to a larger audience for this grant program, Artist Services discovered ways to improve equitable practices in artist outreach efforts. This application process resulted in new connections to a substantial number of artists who have not applied to other grant opportunities through The Arts Commission.

In 2021, staff and board worked to edit the language within each grant application to ensure inclusivity. However, there are still several major barriers for artists applying for grants. There is a continuing need to find ways to bridge the understanding of how to write a bio, curriculum vitae, artist statement, proposal, and budget.

 **\$344,503**
PAID TO 212 ARTISTS

CREATIVE PLACEMAKING

The Creative Placemaking program made a significant impact in maintaining connection with residents and community partners throughout the pandemic to define and steward needed resources and relationships to assist in addressing health, safety, community development, and program support challenges.

CULTURE TRAIL FRAMEWORK

The Culture Trail project employs “Art is Work” arts-based strategies by paying artists to work alongside community members to elevate neighborhood-based and locally-inspired culture and civic pride.

- Working in collaboration with Art in Public Places and Youth Services, the Creative Placemaking team curated Flora & Fauna Murals and Signal Box Wraps to begin defining focus into neighborhood corridors.
- GIS Mapping has progressed to include blight, crime, and safety data that will help to inform and drive strategic investment and future priorities for The Arts Commission and our partners.
- The Garfield Master Plan is a milestone in six years of engagement work in East Toledo and will help to inform and advance civic enhancements, public art, and community programming opportunities for several years to come.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATIONS

Through community engagement and public programming — from Circles and Verses to Safegrowth Assessments to Art Loop events — The Arts Commission supported individuals with paid opportunities to act as leaders in sharing their talents while connecting to longer-term and sustainable solutions to bring fresh and inspiring opportunities to others.

The Uplift UpTown Grant paid \$10,000 to UpTown resident leaders, organizations, and artists to complete projects that address safety and beautification. This program will pave the way for the placemaking program to shift the majority of power into the hands of people living and working in the neighborhoods The Arts Commission serves.

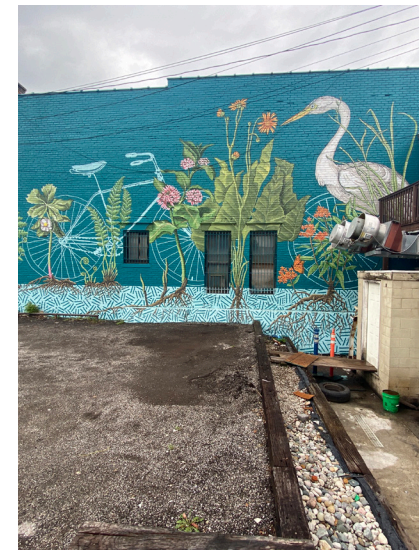
The pace of community engagement and Creative Placemaking work moves inherently slower than development and

 **\$31,650**
PAID TO 29 ARTISTS

programming initiatives. It is a constant challenge to align the deep and necessary work of resident involvement with the funding structures and priorities of both The Arts Commission programs and those of our partners. It is a complex, yet vital, web to ensure meaningful collaboration and co-ownership with those who we serve and work alongside. The Arts Commission made positive strides in aligning our programming and administrative models to impact more strategic alignment with partners in coming years.

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESS

Staff worked to support the development of two new community groups, the UpTown Community Coalition (UpTown/ENP) and the Garfield Core Planning Team (East Toledo). Each group is designed to increase engagement and access for residents to community planning and development initiatives, as well as increasing opportunities for youth while mitigating safety and blight concerns in each respective neighborhood. Each group works to include diverse voices while representing neighborhood demographics. Additionally, programs such as Circles and Verses and Reel Kids incorporate the voices of young people in neighborhoods into creative projects with a focus on positive impact. Collectively, the neighborhoods served by Creative Placemaking account for more than 40% of Toledo’s total African American population and one-third of Toledo Hispanic and Latinx populations.



“Flora and Fauna” mural in UpTown by Graphite Design + Build and Natalie Lanese



Creative Placemaking staff at the Metroparks Open House in East Toledo



Circles and Verses session in July 2021, photos by The Arts Commission staff



Zot Artz at Momentum, photo by Todd Gaertner Photography



Firenation mobile glassblowing at Momentum, photo by Todd Gaertner Photography



Phybr painting a pop-up mural at Momentum, photo by Swatch Studio

MOMENTUM FESTIVAL

RETURN TO THE RIVERFRONT | SEPTEMBER 16, 17 + 18

This year, planning efforts focused on bringing folks back to an in-person event that was safe and family-friendly. There were three days of festival activity held at Promenade Park and Festival Park along the riverfront, each billed as its own unique opportunity. The festival featured 80 artists, including 67 local artists, and over 100 performers. Planning efforts for the festival focused on achieving IDEA goals, paying artists, and safety.

- “Sons of Toledo”, a short film by local filmmaker Matt Foss, debuted during the festival and included a Q&A with the actors and production crew. Imagination Station generously provided use of the new KeyBank Discovery Theater for the film throughout the weekend. The beautiful and somber film was well-received by attendees of the event.
- Zot Artz gave opportunities for artists of all abilities, including those with limited mobility, to participate in hands-on art activities at the festival. Guests could make their own art to take home or collaborate on a community mural. The Ability Center provided funding and volunteers for this activity.
- Large-scale artworks returned to the festival, including “Street Seats” by Pneuhaus, and “Crescendo” by Ohio artist Kyle Ebersole. These highly interactive works provided moments of play for event attendees.
- Attendees could contribute to a work by local artists, called “The Holding Project”. This work is a multi-media, interactive art project by Ashley Pryor Geiger, Barbara WF Miner and Lee Fearnside. It was created as a response to the rise of anti-AAPI (Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders) violence.

MOMENTUM | INTERSECTION

The Intersection exhibition was held from September 3rd to October 3rd on the Toledo Museum of Art campus. Due to the postponement of the 2020 exhibition, 6 artists were included. To accommodate this change, 3 artists were located in the Glass Pavilion and 3 artists in the CVA Gallery. More than 100 people were in attendance for the opening reception, during which all 6 participating artists spoke about their work, and over 2,500 people attended the exhibition throughout the month.

Momentum | Intersection 2021 was made possible by a partnership between The Arts Commission, the Toledo Museum of Art, The University of Toledo, and NSG Pilkington.

 **\$123,145**
PAID TO ARTISTS

 **67**
LOCAL ARTISTS &
PERFORMERS

 **59**
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

YOUTH SERVICES

CONGRESSIONAL

For the 39th year, The Arts Commission and Representative Marcy Kaptur collaborated to elevate the artistic talent of area teens in the Congressional Exhibition. This year's show was held virtually for the first time in its history.

Art teachers from high schools within Ohio's Ninth Congressional District were invited to nominate up to three two-dimensional artworks for a month-long public display. The artwork was juried by a panel of college educators, local artists and representatives from sponsoring organizations. In total, 59 artworks from high school students were displayed and a total of \$1,100 was awarded to a selection of exhibiting artists.

YOUNG ARTISTS AT WORK (YAAW)

Young Artist At Work employed 70 teens in the 2021 season. Thanks to support from the City of Toledo and American Relief Plan Act (ARPA) funding, The Arts Commission was able to increase participation in the program by two teams of fifteen youth each and four staff roles.

In order to keep everyone safe, all were required to wear masks and each team was isolated from the others. After a completely virtual season in 2020, the plan for 2021 was to experiment with a hybrid model and move to fully remote if necessary. The Toledo Lucas County Public Library continued support that allowed the hybrid model to be an option.

Projects for the 2021 YAAW season included a series of Signal Box Wraps, a mural at the Imagination Station, 80 vinyl installations in the windows throughout 4 buildings, a documentary about YAAW, and revitalization of mural panels at Ottawa Park that were created in the 2012 YAAW season. For the first time YAAW hosted a Pop-up Shop at the Toledo Farmers Market (July 31 and August 7, 2021). The apprentices sold watercolor lanterns, stickers, postcards, 2D photo transfers, and tote bags. The events yielded approximately \$2,000 in revenue.



Norah Li, "Pomegranate", 2021 Congressional Exhibition 1st Place Winner



"Finding our Space" by 2021 YAAW cohort and guest artist Leah Tumerman



2021 YAAW apprentices and staff at the University of Toledo Center for Visual Arts

 **10**
VISUAL ARTS STAFF

 **20**
WORKSHOPS & FIELD TRIPS

 **70**
APPRENTICES

THE ARTS COMMISSION OF GREATER TOLEDO, INC.
STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2021

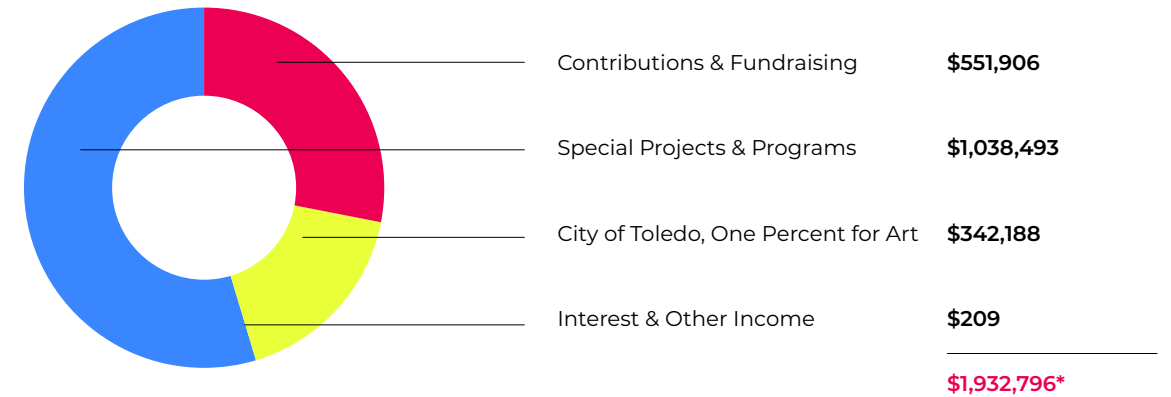
ASSETS

Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents:	
Operating	\$ 1,513,119
Restricted	<u>686,845</u>
	2,199,964
Accounts receivable:	
Employee retention credits	159,486
Contracts and grants	125,045
Pledges	<u>8,405</u>
	292,936
Prepaid expenses	<u>6,509</u>
Total current assets	2,499,409
Furniture and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation of \$39,423 in 2021 and 2020	
	13,250
Other assets:	
Deposits	225,000
Investments	<u>215,236</u>
Total other assets	440,236
Total Assets	\$ 2,952,895
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current liabilities:	
Accounts payable	\$ 1,000
Accrued liabilities:	
Payroll	23,836
Vacation	<u>6,474</u>
	30,310
Deferred revenue	<u>1,548,513</u>
Total current liabilities	1,579,823
Net assets without donor restrictions:	
Undesignated	596,728
Board-designated	<u>61,235</u>
	657,963
Net assets with donor restrictions	<u>715,109</u>
Total net assets	1,373,072
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 2,952,895

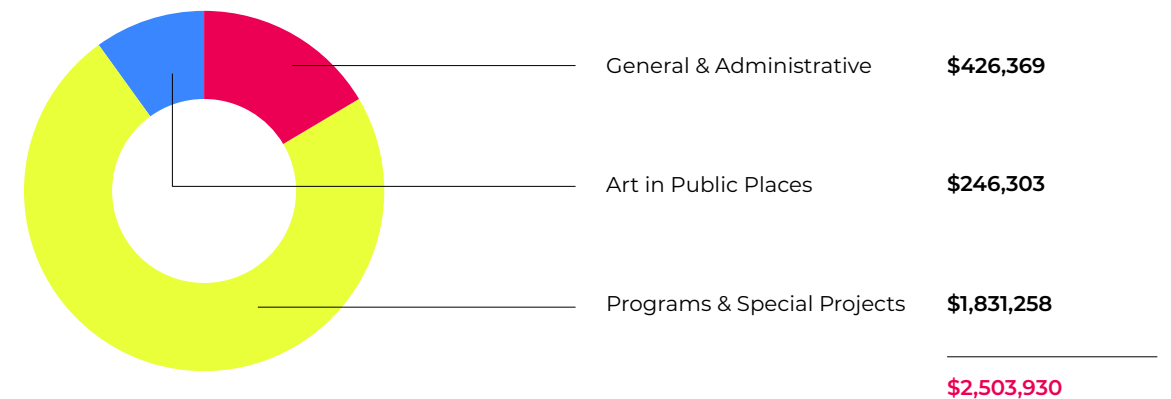
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

2021 ANNUAL REPORT | AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – DECEMBER 31, 2021

REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT



EXPENSES



* Total Revenue and Other Support does not include one-time funding sources

PURPOSE

To strengthen our community, foster creativity and celebrate life through art.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Arts Commission supports, promotes and connects visual, performing and literary artists, arts organizations and businesses; and administers the City of Toledo's "One Percent for Art" ordinance.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe...

- The arts should be accessible to everyone
- Creativity fuels life and enriches a community
- Appreciation of art is nurtured by exposure and education
- The arts are key economic and social drivers for our community
- Art contributes to community image and civic pride
- Creative expression takes diverse forms
- A legacy of art is critical for future generations

VISION

"Toledo is a nationally-known model for artistic and cultural community development"

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1961 | Ernest Gray

1961–64 | George Gould

1964–66 | John Richards

1966–70 | Boris Nelson

1970–75 | Schuyler Yates

1975–78 | Loren Spademan

1978–79 | Erie Chapman

1979–82 | Susan Reams

1982–84 | Victoria Souder

1984–86 | Robert Carlisle

1986–88 | Tom Palmer

1989–91 | Bruce Smith

1991–92 | Warren Bimblick

1992–94 | Arnold Gottleib

1994–96 | Sara Jane DeHoff

1996–97 | Thomas Webb

1997–99 | Paula Brown

1999–2001 | Maureen Brown

2001–04 | Robert Meeker

2004–06 | Joe Spencer

2006–08 | Margy Trumbull

2008–10 | Claire Kirsner

2010–11 | Jim Moore

2012–14 | Dennis Norman II

2015–16 | Edward Zraik

2017–19 | Sarah Skow

APP CHAIRS

1977–95 | Susan Reams

1995–00 | Margy Trumbull & Rory Shanley- Brown

2000–03 | Susan Reams

2003–05 | Liz Cole

2005–07 | Patricia Levey & Mike Duket

2008–16 | Mike Duket & Katerina Ruedi Ray

2017–20 | Mike Duket & Dan Hernandez

2021– | Patricia Levey & Dan Hernandez

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National Endowment for the Arts
Owens Corning
The University of Toledo

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BRONZE

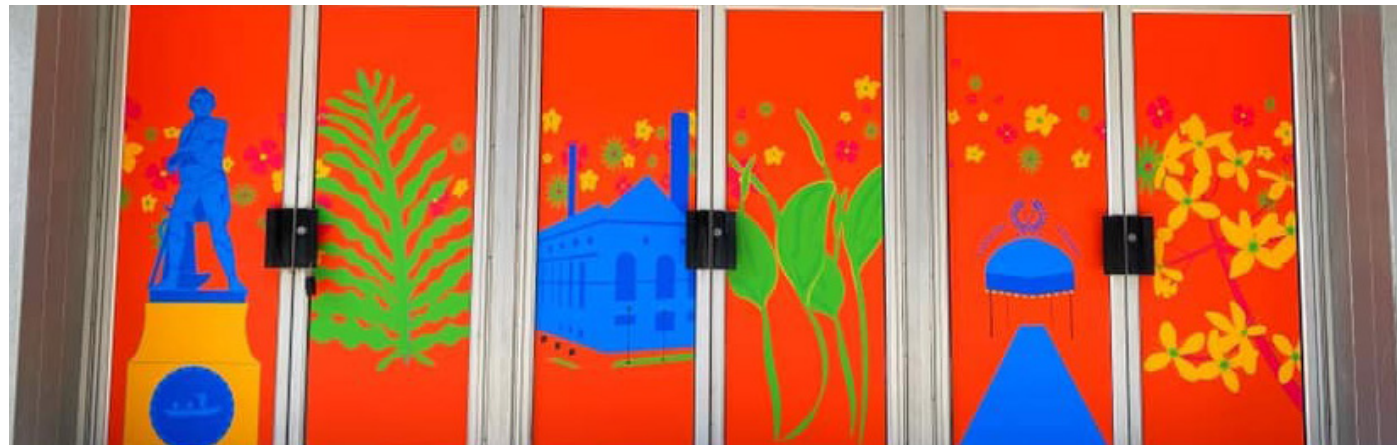
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YAAW 2021, 4 Corners Window Project, photo by Larry Meyer

THANK YOU.

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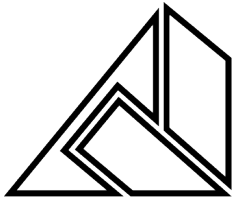


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