



FY IMPACT 24 /25 REPORT



A VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES



ART

CLASSES

ASLD provides the most comprehensive selection of visual art classes in the region, with classes in myriad visual art media for all levels and abilities. Media offered at ASLD include drawing, painting, printmaking, jewelry, fiber arts, ceramics, and more. We also offer Sampler Days & Celebration Days, featuring shorter versions of our most popular programs for participants to test media before committing to a full-length class.

BY THE

NUMBERS

- 132 Artists employed as instructors
- 2,126 Classes offered
- 24,608 Students enrolled
- 70 KidArt Summer Camps engaged 668 campers
- 571 teens at Teen Studio Night
- \$89,555 in Scholarships awarded to 780 adults and 18 children
- 7 Exhibits installed, showcasing over 268 artists' work



TOOLS FOR ARTISTIC GROWTH



“I’m pushing through barriers and creating more space. ASLD’s residency is assisting, fostering, and giving that space. If you’re talking about a place that wants to do for their community, it takes a conscious effort to do that work, and it’s beautiful. This place is very special.”

The Color Scheme Residency is a facet of the Visiting Artist Series born of the recognition that many artists have historically been excluded from formal art spaces, including artist residencies. The Residency provides a monthly artist fee and dedicated studio space for a selected artist to create a body of work that culminates in a solo exhibition at ASLD’s gallery. The 2024-2025 Resident Artist was Desirae Brown, who creates sculpture work using hand-built stoneware and found objects. Brown draws upon her identity as a Black, biracial single mother to inform her work.

“ASLD uniquely fosters an inclusive artistic exploration that I haven’t found elsewhere. It provides an unparalleled opportunity for individuals across Denver, regardless of their background or experience, to delve into their artistic identity and uncover hidden creative potential. What truly sets ASLD apart is its ability to bridge the gap between novice and professional.”

The Ceramics Apprenticeship was a yearlong appointment for an aspiring ceramist to receive one-on-one mentorship that provides a platform to build a sustainable career in ceramics. The 2024-2025 Ceramics Apprentice was Maggie Dickman, who was born and raised in Colorado and taught in Aurora and Denver Public Schools for 20 years before transitioning to ceramics. Dickman’s reflection on the experience speaks to the vital role of ASLD in the Denver arts community. In order to reach more artists with this program, ASLD is set to expand the Ceramic Apprenticeship program by transitioning it to a volunteer cohort format in 2026, allowing a greater number of artists to participate.



TOOLS FOR ARTISTIC GROWTH

VISITING ARTIST SERIES

ASLD's Visiting Artist Series connects the ASLD community with artists from across the world. Visiting Artists teach a workshop, give an artist talk, and often times display work in an ASLD exhibit. The series offers an opportunity for ASLD to expand our network of artists beyond the Denver metro area, and to connect the art lovers in our community with new ideas. To complement the upgrades of the Fiber Arts Studio and the expansion of classes offered in Fiber Arts over the past two years, ASLD hosted two renowned artists who work in fiber arts throughout FY 2024-2025.



KWASI ASABE:
MASTER KENTE
WEAVER FROM GHANA

CAMISHA BUTLER:
TEXTILE ARTIST AND
EDUCATOR FROM
ATLANTA, GEORGIA



CONNECTING COMMUNITY

ASLD's Community Engagement Programs increase access to arts education for communities across the metro area. These programs are offered for free so that all art lovers of every ZIP code, race and ethnicity, economic status, and physical ability can experience the joy of making art.

YOUTH ART CLASSES IN WESTWOOD

Offered in collaboration with Southwest Denver Coalition and Arturo Garcia's studio, these art classes offer Westwood youth and teens a safe, supportive alternative environment to explore their identity and self-express through art. Since 2022, this program has worked to improve mental health and reduce youth violence by boosting self-esteem, confidence, and connectivity with peers. Last year, over 1,912 young people participated.



ART IN PRISON

Art in Prison offers visual arts workshops for incarcerated people with the goal of improving their day-to-day life within the correctional system. The program began at Denver Women's Correctional Facility in 2019. With the support of 2024 Arts in Society grant, the program expanded to the Men's Facility in April 2024.

“Art changes lives, you can express your emotions through it. It's healing.”
- Art in Prison participant

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ANYTHINK & AURORA PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Free, drop-in, intergenerational workshops throughout the Anythink Library system as well as the Aurora Public Library system. Workshops are taught by ASLD's faculty members and engage mixed artistic levels, which allow youth to work alongside parents and grandparents in making art together. The program engaged 318 people over the past year.



DIVERSITY IN THE ARTS INTERNSHIP

The seventh year of DITA paired another cohort of 11 passionate creatives with nonprofit host sites in the cultural sector, providing work experience and mentorship connections. Over the past seven years, DITA has supported 68 young arts & cultural interns in organizations throughout the region, catalyzing careers for interns and increasing capacity for host sites.



INCREASED SPACE FOR CREATIVE ENDEAVORS



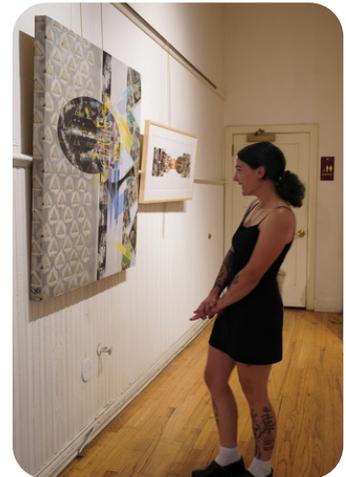
ASLD ENGLEWOOD BRANCH

In 2025, ASLD expanded to include a satellite location in Englewood's CityCenter as part of their CitySpark project to reengage the neighborhood. It includes classroom space shared by ASLD and Access Gallery, and artist studios managed by CAST Colorado. This location fulfills many of ASLD's strategic initiatives, such as increased space for artists, diversifying our programming, and expanding our geographical location to reach new audiences. The first cycle of classes had all new registrations. Instructors who live closer to the Englewood location appreciated the geographic convenience.



EXHIBITS

Exhibits at ASLD increase the visibility of artists and give artists the chance to sell their work. ASLD hosts a variety of exhibits, including juried shows, open call themes, and invitations.



During FY 24-25, ASLD hosted seven exhibits in our gallery:

- **2024 Faculty Exhibition**
- **METALmorphosis: The Art of Transformation**, in partnership with the Colorado Metalsmithing Association
- **I See Red: A Small Works Exhibit**
- 7th iteration of **delectTABLE: The Fine Art of Dining**
- **Food-tography**, the art of photographing food
- **I Can Show You Better Than I Can Tell You**, Resident Artist Desirae Brown's solo show
- **MULTI-VERSATILITY**, featuring Visiting Artist Camisha Butler



YOUTH PROGRAMS



TEEN STUDIO NIGHT

Teen Studio Night is a year-round, weekly drop-in art program for young artists ages 14 to 17 that delivers quality art training to teens from all backgrounds and fosters positive youth development.



Teen Studio Night is one of our most beloved programs that provides both art instruction and a community of likeminded peers for teens to connect and express themselves in a safe environment. The program also includes dinner, as we recognize that hungry teens are less able to focus on making art. Teen Studio Night welcomed over 571 participants, with over 192 unique teens counted. Friday nights are magic with a

collective energy in the air as the entire main building of ASLD is taken over by the teens. Both teens and their parents have shared the importance of the program for creating a place of belonging.

KIDART CAMPS

KidArt Camps are offered every summer for kids ages 6–17 [TC1] to explore artistic media while also giving them the foundational skills they need to make their artistic ideas come to life. The camps offer spaces for creating that are fun, non-competitive, and non-outcome based so that kids can truly experience the full range of artistic creativity. For summer 2025, ASLD offered 70 in-person summer camp programs that engaged 668 campers. After a successful first summer in 2024, ASLD continued the relationship with City of Aurora Parks & Rec, offering 6 camps that engaged 195 campers.



EVENTS & TRAVEL PROGRAMS

SUNDAY SUNDAY

Our sweetest fundraiser of the year! Ice Cream is provided by Sweet Action Ice Cream, whose staff graciously filled bowls handmade by ASLD community members with a variety of flavors and toppings. Sweet Action is a locally-owned business located a few blocks from ASLD, and their partnership in this event highlights our commitment to fostering community in the arts industry and beyond.



SUMMER ART MARKET

Last year we had 199 artists in 125 artist booths and had 12,000 attendees! ASLD sponsored a Teen Booth, which offers youth from Teen Studio Night the entrepreneurial experience of selling artwork.



TRAVEL PROGRAMS

ASLD continues to offer curated trips to explore an art destination, including VIP access to museums, fairs, and institutions and exclusive tours of artist studios. Recent trips included France for the Lyon Biennale d'art contemporain (in partnership with the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art) as well as atelier workshops at La Napoule Art Foundation, and India led by ASLD faculty member Raj Chaudhuri.

A NOTE ON NUMBERS

Each year, ASLD is required to undergo an extensive auditing process in order to maintain our status as both a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and an SCFD-funded Tier 2 organization. We feel that the most accurate and honest way to see our financials is to go directly to the source: the audit! If you would like to see our most recent audit report, please reach out to t.crisman@asld.org to request a copy.

IMPACT PARTNERS

ASLD's Impact Partners are key contributors that greatly enhance our ability to fulfil our mission. Impact partners support ASLD at a giving level of at least \$10,000.



The Colorado Health Foundation™



Thank you also to:
The Hugh & Michelle Harvey Family Foundation
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The Peyback Foundation
The Goerge Shields Foundation

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for your continued support!