

ART STUDENTS LEAGUE OF DENVER

IMPACT REPORT FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021



CREATING ART &
COMMUNITY SINCE 1987

ASLD LEADERSHIP



Friends and Supporters,

I like to think that I am a lifelong learner. This mindset informs my leadership and helps me focus on what matters most: community. It is important for me to listen to and learn from our students, faculty, staff, Board of Directors, and art lovers who make the Art Students League of Denver a pillar in the Denver arts community. Fiscal Year 2020-2021 proved to be a time of immense learning and idea generating. ASLD has emerged from this year of growth stronger than ever.

We began the Fiscal Year with limited in-person courses and are ending it at full capacity: with art courses and youth programs, indoor exhibits, and the return of Summer Art Market. Along the way, our team acted nimbly to respond to the ever-changing landscape, taking with us lessons learned and new perspectives. As an artist, I look at organizational challenges the same way I approach the artistic process—what have I learned before and what can I learn now?

For ASLD to continue to thrive, we rely on every member of our community to help build the inclusive arts organization we all love. This past year has been a reminder of the tremendous support you—and many others—have provided us. I am pleased to share with you ASLD's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Impact Report. In this year's report, we are spotlighting ASLD's core values to reaffirm their importance and remind us that it takes guiding principles to ensure our community is inclusive to all. On the pages that follow, we invite you to explore what our core values mean to us, and in turn, ask you to discover what our core values mean to you, as a member of the ASLD community.

I hope you enjoy learning about our year as much as we enjoy sharing it with you!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Basye". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rachel Basye
Executive Director

ASLD LEADERSHIP



Dear ASLD Community Members,

It is with great pleasure that I share the Art Students League of Denver's Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Impact Report. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to sincerely thank you for your important contributions to our art community this past year. Without a doubt, artists and art lovers like you demonstrate why art matters through your support of ASLD. We cannot thank you enough for helping to make the achievements showcased here possible.

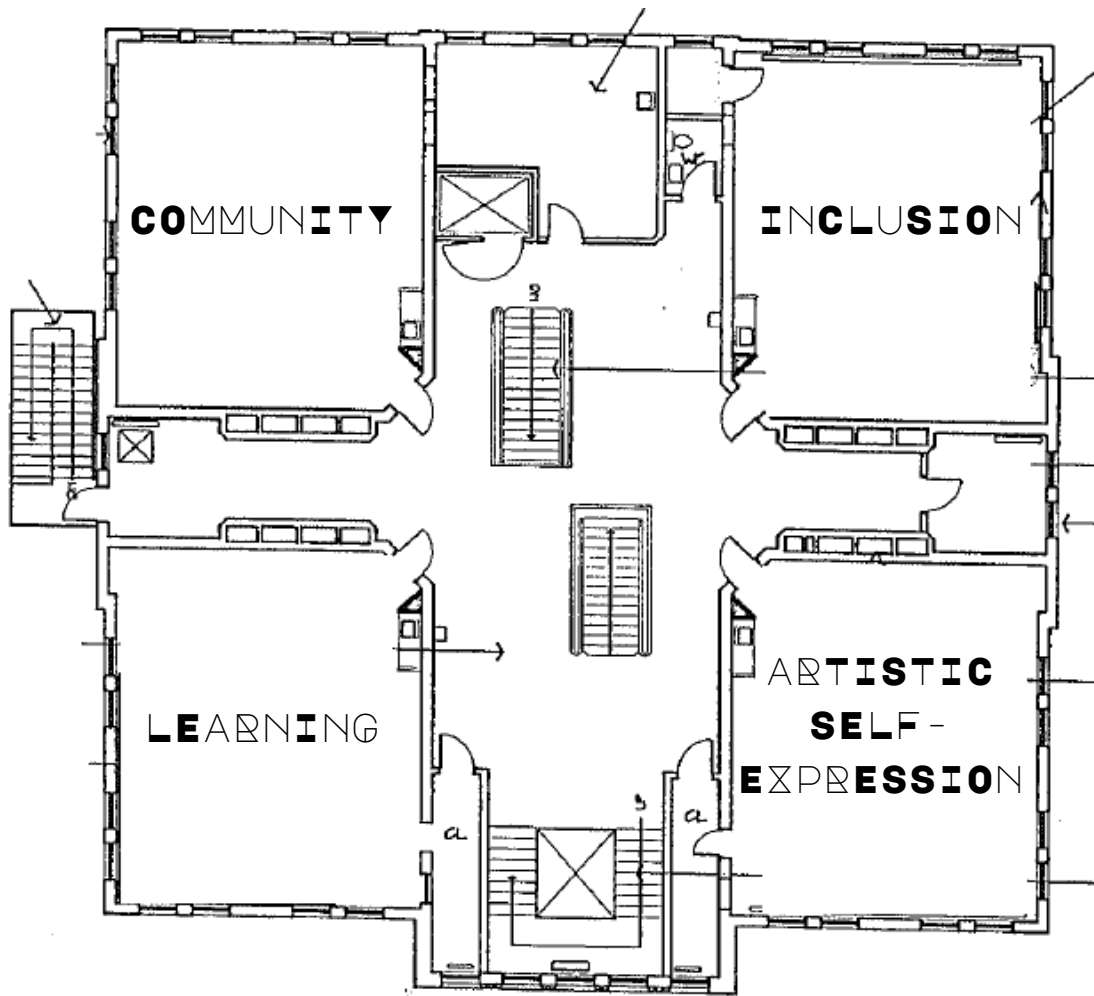
Throughout my nearly four years of service as a member of ASLD's Board of Directors, I have been amazed at how much ASLD has accomplished. The faculty, staff and Board of Directors are visionary, adaptable, and passionate about art and its benefits. In my new role as Board President, I look forward to strengthening this inclusive art community, continuing the great work of our team, and helping to build for our future.

Again, my heartfelt thanks go out to each one of you for making ASLD a special place where artistic growth happens every day. I look forward to this next Fiscal Year and what we will accomplish together.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy Walsh', written in a cursive style.

Nancy Walsh
Board President

CORE VALUES



Floorplan of ASLD main building

MISSION

The Art Students League of Denver provides an inclusive art community where professional artists guide individuals of all abilities to reach their highest potential.

COMMUNITY

The "we" of ASLD includes artists and art lovers of all kinds, from students and members to faculty and Visiting Artists, along with our dedicated administrative staff and Board of Directors.



- We provide creative self-expression and lifelong learning to **26,000 students**
- We interact with a network of more than **50,000 art lovers**
- We work with more than **20 civic and cultural partner organizations** to bring art to every corner of the Denver metro area

STORIES BEHIND THE ARTISTS

ASLD is a special community because of the artists who learn and create in our space. This year, we launched a blog series called [Stories Behind the Artists](#) to highlight the artists who work and play at ASLD, along with the many winding paths an individual's artistic journey can take.



ASLD has worked tirelessly to bring beauty and art into our world, especially at a time when the world is seeing the ugly side of a pandemic. They expand and cultivate the art community by providing a space for diversity, equity and inclusion, which I love. They will always be a champion in the art community and are an inexhaustible resource of ultimate creativity. Thank you from the bottom of my heart! Life would not be as bearable without you.

Benu Amun Ra,
ASLD Student
(pictured top left in black shirt)

COMMUNITY

SOLSTICE GARDEN

During the summer of 2021, ASLD's courtyard was filled with artwork inspired by the summer solstice for *Solstice Garden*. Community members of all ages brought unique artwork to the outdoor exhibit, from giant metal sculptures to mini "fairy houses."



SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY SUNDAY

In July 2021 we hosted our inaugural Sunday Sundae ice cream bowl event. Over 100 ASLD community members came together to select a handmade bowl from ASLD artists, fill it with Sweet



Action ice cream, and enjoy an afternoon in our garden. All proceeds from the event benefited our arts programming.

SUMMER ART MARKET



ASLD hosted the 28th annual Summer Art Market on August 28 & 29, 2021 (after pandemic conditions forced us to cancel the event in 2020). It was a weekend full of summer fun, with almost 100 artist booths, faculty demonstrations, and kidART activities. This year, artists reported their biggest SAM sales ever, which warmed our hearts and reminded us of the importance this event has in the lives of local artists.

LEARNING

VISITING ARTIST SERIES

For 20 years, ASLD's Visiting Artist Series has provided members the opportunity to learn from and connect with nationally and internationally recognized artists. We bring 4-6 visiting artists to Denver each year to host programming including lectures, workshops, exhibits and community engagement collaborations. This program is made possible by funding from generous partners like the Olson-Vander Heyden Foundation.



During the fall of 2020, Visiting Artist Gregg Deal created an installation in the courtyard of ASLD that included a full-size tipi, furnished on the inside with art, books and items exploring the notion of modern indigenous identity and the impact of the white gaze. Deal and artist JayCee Beyale decorated the outside of the tent with graffiti. Deal also led a workshop on art and activism, and used the installation as part of [a performance piece](#).

ATELIER



The ASLD Atelier program brings Colorado artists to ASLD for weekend workshops. These workshops serve to supplement ASLD's regular programming, and are often an opportunity to gauge the interest level in a new medium or course before adding it to the ASLD roster on a regular basis.

2020 ATELIER ARTISTS

Anna Kaye, Watercolor

Michelle Lamb, Assemblage Sculpture

Melanie Yazzie, Printmaking (*pictured left in black mask*)



LEARNING

WAGUE CERTIFIED

We employ over 130 local artists as faculty members, in addition to bringing in artists from around the world for our Visiting Artist Series, Atelier program, guest lectures, and other paid opportunities. ASLD believes that creating and teaching art are valuable contributions to any community, which is why we're committed to paying artists fair wages for the work they do. ASLD's status as a [W.A.G.E. certified organization](#) verifies this commitment.



JUSTICE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, ACCESSIBILITY (JEDIA) COMMITTEE



After completing a long-term training with consultant Erin Yoshimura (*pictured left*), this year challenged the ASLD team to find our footing as we continue to center JEDIA in our daily work. Our greatest lesson has been that we are most successfully carrying out our JEDIA values when we are bringing them into everything we do here at ASLD, from workshops and exhibits to fundraising and beyond.

Our JEDIA committee continues to meet regularly and we were especially excited to add several board members to the committee this year.

GUEST LECTURE

During the winter, ASLD welcomed visiting lecturer Shantay Robinson to give a virtual presentation on three eras of African American art over the course of 100 years. We received very positive feedback on the lecture and enjoyed the opportunity to integrate more art history into our programming.



ARTISTIC SELF-EXPRESSION



YOUTH COURSES SUMMER CAMPS



ASLD offers year-round afterschool and weekend programs for youth ages 6-13, as well as our popular Friday night Teen Studio for ages 14-17. During the summer of 2021, we offered more than 60 summer camps (with options for both in-person and online learning) to more than 400 excited young artists!

TEEN STUDIO

For the first time in the 6-year history of the program, Teen Studio Night was held online throughout 2020. We're happy to report that the digital format didn't stop our young artists from learning and connecting with peers! More than 512 teens engaged with the program this year, and we saw an increase in teens joining from outside Denver while the program was held virtually.



ARTISTIC SELF-EXPRESSION



Faculty member Lorenzo Chavez

ADULT COURSES

Our courses aim to meet each artist where they're at on their creative path. In FY 2020-2021, we offered 639 adult courses in a broad range of media.

ART FOR WELLBEING

We believe art has the power to transform lives by offering respite in challenging times, providing hope and inspiration, and boosting emotional well-being. According to [Americans for the Arts](#), spending just 30 minutes each day creating art can improve your mental health.

JOY AND PAIN: A MO(V)EMENT

Art is a tool for self-expression and it helps make meaning of the world around us. This exhibit, curated by Holly-Kai Hurd and Suzi Q. Smith, used visual art and ekphraistic poetry to consider the lived experience of Black Americans following the summer of racial uprisings in 2020. The exhibit exemplified ASLD's practice of offering artists the space to process social issues and represent identity through art.



Artwork by Holly-Kai Hurd

INCLUSION

BIG HEART SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

ASLD is committed to providing access to art-making for all artists. We believe financial limitations should never be a barrier to creativity. Each year, we provide youth and adult scholarships to artists in our community. During Fiscal Year 2020-2021, 16 youth scholarship recipients and 43 adult scholarship recipients were awarded a grand total of \$32,000. We appreciate funding from our partners who help make this possible.



DIVERSITY IN THE ARTS INTERNSHIP

A strong arts community is an arts community with leaders that represent the diversity of our Denver community. That's why we're proud to be the fiscal host for the [Diversity in the Arts \(DITA\) internship program](#). DITA creates paid internship opportunities and fosters a pipeline to leadership in the arts and culture sector for students from traditionally underrepresented communities. 2021 marked the third summer of this program.

CONNECTING GLOBALLY

In May 2021, ASLD faculty member Adriana Rondón Rivero taught a virtual workshop on healing through art. Presented in partnership with the Biennial of the Americas, this workshop was taught simultaneously in both English and Spanish and included participants from the US, Mexico, and Venezuela.

FINANCIALS

ASLD finished Fiscal Year 2020-2021 on August 31, 2021 in a cautiously optimistic position. Compared to previous fiscal years prior to the pandemic, we saw a decrease in overall expenses while experiencing an increase in support, thereby resulting in a net surplus. The increase in support was largely due to a variety of COVID-19 relief funds, including government and foundation funds, all of which were one-time only sources of support.

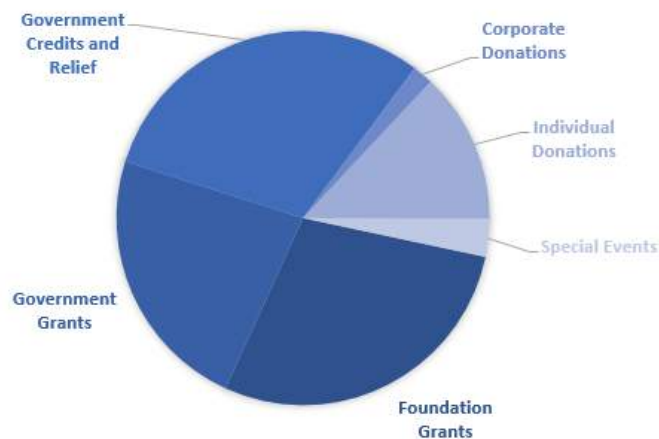
Support, Revenue, and Other Income	Total
Revenue and Other Income	
Course Fees	\$ 640,020.00
Membership Fees	\$ 70,190.00
Other Program Income	\$ 19,444.00
Summer Art Market	\$ 100,677.00
Investment Income	\$ 53,603.00
In-Kind Income	\$ 54,786.00
Total Revenue and Other Income	\$ 938,720.00
Support	
Foundation Grants	\$ 242,185.00
Government Grants	\$ 196,172.00
Government Credits and Relief*	\$ 257,801.00
Corporate Donations	\$ 15,268.00
Individual Donations	\$ 111,170.00
Special Events	\$ 27,622.00
Total Support	\$ 850,218.00
Total Support, Revenue, and Other Income	\$ 1,788,938.00
Expenses	
Program Expense**	\$ 411,647.00
Summer Art Market	\$ 57,757.00
Administrative Expense***	\$ 610,653.00
Professional Fees	\$ 38,233.00
Operating Expense	\$ 41,710.00
Information Technology	\$ 32,784.00
Marketing	\$ 28,028.00
Development	\$ 20,177.00
Facilities	\$ 135,344.00
In-Kind Expense	\$ 54,786.00
Other Non Cash Expense****	\$ 112,493.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,543,612.00
Change in Net Assets	\$ 245,326.00

FINANCIALS

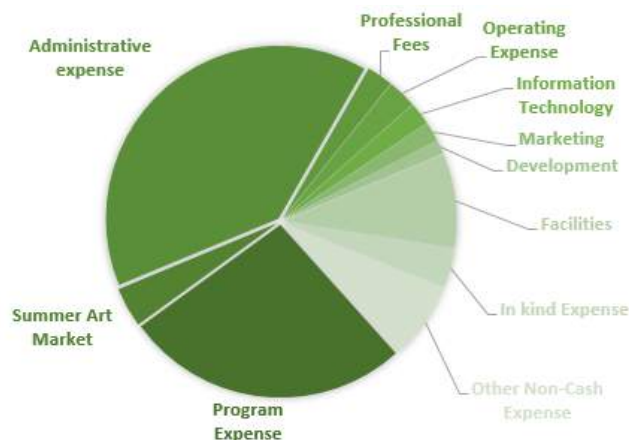
FY20-21 INCOME



FY20-21 SUPPORT



FY20-21 EXPENSE



*Government Credits and Relief includes the Paycheck Protection Program and the Emergency Injury Disaster Loan

**Program Expense includes Courses, Visiting Artist, Community Engagement

***Administrative Expense includes Wages, Benefits, Taxes and Insurance

****Other Non Cash Expense includes Depreciation, Loan Interest, etc.

THANK YOU

TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Gifts \$20,000+

Bonfils-Stanton Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts
Olson-Vander Heyden Foundation
Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD)
The Denver Foundation

Gifts \$10,000 - \$19,999

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The Sparkjoy Foundation
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The George L. Shields Foundation
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Shamrock Foods

Gift \$1,000 - \$4,999

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Denver Arts & Venues
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
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THANK YOU

TO OUR SUPPORTERS

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Joan Weiss

Don't see your name? We're so sorry! Send an email to Sarah James at s.james@asld.org and she'll update the list right away.

IMPACT PARTNERS

Thanks to these generous partners for their support!



ARTS IN SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

For the 2020-2021 fiscal year

Executive Committee

Patrice Werner, *President*
Elise Brenninkmeyer, *Vice President*
Patrick Hickey, *Treasurer*
Harry Utter, *Secretary*
Nancy Walsh, *Member At-Large*

Lifetime Non-Voting Members

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Philip Levine, *Founder & Past President*
Henry Meininger, *Founder & Past President*

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Holly-Kai Hurd, *Faculty Liaison*
Maha Kamal
Marie Medina, *Young Professional*
Kate Rooney
Deb Rosenbaum, *Faculty Liaison*
Robert Savi

KEEP IN TOUCH



Outdoor exhibit 2020 is Hindsight



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