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2024-2025 Annual Report

Salt Lake Arts Academy

Misson

The mission of the Salt Lake Arts Academy is to prepare students to become confident and creative builders of their future, equipped through the arts and academics to take responsibility for shaping their communities.



Vision

We envision all students excelling through the middle school years, with confidence, passion and engagement.

Our Core Values

R.I.I.S.E.

Respect
Integrity
Inclusion
Safety
Empathy



Our Greatest Asset

As we reflect on SLArts' 21st year, one thing stands out above all else: the exceptional dedication of our teachers and administrators. Their creativity, resilience, and care make it possible for our students to thrive every day, whether it's in classrooms, during a performance, or beyond. We are deeply grateful for the countless hours they give, not only to instruction, but also to mentoring, supporting, and inspiring our students.



We also celebrate the strength of our community. Families, donors, and volunteers continue to give generously of their time and resources, making daily arts experiences and small, rigorous classes possible. Together, we ensure SLArts remains a place where students can grow as both learners and creatives, guided by our school values of Respect, Integrity, Inclusion, Safety, and Empathy.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the future — from new outdoor learning spaces to continued innovation in arts and academics. But our greatest asset will always be the people who believe in this school and its mission.

On behalf of the Governing Board, thank you for sharing your talents and trust. Your support keeps SLArts flourishing for many years to come.

Greg Ostrander
Governing Board Chair
Salt Lake Arts Academy

SALT LAKE ARTS ACADEMY

Our Community

Salt Lake Arts Academy's 21st year was filled with creativity, perseverance, self-reflection, and joyful learning. In August 2024, we welcomed 416 students, continuing a tradition of full enrollment and maintaining a lengthy waiting list every year since our founding. Our learners come to SLArts from across the Wasatch Front as well as from just around the corner, creating the diverse community we all deeply value.

416
Total Students

17:1
Student/ Teacher Ratio

33
Zip Codes

16.3%
Low Income

27.4%
Racial Diversity





Arts Every Day

Staying True to Our Mission

Daily arts experiences remain at the heart of our mission. In their arts classes, students practice “creative habits of mind” that carry over into their academic work, shaping them as both artists and learners.

As in years past, our students’ hard work culminated in a variety of performances and showcases:



Dance

Students produced two full-length concerts of original choreography, performed with Repertory Dance Theatre at the Rose Wagner Performing Arts Center in downtown Salt Lake City, and surprised audiences with lively dance flash mobs at Halloween, SLArts Fest, and the last day of school.

Drama

Drama students staged classic melodramas in the fall, while Advanced Drama performed *Alice in Wonderland* in the spring. Younger students shared seasonal showcases, *Spooky Stories* in the fall and *Tall Tales* in the spring, in collaboration with our younger Music students.

Music

Our talented music students carried on tradition with the 21st Annual Holiday Concert and the spring Pops Concert, plus a SLArts Fest showcase featuring students of all grades and even SLArts alumni.

Visual Arts

Student work filled our hallways with fresh displays each month. Visual artists contributed to the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival Student Art Contest, painted a vibrant new mural on our 200 East wall featuring our social vision of RIISE (Respect, Integrity, Inclusion, Safety, and Empathy), and capped the year with a large exhibition at SLArts Fest.

Digital Arts

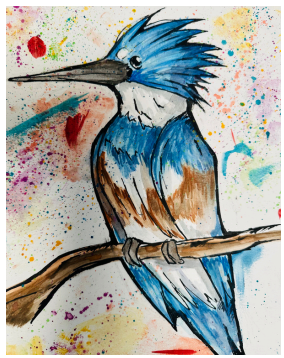
Students explored graphic design and illustration, creating backdrops for performances, individual works of art, and even producing and designing the school yearbook.











Initiatives

Curricular Connections Through Arts Integration

Arts integration continues to be a priority in every classroom. Students regularly demonstrate learning in Humanities, Science, and Math through creative, project-based presentations. This year, academic work was proudly displayed at SLArts Fest alongside the arts.

Digital Portfolios, Student-Led Conferences, and Digital Citizenship

As *Digital Natives*, our students are learning to reflect on their growth by creating and curating Digital Portfolios. Each spring, students present their portfolios in person to parents and guardians at their student-led conferences, sharing both their achievements and their goals for the future.

2025 Schoolwide Community Survey – Feedback and Action

This past winter, our Governing Board led a Schoolwide Survey of faculty and parents to gather feedback on programming, school climate, operations, and more. Key areas identified for improvement in the coming year include strengthening student behavior supports, enhancing academic rigor, and increasing parental involvement. With the Board's support, our Executive Team is developing targeted plans to address these priorities.

Outdoor Space Glow-Up

Inspired by student and faculty feedback, the Governing Board has committed to a Glow-Up of our outdoor learning and play spaces. A special thanks goes to SLArts parent and landscape architect Troy Cook, who generously donated his design expertise. Plans are underway for an outdoor classroom, a performance stage, additional student seating, and more spaces for relaxation and connection. Stay tuned as these exciting improvements take shape!

Student Achievement

In May, students took the state-mandated RISE Assessments in Math, Science, and English Language Arts. Once again, SLArts students scored well above the Utah averages. The numbers below show the percentage of students achieving a score of 3 (Proficient) or 4 (Above Proficient).

** Note on ELA Scores: Due to the introduction of a new test, Spring 2025 ELA scores are not comparable to previous years; the scores establish a new baseline for all future comparisons.*

Utah RISE Scores

	5th	6th	7th	8th
Spring 2021				
ELA	44	44	41	43
Math	42	32	42	37
Science	45	52	44	48
Spring 2022				
ELA	47	46	41	42
Math	44	35	45	38
Science	48	54	44	48
Spring 2023				
ELA	49	45	41	42
Math	45	35	46	39
Science	51	55	45	48
Spring 2024				
ELA	48	47	42	42
Math	44	35	46	41
Science	52	56	45	49
Spring 2025				
ELA	43	42	42	42
Math	44	36	46	40
Science	50	56	46	49

SLArts RISE Scores

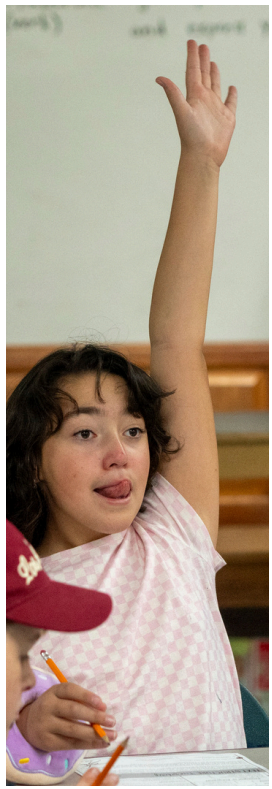
	5th	6th	7th	8th
Spring 2021				
ELA	59	61	62	52
Math	46	43	52	56
Science	54	57	58	49
Spring 2022				
ELA	66	56	69	66
Math	52	44	77	65
Science	62	65	66	60
Spring 2023				
ELA	58	62	63	64
Math	47	43	61	74
Science	68	62	66	70
Spring 2024				
ELA	67	59	63	60
Math	49	35	46	62
Science	68	66	65	58
Spring 2025				
ELA	61	52	57	65
Math	46	33	51	49
Science	65	65	62	58

Financial Report FY25

Salt Lake Arts Academy undergoes an independent audit each year. To see detailed financial statements, visit our website at www.slarts.org.

Revenue - Fiscal Year 2025

Revenue	Funding Source
$4,427,572.84	State of Utah
$59,036.28	Federal
$82,613.03	Interest Earned
$112,426.50	Student Fees, Teton Science School Fees
$40,379.50	UTA/Trax Passes Purchases by Families
$159,512.18	Individual Giving, Corporate Gifts and Philanthropic Foundations
$231,148.60	After School and Summer School Fees
$5,112,688.93	**TOTAL REVENUE**



Expenses - Fiscal Year 2025

Expenses	Category
$2,781,348.77	Instruction – Teacher salaries and benefits*
$564,645.72	Student/Educational Support – Staff salaries and benefits*
$498,494.96	Administration and Central Services – Salaries and benefits*
$507,041.59	Facility – Bond payment, utilities, improvements, custodial, repairs
$63,149.98	Transportation – UTA /Trax passes, bus hires
$236,131.35	After School – Teacher salaries and benefits
$4,650,812.37	**TOTAL EXPENSES**

** includes supplies and equipment*

Thank You

Community Investment in SLArts

The following individuals and private foundations made financial donations to Salt Lake Arts Academy during the 2024-25 school year. **Your support means the world to us.**

Amalgamated Foundation
Cady Alder
Katie Amundsen
Danielle & Cory Anderson
Emily Andrews
Mimi Andrews
John Bakken
Anne Bialowas
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Allison Barrington & Branch Patterson
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Curt and Marina Brand
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Adam Himoff
Laura & Alister Horn
Leah Jaramillo
Jonathan Jepsen
Heather & Karim Khader
Amber Keel
Joan Keller
Jennifer & Brent Kious
Jeremy & Nicole Laird
Renee Leta & Rich Mrazik

2024-2025 Supporters cont.

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Lou Lingstuyl
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Kryzsztof & Monika Wrona
Amy Yuda & Leandru Schiau
Kathy Zurn

Donors not listed chose to remain anonymous. If any information is incorrect, please contact Whitney Childers, Advancement Director, whitneyc@slarts.org.

Salt Lake Arts Academy Governing Board 2024-2025

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Sarah Colonna
Kelly Goff
Greg Ostrander
Cat Palmer
Amy Redford
Abby Rizk
Jennie Stacey
Shantel Stoff
Kimberly Venable
Nick Vienneau
Amy Yuda

Salt Lake Arts Academy Administration 2024-2025

Deborah Candler, Principal and CAO
Nicole Laird, Business Manager
Dan Rose, Dean of Students
Markell McCubbin, Academic Engagement Dir.
Katy Andrews, Advancement Dir.
Jen Guillory, Office Manager, Registrar







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