

Salt Lake Arts Academy
A Public Charter School

Annual Report 2020-21

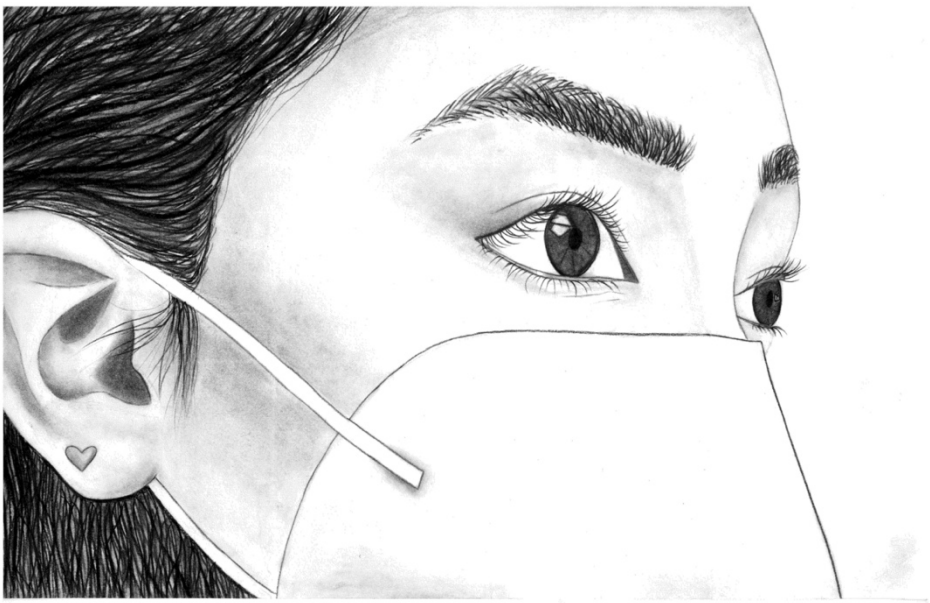
SALT LAKE ARTS ACADEMY

Dear Salt Lake Arts Academy Community - The challenges of the 2020-21 school year forced many changes, provided new opportunities, and highlighted our resilience as an institution. We completed our school expansion adding classrooms, augmenting our performance space, and renovating our outdoor play area. COVID-related funding has been directed to address learning gaps, as well as the social and emotional impacts of the last year. We now have an even lower faculty to student ratio and bolstered student support resources. Highlighting the depth of our talented human assets, a mid-year leadership challenge was eased by Katy Andrews' adept guidance as Interim Director. We begin this new academic year with the charismatic, energetic and highly capable Deborah Candler as our new Principal and CAO. We are delighted to have Ms. Candler at the helm and look forward to her leadership and vision to help drive Salt Lake Arts Academy into a rich and rewarding future. This year starts off with promise as kids and teachers are back in classrooms learning in person!

With optimism, confidence and gratitude,

Alonzo Huntsman, PhD
Governing Board Chair

The Importance of Connection: Lessons from the Pandemic The 2020-21 school year truly began in March of 2020, when Salt Lake Arts Academy first transitioned to remote learning as the world came to a halt, confronting the novel coronavirus pandemic. Taking the lessons learned during "emergency" remote schooling, Salt Lake Arts Academy Teachers and Staff spent the summer of 2020 learning how to refine the art of engaging students in remote learning.



As COVID-19 case counts in Utah rose, the Salt Lake Arts Academy Governing Board sought input from teachers and families, ultimately choosing to begin the school year in remote learning mode. SLArts deployed more than 200 Chromebooks and Hotspots to families to ensure students had the tools at home for remote learning. Teachers prepared materials for students to use at home, and our unusual year began.
(Artwork: Sophia A,. 8th Grade)

Using Google Classroom as our learning management system, students "Zoomed" into their core classes Monday through Thursday, taking Math, Humanities, Science and Arts. On Fridays, students did independent work, met one-on-one with Teachers or joined small in-person groups for outside activities. Faculty used Fridays to prepare for the following week of remote teaching.

In December, Governor Spencer Cox moved teachers up to the first tier of vaccine eligibility, offering a glimmer of hope for an eventual return to in-person school. After weighing passionate input from teachers, families and other stakeholders, the Governing Board made the decision to continue Remote Learning until Teachers and Staff could be fully vaccinated. Grateful for the Governing Board's decision, **Teachers began preparing for a return to in-person learning in March of 2021.** Approximately 10% of our students remained in remote learning through June.

A silver lining of the COVID-19 pandemic emerged as SLArts was able to complete our science classroom construction, Commons improvements and outdoor space upgrades more quickly and within our budget, while students were out of the building. As part of the construction SLArts replaced our entire HVAC system with a brand-new air handler and duct work, adding ultra-violet filters for enhanced COVID safety.

The final months of the school year were filled with joyful student engagement. Adolescents have a powerful need for connection with their peers, and it was evident that despite the necessary COVID precautions – masking, a shortened day, limited lunch time – students were thrilled to be together again. In May, students took their first mandated state assessments – the RISE tests, in English Language Arts, Math and Science-- since Spring 2019. As of this writing, the State is still reviewing RISE data, which SLArts will release to the community once it becomes available.

Arts in the Time of COVID

Teachers and students became incredibly proficient with digital tools allowing for instruction, collaboration, and sharing what students created. In our **Visual Arts** classes, teachers created weekly "menus" of projects for students to work on; class time was used for demonstrating technique, sharing progress and celebrating achievement. In **Music** students created videos and recordings to document their progress. Students performed for each other over Zoom, and some small groups were brought to practice together outside either at students' homes, or outside at school. **Drama** students practiced improv, wrote monologues, read classic Shakespeare and Greek plays and celebrated the end of the year with radio plays that they wrote, performed and recorded themselves. **Dance** students practiced technique and choreographed pieces together via Zoom. They learned about Dance history and its connection to the time periods they were studying in Humanities. They chose music, designed costumes and prepared for their final (finally!) live performance in the Spring.



Finally Together: End of Year Celebrations

SLArts' new outdoor space became the perfect Covid-friendly performance venue for our celebrations capping off this unusual year. We enjoyed performances by our **Advanced Music 3 Students**; an outdoor, site-specific **Dance Concert;** the unveiling of our schoolwide outdoor **Mural** project titled, "Connections," topped off by our 5th Grade **"Middle Ages Musical,"** featuring original music by our own Mr. Lamar Holley.













Financial Report FY21

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 2021	Funding Source
$3,229,888.91	State of Utah
$211,352.91	Federal
$74,440.29	Student Fees and Rental of Building to Other Nonprofit Groups
$147,013.59	Individuals, Corporate Gifts and Philanthropic Foundations
$49,930.07	After School Fees
$3,712,625.78	**TOTAL REVENUE**

Expenses – Fiscal Year 2021	Category
$2,513,987.18	Instruction – Teacher and staff salaries, benefits, supplies, equipment.
$472,077.60	Facility – Bond payment, utilities, improvements, custodial, repairs.
$516,703.39	Administration – Salaries, benefits, supplies and equipment.
$49,970.07	After School – Teacher salaries and benefits.
$394,452.17	Student Support – Staff salaries and benefits.
0 (Did not purchase UTA passes in FY21	Transportation – UTA Passes / Bus hires.
$3,947190.20	**TOTAL EXPENSES**
Note: SLArts' received funds from proceeds of the new Bond in FY20. The school spent $1,304,891.58 to complete construction in FY21. In addition, SLArts qualified for a PPP Loan in FY20, which was used in FY21to pay Teachers to work throughout the summer of 2021, preparing for Remote Learning.	

Community Support – A Light in the Darkness



Many organizations and individuals supported our public school through gifts of time, talent and treasure. The **Sorenson Legacy Foundation** continued their support of SLArts' "Arts Every Day program, with a gift of $7,500. **The Catalyst Foundation** once again inspired our community to stretch during our Annual Giving Campaign, with a $25,000 challenge grant; the Annual Giving Campaign raised more than $100,000 total, with support from parents, grandparents, teachers, friends and alumni, to fund student needs – including technology, equipment, arts supplies and more. The **Utah State Board of Education (USBE)'s Digital Teaching and Learning (DTL) program** support made it possible for our teachers and students to fully participate in synchronous online learning, with tools and expertise funded by the DTL program.

These families, friends and advocates made financial investments in our school in 2020-21. We are so grateful for this sustaining support. Please notify the office of any errors or omissions:

Abby and Nabil Rizk
Adina Hamik Gardner
Aishia and Jason Lockridge
Alexis and Nick Rice
Allison Richman
Ally Financial Corporate Citizenship
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Susan and Michal VanRoosendaal
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Teri Mumm
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The Catalyst Foundation
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