

Changing Hearts and Minds through the Arts



Dom's students in the Hudson County Arts Immersion Workshop show off their art.

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

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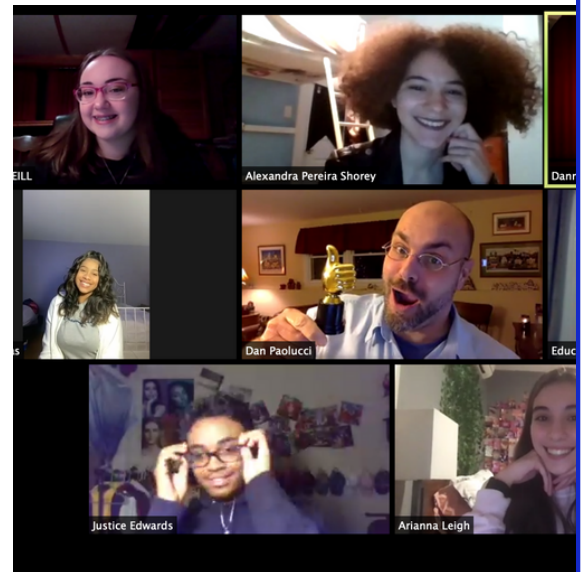
ABOUT US

Educational Arts Team, a leader in the field of arts education since 1974, is an innovative non-profit organization dedicated to improving literacy for students in low performing urban schools and providing positive cultural, social and recreational experiences in an outdoor setting during the summer for local children.

We believe that all young people are capable of developing into creative and productive persons.

We also believe that all young people should have the opportunity to think, create, reflect, and be heard within a community of engaged learners.

In this report, we hope to showcase what we accomplished this year under extraordinary circumstances. It was a true "Team" effort to adapt programming and produce remote school workshops and a scaled-down summer camp. We adapted to the new reality and continued with our vital and relevant work.



A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, Carmine Tabone

In the late 1970s, Mercer Street in downtown Jersey City consisted of rows of boarded up and abandoned tenements, as well as the Little Theater and next to it a small neighborhood park. The theater was the site for a series of workshops and original plays done by teens from throughout the city, as well as periodic art activities for neighborhood children, some of which I helped lead.

Fast forward to sometime in the early 1990s: Lorenzo Veguilla (a long time and now deceased team artist) and I were making plaster of Paris masks on the faces of children at a neighborhood festival. When the masks dried, the children would paint and decorate the masks with beads, feathers and pieces of fur. We had been asked to participate by then pastor of St. Bridget's church and Educational Arts Team board president, Father Gregory Studerus, currently auxiliary bishop for the Newark archdiocese.
(Congratulations Greg! Well-deserved!)

That afternoon, while a mask was drying on the face of an 8-year-old, the boy's father turned to me and said, "Do you remember me?" I responded that I didn't and he replied that when he was his son's age I had made one of those masks on his face in the park next to the Little Theater. "In fact, that mask still hangs on my bedroom wall." Of course once he told me the story, I did recognize him, seeing his young face in his current one.

The mask still hangs on his bedroom wall! What special meaning it must have been for a little boy from Mercer Street to have made something so dear to him that it still holds a special place in his world.

Stories like these make me so aware of the importance and enduring power of positive art experiences in the lives of children. As the years have rolled on, I am more appreciative than ever of the great opportunity I have had to work with the young people of Jersey City.

**A LETTER FROM THE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
Carmine Tabone**

CONTINUED

The staff and I are so fortunate to have the opportunity to share the power of creativity with so many children, parents, teachers, principals and community leaders. Of course, none of it could happen without the funding and support of the City of Jersey City and Hudson County, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, the Turrell Fund, Goldman Sachs, and the hundreds of local donors that continue to be so generous. Thank you!

There were, of course, some challenges unique to 2020. But in spite of the pandemic, we were able to conduct family literacy events, produce banners for the Jersey City waterfront, start a pilot a program on local African-American history, and work with a group of teens to develop an online theater presentation.

And then there were the virtual workshops: literacy for middle school students and anti-bullying workshops for third-graders and puppet shows for kindergarten, 1st grade and 2nd grade. Yes, like everyone else, we stayed very busy. In the coming year, we are committed to providing similar programs focused on social-emotional learning and literacy.

In an effort to combat the isolation and boredom that children were experiencing during summer quarantine, we found a way to still provide outdoor fun... yes, there was a Camp Liberty! Of course it did look different. Instead of 250 young people, we limited participation to 60 each day and followed strict COVID protocol. We also created a family swim program that saw 160 families purchase pool passes, enabling them to swim and connect with friends old and new.

It was quite a year for all of us!

But of course, none of our work would take place without you!

Your ongoing generosity contributes to helping us work with thousands of children each year, giving the next generation of young children powerful art experiences that will last for a lifetime.



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

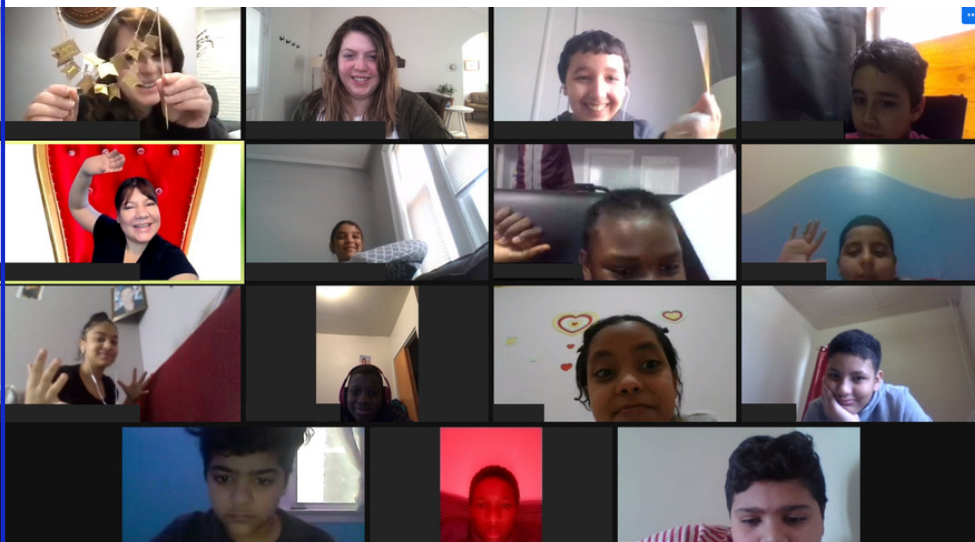
LITERACY AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Our 2020 school programs were in full swing when the pandemic hit.

School closures happened suddenly, and the continuation of our workshops was uncertain. But, navigating this new territory, we put our heads together, developed virtual workshops, and reached out to the teachers we had been working with. They were eager for creative ways to engage students in the new online classrooms.

We continued until the end of the school year, and started up again in the fall, reaching **450 young people** at 10 elementary and middle schools across Jersey City.

Our Theater Arts and Literacy Integration program have been assessed by independent evaluators to improve speaking, listening, inquiring, reading and writing skills for students. Using interactive, theater-based strategies, students explore text from novels and short stories, using their own experiences to create verbal, visual and written responses. Through improvisation and role drama they tackle difficult situations, becoming more empathetic and aware of varied approaches to handling difficult situations.



Students strike a pose creating their portraits as royal advisors to the king and queen in the story Rumpelstiltskin.

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

BULLYING AND DRUG PREVENTION SERIES

Through funding from the Dodge Foundation, Jersey City Community Block Grant funds, and Healthier Jersey City S.A.F.E. program, Educational Arts Team conducted a series of in-school workshops on violence prevention, anti-bullying, and community safety. The workshops give students the chance to experience scenarios where anxiety, hopelessness, and helplessness do not lead to impulsive behavior and violence.

Using improvisation, students can experience situations where they are faced with choices about how to react and given a chance to use reasoning to reach a non-violent decision. EAT offered this program to **47 students** at 2 middle schools this fall.

Students took delight after Rotten Ralph returned home and is accepted once again by the family he loves.





“The Deer and the Lion” come to life as a mother and her daughter co-create this classic story at a Family Literacy Workshop funded by the Turrell Foundation.

FAMILY LITERACY

GRADES K – 2

Before schools closed in March, our Teaching Artists were able to host 3 Family Literacy Events reaching 210 parents and children. Our hands-on Family Literacy Events for young children and their families provided parents with information and techniques to strengthen literacy development at home.

They offer families an opportunity to be actively involved in their children's academic and social growth, while helping build positive family relationships. The sessions engage parents and children in lively learning activities that strengthen language arts literacy skills through storytelling and drama and support the development of communication and interpersonal skills

In the fall of 2020, Teaching Artists offered virtual Family Literacy Workshops at P.S. 39 School to **10 families**, and plan to offer more in 2021.

"You demonstrated that engagement and interaction can still be achieved when students are learning remotely."

- Maureen E Davis JCPS 34, Barack Obama Community School

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

TEACHERS

Engagement Strategies for the ELA Virtual Classroom

On October 7 Educational Arts Team staff conducted a Professional Development workshop with 140 middle school JCPS Language arts teachers.

The session consisted of two lessons: one on character traits, the other on the scene that is not there.

Both addressed close reading, higher order thinking and supporting claims with evidence.

As with all our sessions, we used innovative learning strategies that encourage student involvement and can be especially effective in middle school classrooms with students that are struggling readers and writers.

"This was a power-packed presentation! I am excited to use what I've learned with my students! It will bring new life to our virtual classroom and will be equally useful in person. Thank you!"

- Jack Fenton, JCPS 11 MLK School

JERSEY CITY TEEN THEATER TROUPE

GRADES 9 – 12

As a follow-up to the successful Jersey City Teen Theater 2019 project, Educational Arts Team proposed a similar project for 2020. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic and school closings, we needed to make major adjustments to live workshops and performances. Workshops in improvisation, acting for the camera, monologues and musical theater were done virtually with students from Snyder and Ferris high schools.

12 students participated in this program during the fall from from Snyder and Ferris high schools.

Special thanks to the participating drama teachers: Mr. Paoulucci and Ms. Murphy.



“Each student of mine, not only worked hard, but made big strides in their abilities during the time we worked together gave performances that they could be proud of.” -Danny Bacher, Teaching Artist

CAMP LIBERTY

For more than 40 summers, Camp Liberty's tranquil five acres has been a green sanctuary amid an urban environment for thousands of young people.



In the wake of COVID -19, the Educational Arts Team swiftly responded to the challenge of addressing increased isolation of children and adults by utilizing our valuable outdoor space to create a socially distanced, day-long arts and recreation camp for a limited number of children. Through this altered camp program, we provided a much-needed, "normal" summer experience for 60 young people each day.

Family Swim



Additionally, Camp Liberty opened the pool to the public through a pool pass system which allowed a limited number of people to swim within preset daily time slots. Over 160 families beat the heat and enjoyed our pool through July and August. Most pools in Jersey City were closed this summer, so we considered ourselves fortunate enough to be able to offer our space to our community members. Participating families said having access to the pool saved their summer.

FINANCES

Revenue	2020	2019	2018	2017
Grants	250,038	169,195	164,044	149,954
Donations - Individual	9,242	10,888	16,696	17,963
Donations - Corporate	21,457	38,218	12,241	20,605
Contingency		0	60,000	0
Fees	155,329	549,477	540,534	594,800
Investment Income	36,681	56,304	-9,186	42,371
Other	968	3,252	5,443	16,267
Total	473,715	827,335	789,772	841,960
Program Expense				
Camp Liberty	272,941	394,917	412,126	385,605
School Programs	297,284	283,339	304,336	354,280
Total Program Expense	570,225	678,256	716,462	739,885
Support Expense				
General Administration	45,784	63,192	65,877	73,527
Events		140	309	211
Contingency Fund		75,000	0	25,000
Total Support Expense	45,784	138,332	66,186	98,738
Total Expense	616,009	816,588	782,647	838,623
Gain (Loss)	-142,293	10,747	7,125	3,337

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Our mission would not be possible without your engagement and support.

David Agraz	Jennifer Furlong	Alyson Navarro
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Fabiola Espinola	Gregory Marx	Sundar V
Martha Estrada	Matty Matteo Mataleano	Sarah Walsh
Leah Farrell	Yasmin Meah	Ann Wycherley
Daniel Ferrara	Zulie Mendoza	Midori Yasuda

THANK YOU

The Educational Arts Team would like to acknowledge the following foundations and government agencies for their generous support and partnership.

Without them, we would not be able to fulfill our mission and have such a positive impact on the families and young people with whom we work.

Bayonne Public School District

Dodge Foundation

Goldman Sachs

Hudson County Community College Office of Cultural Affairs

Hudson County Health and Human Services

**Hudson County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs/Tourism
Development**

Jersey City Department of Health and Human Services

Jersey City Division of Community Development

Jersey City Economic Development

New Jersey Economic Development Authority

Northern NJ Community Foundation

Princeton Area Community Foundation

PSE&G

Turrell Foundation