

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO THE ARTS

Impact Report | 2023



OUR ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT TO **YOU**, OUR SUPPORTERS:

THANK YOU!

Your generosity brought life-changing opportunities to people with disabilities in 2023.

“CATA is a beautiful place to be. I feel so welcome and rewarded being part of it—like I’ve been brought to Hollywood! I see a bright future for all of us in CATA.”

—DAN, CATA ARTIST (pictured on cover)

950

people with
disabilities served
a 25% increase over last year

2,285

arts workshops provided
a 22% increase over last year



Nathan (BCArc) celebrates the sale of his painting in a CATA art exhibit.

Dear CATA friends and supporters,

Thirty years ago, CATA began with a bold idea: that every human being has creative talents and deserves to express how they see the world.

Today, CATA proves how a bold idea can change people's lives.

CATA artists have so much to say. They have talents and perspectives they are ready to share. And they're craving opportunities to express themselves, try new art forms, and learn new skills.

Your generosity means we can respond to their needs in real time. With every gift, you're opening the door for a child, teen, or adult with a disability to achieve their fullest potential.

With you at our side, we brought 2,285 arts workshops to 950 CATA artists in 2023. That's more programs for more people with disabilities than ever before. You helped us deepen partnerships with schools and disability agencies to reach new CATA artists. You made it possible

to offer new art forms like photography, theater games, and choreography to meet the interests of our artists. And you helped us dramatically increase programs in local public schools, reaching children and teens with disabilities. Your generosity made the difference.

Now, as we embark on our 30th year, the future at CATA is bright. We are poised to expand opportunities for CATA artists to thrive—and to transform our community even more profoundly. Your support is fueling our every move as we launch this bold new era of CATA.

Without you, CATA's work would not be possible. Your generosity opens the door for people with disabilities to express their creativity and find joy in the arts. Thank you!

Please enjoy reading about the ways you made a difference for CATA artists in 2023.

With deep gratitude,



Margaret Keller
Executive Director



CHILDREN + TEENS:

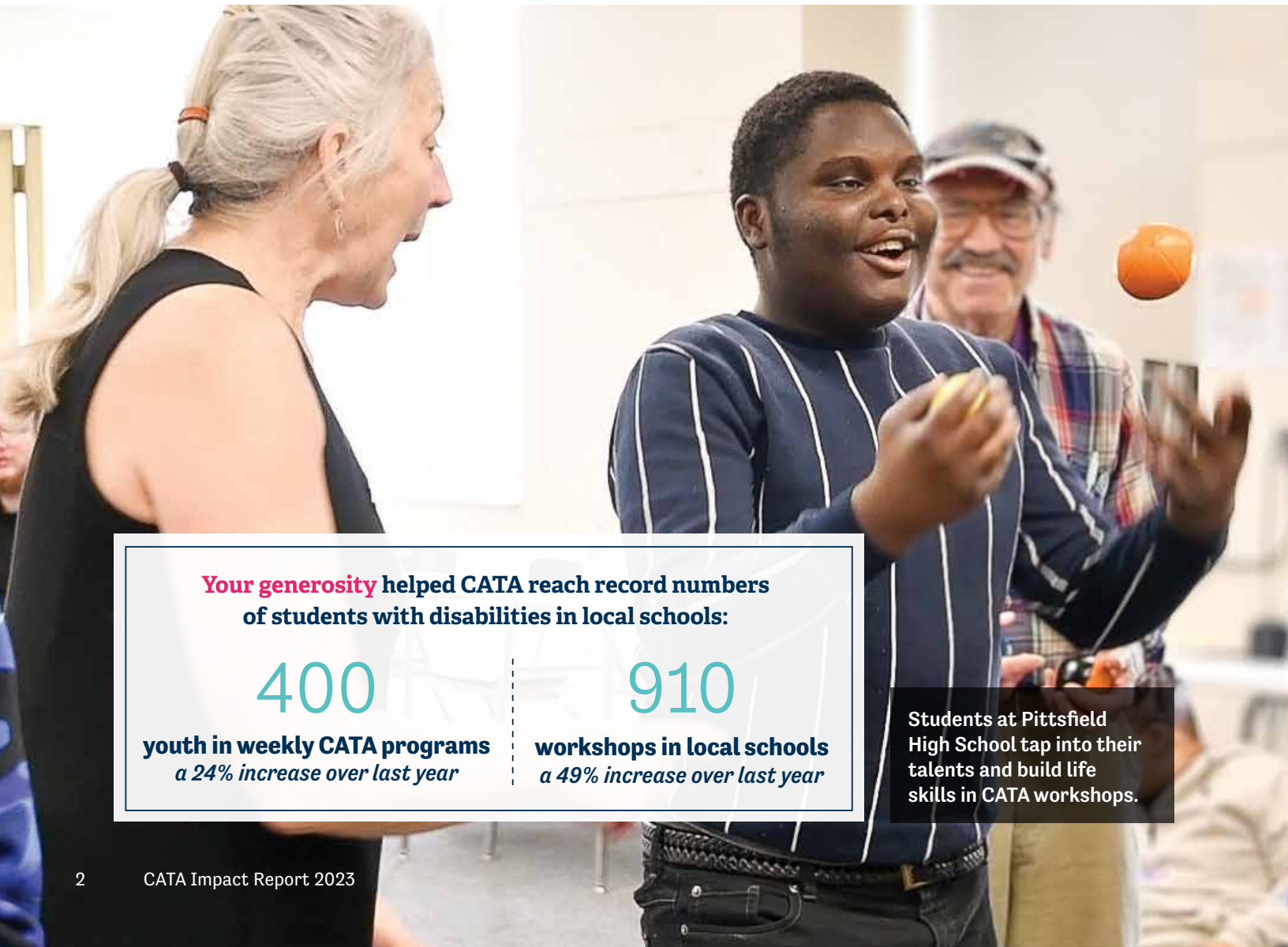
CATA opens the door for creative growth

For hundreds of children and teens with disabilities, CATA has become a vital part of their school curriculum. Thanks to your generosity, CATA brought more arts programs to more young people in special education programs than ever before.

Students across 9 school districts (and over 30 classrooms!) count on CATA's weekly arts programs to tap into their talents, build essential life skills, help them meet their educational goals—and discover all they can be.

Your gift means young people with disabilities:

- Develop positive social skills
- Communicate more confidently
- Strengthen their individual identity
- Relieve stress
- Grow in self-confidence & emotional well-being



Your generosity helped CATA reach record numbers of students with disabilities in local schools:

400

youth in weekly CATA programs
a 24% increase over last year

910

workshops in local schools
a 49% increase over last year

Students at Pittsfield High School tap into their talents and build life skills in CATA workshops.

You brought CATA to 30 classrooms!

Berkshire Hills Regional School District:
Monument Mountain Regional High School

Central Berkshire Regional School District:
Craneville Elementary School
Nessacus Regional Middle School
Wahconah Regional High School

Hoosac Valley Regional School District:
Hoosac Valley Regional High School
Hoosac Valley Regional Middle School

Lee Public Schools:
Lee Middle & High School

Lenox Public Schools:
Lenox Memorial High School

North Adams Public Schools:
Colegrove Elementary School
Greenhouse Transitions Program
at Drury High School

Pittsfield Public Schools:
Adolescent Support Program at PHS
Allendale Elementary School
Crosby Educational Academy
Crosby Elementary School
Eagle Educational Academy
Learning Lab at Pittsfield High School
Learning Lab at Reid Middle School
Pittsfield High School
Pittsfield High School Transitions Program
Positive Options Program at
Berkshire Community College
Reid Middle School
Taconic High School

Taconic Hills Regional School District:
Taconic Hills High School
Taconic Hills Middle School

“There are so many a-ha moments when CATA comes to my classroom. Through dance and music, my students are learning to understand patterns. This has really helped reinforce pre-math skills we teach. My students take what they learn in CATA workshops and bring it back to use in the classroom.”

—AMY MANDEL (SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER),
Colegrove Elementary, North Adams Public Schools

“We’re so grateful for CATA. Each workshop is a breath of fresh air that allows our students to experience meaningful, real-life connections. It’s the highlight of their week!”

—SUZAN HYNDMAN (SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER),
Pittsfield High School

Students at Lenox High School perform for their peers at CATA Sharings.





**“You can’t keep your
talent inside of you,
you have to let it out.”**

—CORINNE, CATA ARTIST

CATA artists Anthony,
Richard, and Karlie
(BFAIR) let their
talents fly at CATA.

ADULTS + ELDERS:

CATA is a powerful tool for self discovery

CATA artists, families, and caregivers asked for more opportunities and programs. You helped us show up and deliver.

More Programs for CATA Artists

You helped us bring over 2,200 arts workshops to CATA artists in 2023 (a 17% increase over last year!). That meant Connor could explore his love of tap dance. Grace could learn new juggling techniques. And Katrina could fill her canvas with bold brushstrokes, bringing her creative spirit to life.

More Partnerships

Your support fueled CATA's partnerships with 52 disability agencies, residences, nursing homes, and schools—helping us reach more CATA artists across our community.

New Workshops = Greater Opportunities

Thanks to you, we added NEW programs in photography, songwriting, choreography, and more—giving people with disabilities more ways to explore their interests and develop skills.



Matt (Oak Lodge)



Tre (BFAIR)

**With your support,
CATA provided:**

760

**workshops in the
CATA Studios**

615

**workshops in Day
Programs, Residences,
Disability Agencies, and
Nursing Homes**

VIBRANT ART EXHIBITS:

“My art deserves to be seen.”

With your support, CATA artists exhibited their artwork at world-class museums and galleries.

Annual Art Show

CATA's Annual Art Show *I Am a Part of Art* drew **thousands** of people to see the work of artists with disabilities at the Clark Art Institute and Lichtenstein Center for the Arts.

Art on Tour

CATA artists also shared their talents in vibrant exhibits at the Berkshire Botanical Garden, Lenox Library, Good Purpose Gallery, and the Southern Berkshire District Court.

Grace (BCArc) poses with her artwork at the Clark Art Institute.





Hannah (Casa del Sol)



Ed (BFAIR)



Jenni (UCP)



Louis (BCArc)

“I’m a heartfelt artist. I put my heart and soul into all of my paintings. CATA has helped me get my artwork out there and I’ve even sold several paintings. That makes me feel ecstatic!”

—JOHN, CATA ARTIST

143

CATA artists
earned commissions
for their paintings, drawings,
sculptures, and photographs

8,000+

Art lovers and
community members
visited CATA’s art exhibits

Our BIGGEST Art Sale Yet — Thanks to Greylock Federal Credit Union:

Every art sale at CATA brings the artist pride—and provides a paid commission for their work. This year, Greylock Federal Credit Union showed how to take that impact to a new level—purchasing 162 works by 100 CATA artists to display in lobbies and offices at five branches.

“At Greylock, we recognize that art has the power to inspire and enlighten. We are beyond proud to support the talents of CATA artists, and we hope that when our members visit these locations, these works of art will fill them with joy.”

—JAMIEELLEN MONCECCHI,
Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative
Officer, Greylock Federal Credit Union

John Bissell (Greylock
CEO/President) &
JamieEllen Moncecchi
(Senior Vice President
& Chief Administrative
Officer) with Katrina
Couture’s “Lady
Liberty”—proudly
displayed at Greylock
Federal Credit Union.



Cathy (BFAIR)
with painting
purchased by
Greylock.



POWERFUL PERFORMANCES:

CATA artists took the spotlight to share their talents with the community

Gala & Annual Performance

CATA artists returned to the stage in 2023 for the first time since the pandemic—sharing their talents in our Annual Performance *Finding New Rhythms*. More than 40 artists with disabilities performed in tap dance, modern dance, singing, drumming, Shakespeare, comedy, and juggling for 800 cheering community members.

Community “Sharings”

CATA artists, families, and caregivers gathered at MASS MoCA and Berkshire South Regional Community Center for our CATA Sharings—dynamic community events where CATA artists come together and share all they’re exploring in our programs.

Readings Celebrate CATA Writers

We welcomed a sold-out crowd to the Lenox Library to celebrate the work of CATA writers with disabilities. Guest readers and local luminaries brought down the house with brilliant readings of poetry and short stories by the CATA Writers’ Workshop.

1,142

**Community members
attended CATA
performances and
readings**





Save the date:

**CATA 30TH ANNIVERSARY GALA
& ANNUAL PERFORMANCE!**

May 11, 2024 (Gala) and May 12, 2024 (Matinee)
at Shakespeare & Company (Lenox, MA)

“CATA makes people with disabilities feel as important and included as members of society as they should be. To have CATA recognize our daughter’s talents—to be part of something bigger and better—what an incredible opportunity. WE’RE WATCHING HER BLOSSOM RIGHT IN FRONT OF US. We all hear buzzwords about inclusion. Now here is an organization that’s really doing it.”

—PARENTS OF A CATA ARTIST

YOU BRING CATA ALL ACROSS

Every day, your donations bring life-changing arts programs to children, teens, and adults with disabilities across our community. Take a peek into a day in the life of CATA:

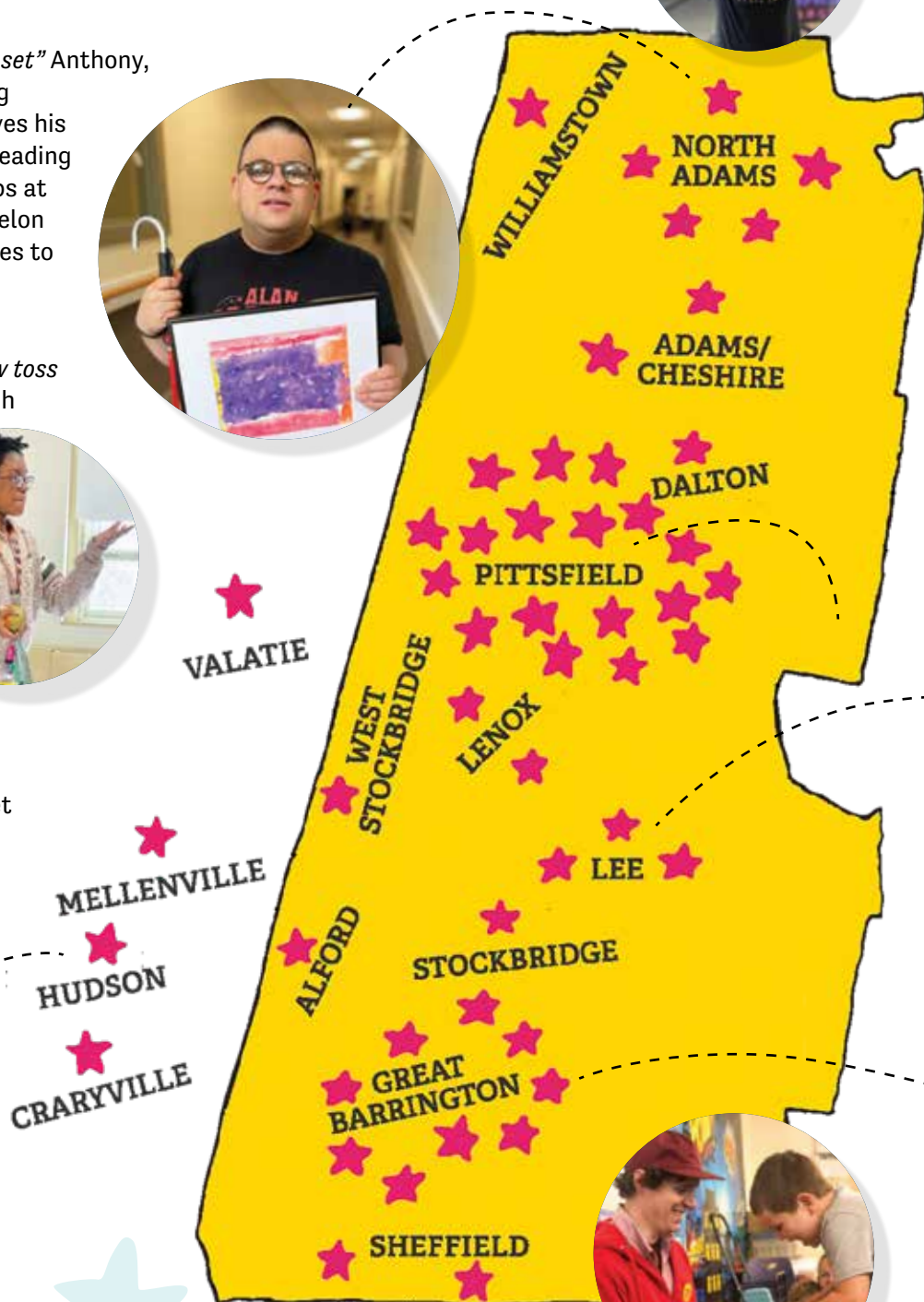
NORTH ADAMS: *"This red is like a sunset"* Anthony, a blind CATA artist, creates a painting using different shades of red. He moves his finger over his Braille paint palette, reading the description of each color. He stops at the shade he's looking for—"Watermelon Red"—then adds the final brushstrokes to his painting.



PITTSFIELD: *"Make a flat hand—now toss and catch!"* Students at Pittsfield High School practice balance and coordination in a juggling workshop. Bibiana balances a ball on top of her head. When it's perfectly steady, she lets it roll off and catches it in her hand.



HUDSON: Cory dips his paintbrush into a watercolor palette and gently adds a stroke of yellow across a sheet of glass. When he finishes, he holds it up to the light to reveal a beautiful stained glass painting.



OUR COMMUNITY!

GREAT BARRINGTON:

"If you prick me, do I not bleed?" Scott steps to the front of the studio and takes a deep breath. As soon as he finishes delivering his lines, his fellow CATA actors break out into thunderous applause.



WILLIAMSTOWN: A resident at a local nursing home recalls a memory from his childhood. JoAnne, a faculty artist, strums her guitar and improvises a song based on his memory.

LENOX: *"Breathe deep and stretch to the sky!"* CATA artists in a local elementary school bend and stretch, releasing tension and practicing balance in a yoga class.



LEE: *"Dance helps me use my left hand more"* At a day program for people with traumatic and acquired brain injuries, Jeri smiles as she moves her arms in the air to the beat of the music, strengthening her coordination and muscle memory.

GREAT BARRINGTON:

"Wawanko, Sikolaiko!" Kambree keeps a steady beat on the dundun drum while her fellow artists sing along to *Djole*, a traditional West African song.



Partner Organizations

Your support fuels CATA's partnerships with 52 residences, schools, day programs, community centers, and nursing homes to reach people with disabilities across Berkshire and Columbia counties, including:

Berkshire County Arc (BCArc)
BFAIR
Blue Q
Berkshire Hills Regional School District
Branches School of the Berkshires
Cadmus Lifesharing Association
Central Berkshire Regional School District
Coarc
Dalton CRA
ExtraSpecialTeas
Guidewire
High Spirit Community Farm
Hoosac Valley Regional School District
Integrity
Laurel Ridge Senior Living
Leander House
Lee Public Schools
Lenox Public Schools
Nonotuck Resource Associates
North Adams Public Schools
Oakdale Residences
Oak Lodge
Pathlight
Pittsfield Public Schools
Riverbrook Residence
ServiceNet
Stanton Home
Taconic Hills Regional School District
UCP of Western Massachusetts

30 YEARS OF ART AND



1993

CATA's founder Sandy Newman launches CATA's first workshop—a textile class with 12 women from the Riverbrook Residence.

NOW!

1,000 artists with disabilities take CATA arts workshops every year in over a dozen art forms.



1995

CATA artists have their first public art show at the Rica Gallery in Housatonic, MA.

NOW!

More than 200 CATA artists exhibit and sell artwork annually in CATA's exhibits—in partnership with world-class museums and galleries.



1997

The Moving Company, CATA's first performing arts ensemble, is founded by dancer and former CATA Artistic Director Dawn Lane.

NOW!

Over 50 CATA artists participate in CATA's seven different performing ensembles in dance, juggling, singing, drumming, and acting.



1999

CATA staged its first performance at the Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington.

NOW!

CATA's Annual Performance is a major community event, drawing 800+ people to Shakespeare & Company each year.



2003

CATA launches its first public school partnership with Berkshire Hills Regional School District.

NOW!

CATA partners with 24 schools across 9 districts, reaching 400 young people with disabilities annually.



INCLUSION



2006

CATA holds first public poetry reading at our studios.

NOW!

CATA's Annual Reading at The Mount has become a beloved, sold-out event celebrating the work of writers with disabilities.



2014

Margaret Keller becomes CATA's new Executive Director.

NOW!

Margaret is leading a dynamic period of strategic growth for CATA's programs, staff, and facilities.



2016

CATA begins partnering with the Clark Art Institute with a six-week exhibit of work by artists with disabilities.

NOW!

CATA's Annual Art Show at the Clark draws over 8,000 visitors all summer long



2020

CATA opens the doors of its new home in Great Barrington—a beautiful, fully accessible building with state-of-the-art visual and performing arts studios.

NOW!

Our new building has allowed us to DOUBLE the number of workshops we offer in our studios!



2024

CATA is a leader in the field of art and disability—and ready to boldly launch a new era to deepen and expand programs where CATA artists thrive!

community access
CATA
to the arts
30th
anniversary

Thank You for Bringing Creativity to Life in 2023

This list includes supporters who gave to CATA from September 1, 2022 – August 31, 2023

Please let us know of any errors or omissions. Thank you also to those generous donors who gave after September 1, 2023—you'll be on our list next year!

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Thank you, loyal supporters!

Boldfaced names indicate donors who have given to CATA for 5 or more fiscal years in a row.

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“Through CATA, we get to see parts of our daughter that we might not have known.”

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 Nancy Nylen & David Dethier
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Linda Olson
 Mary & Philip Oppenheimer
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 Renie Parker
Carol Parrish & Paul Clark
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 Michelle Thorpe-Petricca
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 Allison Picott
 Smitty Pignatelli
 Pert Pivrotto & Tom Merriman
 Monika Pizzichemi
 Catherine Plakun

Donald Platt
 Andrew Pleat
Nancy & Fred Poses in recognition of
The Marden Family
 Laurie Posner & Jeffrey Levitsky
 Lee & Nicholas Potter
Amy & Eric Pressman
 Alan Price & Irene Goldman-Price
 Myra R. Promisel
 Laurie & Gerard Puiia
 Ramelle & Michael Pulitzer
 Marion Quinn-Jowett
 Colleen Quinn
 Mary Ann & Bruno Quinson
Elaine Radiss & Rich Petrino
 Dawn Ratliff
Cris Raymond
Emily Rechnitz
Joan Rechnitz
Roger Reed & Sarah Nicholson
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 Joseph H. Reich
 Judith Reichert
 Jennie Reins
Pamela Reznick
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 Kevin Richer
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 Patrick Riordan & Steven Hatfield
Carol & Michael Riordan
 John Ritz
 Rachel Rivin & Corinne Heyes
Elizabeth Rivlin
Jean Rivlin
 Elaine & Bernard Roberts
 Rebekah & Phil Roberts
Charlotte & Dan Rodgers
Sophia Romeu
 Cheryl Rosario
 Julie Rose
Paula & Andy Rosen
David Rosenthal
 Edward Rosenthal
 Esther Rosenthal
 Ann Rosewater & Robert Kronley
 Georgeanne & Jean Rousseau

**“CATA is a gift to so many people in our community.
 And were it not for CATA, we know many people
 would not have these opportunities. Giving to
 CATA is the right thing to do—to help bring their
 programs to as many people as possible.”**

—GARY & ARLENE SCHIFF, CATA SUPPORTERS

Anne & Joe Roy
 Carol J. Rucinski
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Amy Rudnick & Ben Hillman
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 Matthew & Jessica Tibbit
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Liana Toscanini
Cheryl Tosk
 Shari Tosk
 James Totten
 Denise Trapani
 Alice Truax
 Natalie Tublitz
Linda Tucker
 Jeanne Tyer
 Judith Uman & Michael Goodman



Connor follows his love of music at CATA

“CATA allows me to express myself and be creative. It’s very freeing.”

—PAT, CATA ARTIST

John N. Umlauf
Judy & Mark Usow
 Holly & John Valente
 Hugh & MaryAnn van Hengel
Suzannah & Pieter Van Schaick
 Adrian & Judith Van Zon
 Eleanore Velez
 Judith & Larry Vitelli
Diane & Bill Vogt
 Abbie Von Schlegell
 Jennifer & Kassy Vorce
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 6th Grade Class
 Sue & Terry Wallace
 Marcia Walsh & Eric Block
 Joanne Ward
 Kellie Ward
 Suzann Ward
Nicholas Wardle
Paula Wardynski & Jed Scala
Chris Watford & Aaron Likness
Karin Watkins
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 Suky & Tom Werman
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 Andrea S. White
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 Dr. Bonnie & Stuart Wolf
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 Paula & Stuart Yurman
 Cheryl Zaccaro
Christine & Ray Zelehoski
 Cheryl Zellman
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Allegrone Companies
Apella Capital LLC
Balance Rock Investment Group
 Bard Academy & Bard College at
 Simon's Rock
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 Berkshire Co-op Market
 Berkshire County Arc
Berkshire Health Systems
Berkshire Magazine
Berkshire Mountain Distillers
 Berkshire Orthodontics
 Berkshire Photo Booth
 Berkshire Property Agents
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JWS Art Supplies
 Kwik Print
Lee Bank
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 Martino Glass
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 Mezze Catering & Events
MountainOne
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 Qualprint
 Ray Murray, Inc.
 Raytheon Technologies Corporation
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 Dr. Jay Wise & Dr. Stuart Yurman
 Wingate Ltd.
 WJ Blueprint

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Howard and Katherine Aibel
 Foundation
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Berkshire Life Charitable Foundation
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Selina Bank
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 Sandy Thomas
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 Myles Tosk
 Matthew Weinstein
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GIFTS MADE IN MEMORY OF

Helen Adams Freed
 Aunt Barbara and Uncle Walt
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 Raymond Gagnon
 Ken Gogel
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 Michael Ringler
 Dr. Robert K. Rosenthal
 Martha Sauer
 Dr. Robert B. Tabakin

**A special thank
 you to our state
 officials, especially
 Representative
 Smitty Pignatelli,
 for their continued
 advocacy for CATA's
 mission and work!**

**“CATA encourages me to be a better artist.
 I love playing instruments and making art!”**

—GEORGE, CATA ARTIST

“CATA is one of the best things about the Berkshires.”

CATA supporters Mary Pope Osborne and Will Osborne, the duo behind the wildly popular *Magic Tree House* books, plays and musicals, are driven to make the arts accessible for everyone.

Mary Pope Osborne and Will Osborne believe that every person deserves to express who they are—and share their talents with the world. When they first discovered CATA and experienced the exuberance of CATA artists performing on stage, they knew they wanted to get involved.

“We are huge fans and supporters of CATA, and have been for many years,” says Mary. “We love the openness, sincerity, and creativity of the artists. And we love the vibrancy and perspective their work brings to the community.”

“The first time we attended a CATA performance, we left feeling exhilarated and joyful—and it made us feel good about the world,” says Will. “Anything that CATA does is going to lift your spirits and make you feel better for at least a week, if not a year!”

“Every piece that CATA artists create is so original,” says Mary. “When we see their artwork in exhibits, when we hear their poetry, when we attend their performances, it always gives us an insight that we didn’t have before we experienced their work.”

Mary and Will have been proud to see how CATA has grown over the years. “CATA is an integral part of what’s going on in the Berkshires right now,” says Will, who joined CATA’s Strategic Plan Task Force this past year.

“We love the openness, sincerity, and creativity of the artists—and the perspective their work brings to the community.”

“People ask us what it is about CATA that makes us so enthusiastic. We tell them, it’s right there in the name: Access. It’s about access to the tools and materials and teaching artists that allow people with disabilities to experience the joy of creation. And it’s about access to the joy of sharing that creativity with the community, with a receptive audience who appreciate what they’re doing.”

“I’ve been a performer all my life,” adds Will. “To share something deeply personal, something you’re very proud of, with an audience— there’s nothing like it. It thrills us to know that CATA is making this happen for people who would not otherwise have the opportunity.”

“CATA is one of the very best things about the Berkshires,” says Mary. “We just say ‘CATA’ and we smile. We hope that everyone will continue to support this great organization that does so much for our community.”



FISCAL YEAR 2023:

Financial Overview

2023 was a banner year for CATA, with a dynamic expansion in programs and people served. Fueled by your support, we met the needs of our community with robust, innovative programs for people with disabilities, carefully stewarding CATA's finances and resources all the way. For 10 years running, CATA has met budget with no deficit, posting a modest surplus each year to support our continued financial health and stability.

CATA deepened our core commitment to accessibility, providing more programs for reduced costs or entirely free of charge to open the door for more people with disabilities to participate in the arts. Generous donors like you stepped forward to make CATA's work possible: donations made up 85% of our overall income. **Your gifts directly supported programs for low-income CATA artists who crave and deserve creative outlets.**

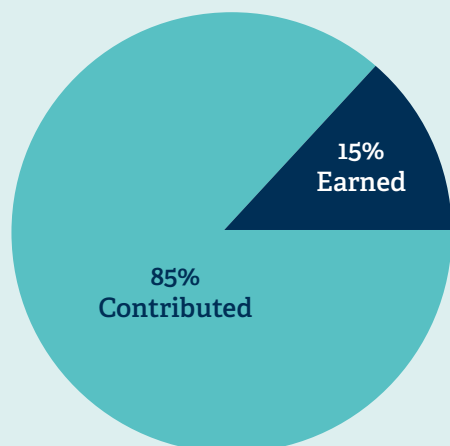
As always, programs serving artists with disabilities were our primary expenses. An outpouring of support from 917 individuals, businesses, and foundations brought these vital programs to life. Your generosity sustained workshops, exhibits, and performances that provide life-changing opportunities for CATA artists of all ages.

Fiscal Year 2023:

September 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023

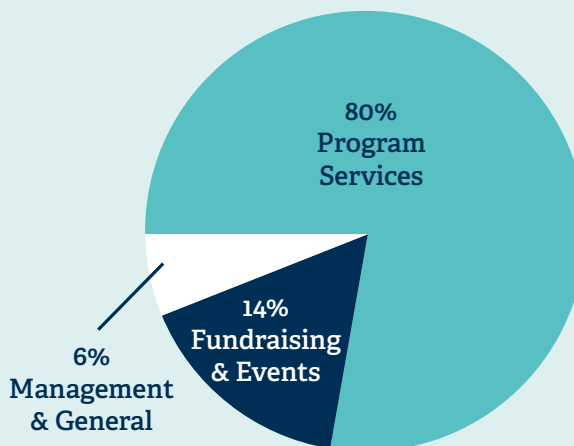
INCOME:

Contributed:	\$1,968,580
Individual:	\$1,268,676
Corporations:	\$130,615
Grants/Foundations:	\$569,289
Earned	\$ 355,063
<i>including program fees and art sales</i>	
Total Income:	\$2,323,643



EXPENSES:

Program Services:	\$1,708,354
Fundraising & Events:	\$287,711
Management & General:	\$119,717
Total Expenses:	\$2,115,782





Sidney (BCArc Transitions) explores her love of dance at CATA. Your support makes CATA happen!

CATA STAFF

Margaret Keller, *Executive Director*

PROGRAM

Jeff Gagnon, *Program Director (school programs)*

Kelly Galvin, *Program Director (agency programs)*

Kara Smith, *Program Director (studio programs)*

Courtney Maxwell, *Program Associate*

Shawn Mille, *Program Associate*

Wes Buckley, *Resident Music Faculty Artist*

Lauren Levato Coyne, *Resident Visual Arts Faculty*

Beth Liebowitz, *Resident Dance Faculty &
Performance Projects Manager*

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James Totten, *Office Manager*

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Alex Hedding, *Development Director*

Kate Harding, *Development Coordinator*

David Dashiell, *Development Associate*

Sandra Newman, *Founder*

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Eva Sheridan, *Vice President*

Ira Grossman, *Treasurer*

Mindi Morin, *Secretary*

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Judy Boomer

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Chris White

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JoAnne Spies

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Kelly Galvin

Nick Nudler

Kirsten Peacock

Diane Prusha

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Janet Reich Elsbach

DANCE

Beth Liebowitz

Olivia Martin

Stefanie Weber

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Gregory Boover

Jill Fleming

Roger Reed

MUSIC

Wes Buckley

Aimée Gelinis

Terence Murren

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Stefanie Weber



Community Access to the Arts (CATA)
nurtures and celebrates the creativity
of people with disabilities.

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