

Art by Willow Christensen, ‘23

Salt Lake Arts Academy

A Public Charter School

Annual Report 2022-23

Dear Salt Lake Arts Academy Community – **The 2022-2023 school year was a welcome return to almost-normal for Salt Lake Arts Academy students, teachers, and families**. Our community celebrated being together again in halls and classrooms, on the field and on fieldtrips, and with enthusiastic performances, exhibits, and events. Students settled into new learning routines – again – demonstrating resilience and persistence, and our SLArts faculty and administration continued to support and inspire all of us.

This fall SLArts is celebrating 20 years of building creative minds, a remarkable achievement! As students dance, write, experiment, and sing their way into a new school year, we remain grateful for the leadership of Deborah Candler and our stellar admin team, including our new Business Manager Nicole Laird, who we are confident will step into Moni Schwaerzler's irreplaceable shoes in her own highly capable style. As always, our teachers are the heart of our school, and SLArts is beyond lucky to have a full roster of brilliant, thoughtful, conscientious, and caring teachers who are dedicated to creating an unparalleled middle school experience for our kids. The SLArts board, admin team, and teachers are committed to creating a positive and profound learning environment and we look forward to working closely with students and families to achieve this goal. As we look back in this annual report at the 22-23 school year, we hope you'll also join us in the months ahead as we celebrate our 20th anniversary, take stock of where we've come from, and set our sights on what comes next.

Julie Bartel
Chair, Salt Lake Arts Academy Governing Board

Engagement, Community and Achievement - Some of the hallmarks of Salt Lake Arts Academy's program have been the level of engagement our students experience, the closeness of our school community and our student's academic success. The 2022-23 school year was no exception, as our student body jumped back into the "groove" of school.

Our students joyfully engaged in daily arts experiences in Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts, enjoying opportunities to perform and exhibit work regularly for their peers and the larger community. Some highlights from the year included a staging of *"The Lottery"* by Shirley Jackson and a Greek Play Festival, where our Advanced Drama students performed *"Electra"* and *"Iphegenia at Aulis"* by Euripides. A full-length Dance Concert with original student choreography was staged by our student dancers, including pieces "set" on our students by artists from Repertory Dance Theater, and our community enjoyed some fun Halloween and end-of-school Flash Mobs. Our Music students performed our traditional Winter Holiday Concert and a Spring Pops Concert. Visual Arts students mounted two shows at the downtown Salt Lake City Library in the fall and spring.





Our 8th Graders returned to the Teton Science School (TSS) in Jackson, Wyoming last fall – the first SLArts class to make the trip since the pandemic. During their time at TSS our students did field work studying the ecology of the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, connected to their 8th Grade Science Curriculum. They also enjoyed lots of team-building activities and bonding with their peers, during an electronics-free, unplugged week in nature. We are very grateful to our community – teachers and parent volunteers who chaperoned the trip, and our donors whose generosity ensured that every student could participate in the trip, regardless of their families' ability to pay.

When students are intrinsically engaged in their education, they become more self-directed and achieve at higher levels. SLArts has tracked student engagement since December 2020, using a tool developed by the Metiri Group. The Metiri Student Engagement Instrument measures how kids feel about their classes, their relationships with teachers, and their pride in their work, among other metrics. Unsurprisingly, we found that student engagement dipped during the pandemic. But, we have seen student engagement steadily increasing each year that we are back in school together. Our Governing Board and Faculty continue to place student engagement as one of our school's highest priorities.





Top-Rated School – Salt Lake Arts Academy received an "A" on the Utah School Report Card issued by the Utah State Board of Education in October 2022. The Report Card looks at metrics including student achievement on state assessments, the growth of the lowest 25% of students, and student retention among others. SLArts received the highest score of any public middle in Salt Lake City, and was in the top ten scoring schools in the state.

RISE Testing 2023 **SLArts students took the state-mandated "RISE" Assessments in May of 2023.**

Using standardized assessments as measures of achievement has been challenging during the pandemic. The tests were not administered in 2020, and in 2021 the large number of remote students opting out of testing made the data unreliable. We were pleased to see our students' scores this Spring approaching pre-pandemic levels. RISE measures student "proficiency" in three subjects. Students receiving a "3" or a "4" on their RISE test are deemed proficient or excelling on grade-level material in that subject**. RISE data is just a "snapshot in time" and only tells part of the student achievement story.** We continue to evaluate students on PEPR (Participation, Effort, Preparation and Risk-Taking) and CAB (Cooperation, Atittude and Behavior) in addition to Proficiency, in the belief that cultivation of these additional qualities contributes to student achievement. Below is a comparison of SLArts students' performance to that of Utah's students on RISE testing since the pandemic. The numbers shown reflect the percentage of students testing at "Proficient" or "Above Proficient" Levels.

Utah RISE Scores	5th	6th	7th	8th
Spring 2020	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
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

SLArts RISE Scores	5th	6th	7th	8th
Spring 2020	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
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



Financial Report FY23

Salt Lake Arts Academy undergoes an independent audit each year. To see detailed financial statements, and learn the results of those Audits, visit our website, www.slarts.org, and view the documents under "About Us/Financials."

Revenue – Fiscal Year 2023	Funding Source
$3,730,902.78	State of Utah
$134,717.25	Federal
$62,973.32	Student Fees and Rental of Building to Other Nonprofit Groups
$41,940.01	UTA/Trax Passes Purchases by Families
$207,908.05	Individuals, Corporate Gifts and Philanthropic Foundations
$257,361.88	After School Fees
$4,435,803.29	**TOTAL REVENUE**

Expenses – Fiscal Year 2023	Category
$2,676,026.02	Instruction – Teacher and staff salaries, benefits, supplies, equipment.
$527,351.96	Facility – Bond payment, utilities, improvements, custodial, repairs.
$443,001.05	Administration – Salaries, benefits, supplies and equipment.
$221,450.34	After School – Teacher salaries and benefits.
$479,023.08	Student Support – Staff salaries and benefits.
$56,292.00	Transportation – UTA /Trax Passes, Bus Hires
$4,403,144.45	**TOTAL EXPENSES**

A Generous Community

We continue to be incredibly grateful to our parent community, and the philanthropic community at large for their support of our school. The **Rocky Mountain Power Foundation** made a gift of $2,500 supporting our "Arts Every Day" program. **The Catalyst Foundation** and **Diana Lady Dougan** once again inspired our community to stretch by making Challenge Grants to our **Annual Campaign** and the **SLArts 24 Day of Giving**. Both initiatives raised money to fund student needs – including technology, equipment, Teton Science School scholarships, arts supplies and more. The **Utah State Board of Education (USBE)'s Digital Teaching and Learning (DTL) program** continues to fund our Digital Portfolio program for all students, teaching important 21st Century skills.

These families, friends and community partners made financial investments in our school in 2022-23. We are so grateful for this sustaining support! Please notify the office of any errors or omissions:

Stacy Ackerlind and Brian McPherson
Myna Ackerlind-Paxton
Katie Amundsen
John Arnold
Julie and Mark Ban
Julie and Ken Bartel
Marriott Bartholomew
Denise Begue
Elizabeth and Keith Benson
Katherine Biele
Jennifer Brennan
Janet Christensen

Emily Christensen
Genevieve Christianson
and Shane Larson
Sarah Clemensen
John Conde
Bryce Crapse and Joy Qiao
Edward DiCarlo
Diana Lady Dougan
The Catalyst Foundation
Nadja Durbach and Benjamin Cohen
Debbie and Jeff Eckert
Angela Fagerlin and Tony Tsai
Ann and Benjamin Fillmore
Laura and Matt Forsgren
Amanda and Katsu Funai
Adina Hamik Gardner
Stephanie Gelman
Kelly and Mitch Goff
Christine and Karl Grafer
Maurena and Nathan Grossman
Jen Guillory
Shawn Gurtcheff and David Johnson
Julie Gustin and Alonzo Huntsman
Julieanne and Michael Hall
Lauren Hansen
Peg Hardin
Liza Hart and Jeff Dunn
Leanne Hawken
Rachel Hayes-Harb and Basil Harb
Brett and Meredith Hellman
Bill and Phyllis Helm
Melissa Helquist and Will Nesse
Christina and Preston Hesley
Fabienne Chevance and Kelly Hughes
Heather and Karim Khader
Jennifer and Brent Kious
Christopher and Julie Lister
Julie and Gregory Livers
Rayna and Brian Lofgren
Jason Lytwyniuk amd Denee Hayes
Tara and Jeff Martin
Josceline Mascarenhas and
Glenn D'costa
Christopher and Amy Mautz
Amy Mautz
Bill and Sue Mautz
William and Connie McKee
Rachel McKeen and Seth Striefel
Scott and Lori Mercer
TC and David Mohr
Florence and Nicolas Moies-Delval
Elizabeth Monson
Caroline and Jorge Moreno
Teri Mumm
Jon and Lilla Nepstad
Delphine and Laurent Node-Langlois
Kelly Nolan
Jan Nystrom and Michael Arroz
Brian O'Connor
Meg Orsini
John Oshea
Peggy and Rick Ostrander
Betsy and Greg Ostrander
Jill and Troy Pohlman
Robert Prentice and Tisha Meyers
Pat Pryor
Alexis and Nick Rice
Abby and Nabil Rizk
Andrew Roberts
Rocky Mountain Power Foundation
Mary Ellen Sampe
Susan and Charles Sawyers, M.D.
Carrie Schildroth and Paul Rivera
Brooke and Rob Scott
Emily and Kevin Shumway
Angela and Matt Basso
Linzi South
Jason Spaulding and Yvonne Contreras
Paige and Charles St. Jeor
Clark and Jennie Stacey
Shantel and Mario Stoff
Tania and Shon Taylor
Heather Thuet
Patty and Joel Trachtenberg
Barbara Troxell
Elyse Vaccaro
Salt City Defense
Kimberly Venable
Jessica Wade
Amy Wadsworth and David Richardson
Sam West
Sherry and Rick Whitty
Sarah Wilmot and Asher Whitesides
Mr. David Wilson and
Ms. Judith B. Wilson
Amy Yuda and Leandru Schiau
Jennifer and Jeffery Zivkovic

In Memory of Betsy Revenaugh: SLArts Science Teacher, Mentor and Friend – The following donors made gifts in memory of the late "Ms. Rev," supporting SLArts' Science Department and our Mountain West Grand Prix team of students, SLArts Goblins, who built and raced their electric cars – "Revving for Rev" last April.

Robert and Sharon Baker
Lisa, Fred and Sophia Bartlit
Virgina Bolger
Anne Cornelius and Peggy Johnson
Rick Cornelius
Alexander and Anita Costigan
William and Kimberly Fiedler
Jessie Fiedler
Carol Fiedler
Dan and Sheila Gannon
Stephanie Gelman
Jen Guillory
Jemina Keller
Tricia Lee
Amy Mautz
Harold and Lucia Orcutt
Theodore and Jeanne Papenthien
Cory Pike and Mark Goddard
Julie Podpeskar
Eileen Rodman
Mary Ellen Sampe
Steven and Kirby Schulberg
Moni Schwaerzler
Katherine Smith
Catherine Turnbull
Mary, Janet and Karl Wellensiek



The SLArts Goblins Team, with Jeremey Theriot, 7th Grade Science

Salt Lake Arts Academy Governing Board 2022-23

John Bakken
Julie Bartel, Chair
Anneliese Booher
Kelly Goff
Meg Orsini
Greg Ostrander
Leanne Hawken
Alonzo Huntsman
Julie Livers
Abby Rizk
Rob Scott
Jennie Stacey

Salt Lake Arts Academy Administration
Deborah Candler, Principal and CAO
Katy Andrews, Advancement Director
Moni Schwaerzler, Business Manager
Jennifer Burrow-Sanchez, Assistant Principal
Jen Guillory, Registrar and Office Manager

844 South 200 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
www.slarts.org
801-531-1173

