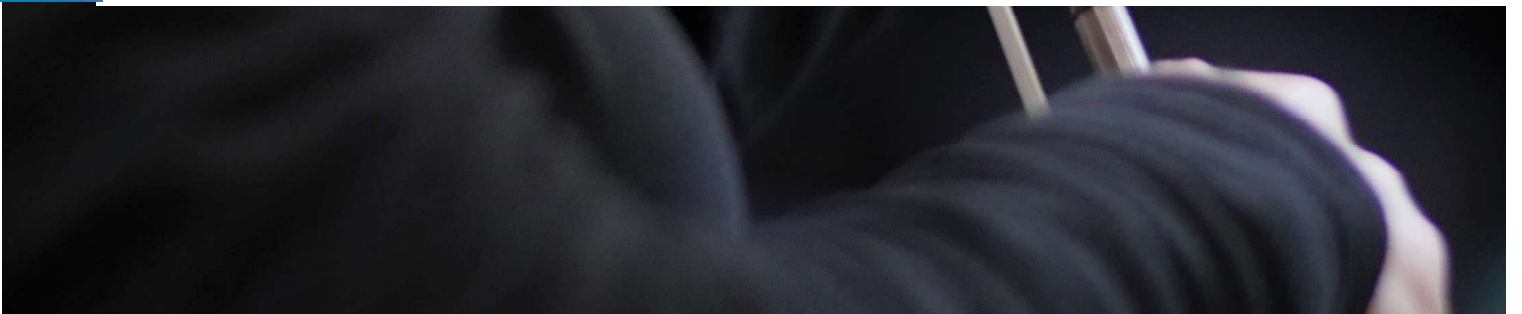




Augustana Arts

Season of Friends

ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022



Vision:

Lives enriched and transformed through meaningful encounters with the arts.

Mission:

We bridge the gap between audience and artist, so that all feel welcome and are able to experience the arts in a deeper, more meaningful way.

Our Values & Beliefs:

- We believe all are welcome here.
- We believe the arts are for everyone – no matter who they are or where they come from.
- We believe in making each performance a personal experience, not a passive one, allowing each concert to be more meaningful, more enriching, more transformational for those who join us.
- We believe an in-person interaction with the arts offers a more profound experience, speaking more clearly to the heart, mind and soul, than is possible through a screen or ear buds.
- We believe in creating art with you instead of at you. We aren't inviting you to come watch us play music. We truly want you to come so we can create music FOR, and sometimes with, you.
- We believe we must redefine and reimagine the experience of classical music. For many, the traditional experience of classical music feels snooty, stuffy, and uninviting because of the unspoken rules about who is welcome, what to wear and how to act. We believe too many feel worried or embarrassed or have a distasteful experience which is keeping them from the joy of music. We are flipping the script by intentionally creating a welcoming, friendly and engaging experience for which all are welcome to enjoy and participate in whatever capacity/way feels most comfortable for them.

Guiding Principles:

- All are welcome here. No matter who you are or where you come from, all are invited to experience the joy of the arts.
- Make the arts approachable. Let's flip the script of classical arts by intentionally creating engaging experiences where all are welcome to enjoy and participate in whatever way feels most comfortable for them.
- Invite a connection between the audience and artist. Whether it's an interactive portion of the performance, or intentionally telling the stories of the musicians/artists/dancers, we create a space for respect, appreciation, and interaction in both directions.
- It's about the audience member, not the artist. Shift from "We invite you to enjoy the music we are performing" which is about the musicians/artists to "We are creating music for you. Join us for a unique, engaging experience." which is about the experience of the audience member.
- Our musicians are people, not props. Our musicians are humans worth appreciating; they are not props up on a stage. They have lives. They have stories. We aim to foster respect, appreciation, and interaction between our musicians and those we serve.
- Strive to improve. We grow and learn and push those around us to do the same.
- See the big picture. We keep an eye on how our individual work connects to a larger purpose.

Dear Valued Friends and Supporters,

Our 2021-22 season was a season for YOU-our friends and supporters. With your continued interest and enthusiasm for the arts, we were able to return with in-person performances, bring music instruction to our students at schools and community centers, and welcome audiences of all ages and backgrounds to the world of meaningful music encounters.

While the past two years may have challenged all of us in ways we never imagined, the outcome is an arts organization that is strong, healthy, and vibrant!

During this fiscal year we were able to take significant strides to improve and fortify our place in the future. As such, we are pleased to share that we are:

Organizationally Strong. Two significant accomplishments for this fiscal year included the development of a five-year strategic plan with the assistance of a grant from the Bloomberg Foundation and expertise from the Arts Innovation Management Institute (AIM). In addition, our year-long search for a Music Director of Stratus Chamber Orchestra was intentional and meaningful every step of the way with the final appointment of Adam Torres.

Financially Healthy. We are debt free and ended the fiscal year with a prudent reserve sufficient to sustain our organization for several months should it ever be necessary due to circumstances beyond our control. We also concluded our fourth consecutive year in the black!

Artistically Vibrant. Musicians returned to live performances with enthusiasm and support for our artistic vision to bring meaningful encounters in the arts. We hosted several outside organizations for enriching concerts. Our outreach program returned with life-transforming music lessons and more!

Thanks to you-our friends and supporters-we are strong, healthy, and vibrant! We thank you for helping us make it possible and we look forward to celebrating with you our 25th anniversary in the next season!



Lynn Nestingen, Ph.D.
Executive Director





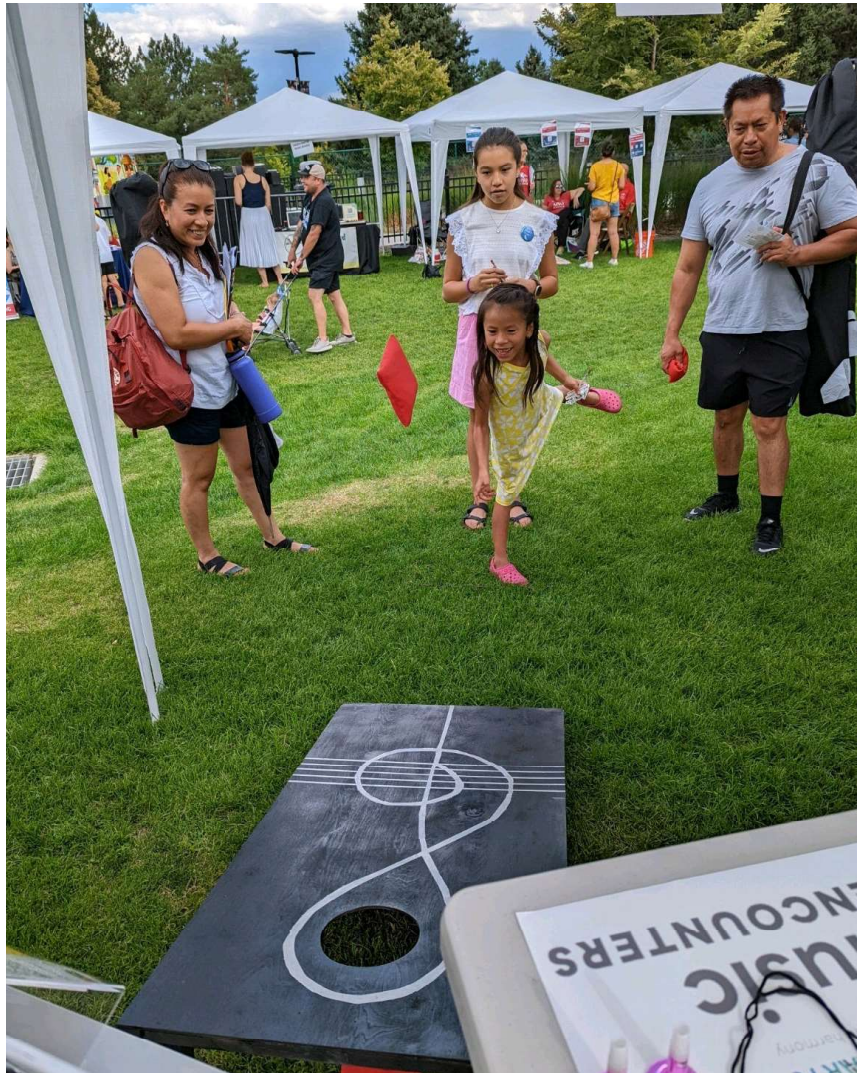
Denver Zoo, August 2022



STRATUS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

- Successfully offered four enriching concerts for over 750 audience members of all ages.
- Featured several young rising artists including conductor Sheila Melendez-Ayala, trumpet soloist Aaron Olson, cellist Kelsey Howell, and composers Max Wolpart and Jennifer Higdon.
- Performed outdoors in the Conoco Pavilion/Gardens at the Denver Zoo in celebration and support of their 125th anniversary.
- Featured the often-unheard composition by Clara Schumann-*Concerto for Piano in A Minor*-with guest pianist Stephanie Cheng.
- Completed a successful search process for a new Music Director Adam Torres.
- Commissioned and performed the world premier of *Tin Lizzies on Old Fall River* by local composer James M. David.
- Adam Torres arranged the unique and rarely performed composition *Overture by Taras Bulba* by Ukrainian composer Mykola Lysenko. A copy of the score was signed by Stratus musicians and auctioned off in support of Lutheran Disaster Response.
- Enhanced the performances at Augustana Lutheran Church with lighting displays set to change and correspond to the music ambience.





MUSIC ENCOUNTERS

- Created a new position for Outreach and Education and successfully hired Lindsay Genadek as Coordinator.
- Returned to in-person group sessions and live teacher instruction at five public schools and community centers in three metro Denver counties.
- Served 80+ students ranging from third through eighth grades with violin instruction in a small group setting.
- Hired teachers to reflect the diversity and to increase mentorship of the students.
- Highlighted the accomplishments of 67 students in an annual year-end recital. Featured a composition of a current student who began with City Strings five years ago.
- Offered over 240 separate instruction sessions for students in violin.
- Partnered with schools which are 100% which are predominantly ethnic minority student populations.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Provided “flex pay” for several performances for anyone to choose their ticket prices from FREE or more to attend a concert. This opened doors to community members who may not otherwise be able to attend for economic reasons.
- Presented a concert encounter and instrument touch-and-hear experience for the public on Veteran’s Day and during Denver Arts Week.
- Secured the support of Metro Denver Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Foundation to launch "ArtiStandza,” a free public art display of painted music stands. Stands were displayed June 15 to August 15 at six locations throughout metro Denver including Meow Wolf, Parson’s Theatre, Buell Theater, Swallow Hill Music, Thornton Arts Center, and Augustana Lutheran Church.
- Stratus Chamber Orchestra performed a full concert outdoors at the Denver Zoo in celebration of their 125th anniversary which reached hundreds of zoo visitors.
- Offered two outdoor concerts in the courtyard for safe distancing. All ticketing was FLEX pay so that anyone can attend regardless of economic means.
- Hosted an outdoor performance with Opera Colorado artists as a preview concert of their season.
- Presented the United States Air Force Academy concert featuring Rampart Winds and Academy winds as a free community concert.
- Hosted the Concordia College Choir for a tour concert in collaboration with Augustana Lutheran Church.
- Hosted two *Music of the Vine* signature concert experiences at Bethany Lutheran Church.







DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSIVITY, ACCESSIBILITY

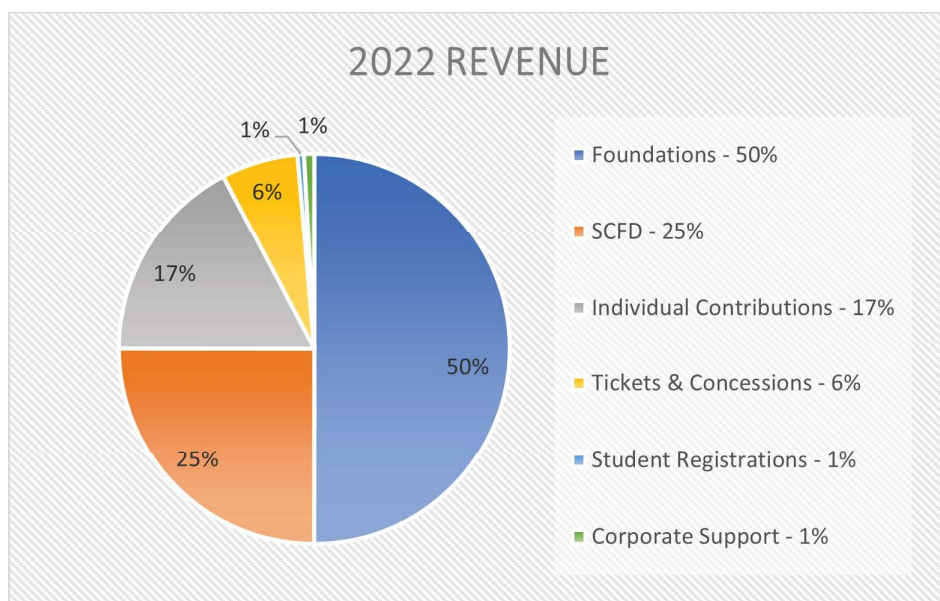
Augustana Arts values diversity across the organization and strives to include participants that cross geographic, artistic, economic, generational, racial, and ethnic boundaries. In support of DEIA efforts, Augustana Arts:

- Developed and distributed bilingual program materials for Music Encounters' students and parents including a bilingual parent handbook to help parents better understand and support in-depth music lessons.
- Invited Music Encounters' families to attend all performances of Augustana Arts for free.
- Offered Music Encounters' programs for youth from economically challenged schools lacking music programs as well as at community centers and libraries at little to no cost.
- Participated and completed in DEI training offered through our membership in the Alliance for Music Education Equity (AMEE).
- Partnered with AMEE to support the momentum for strengthening DEIA efforts in arts education.
- Highlighted and interviewed artist voices from underrepresented communities in our podcast, *Audience Meets Audience*.

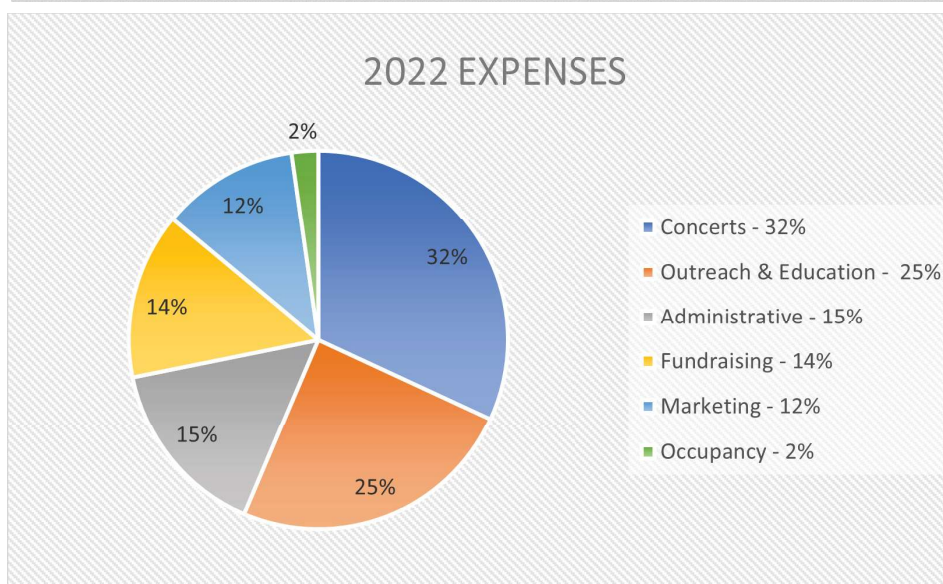


- Launched *The ArtiStandza project* to raise awareness of arts for all children, but especially those underserved in the arts.
- Made intentional efforts to recruit and retain underrepresented voices in staff and Board positions.
- Continued to reach out to BIPOC networks to expand Board representation as well as musician/staff audition invitations.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS



- Remained debt-free year-after-year.
- Finished fourth consecutive year operating in the black.
- Exceeded contributed income goal by 20%.
- Maintained low registration fees for student participation in Music Encounters.
- Maintained low overhead expenses.
- Began process to build six months prudent cash reserve.



BALANCE SHEET

AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

Cash	\$122,799
Investments	12,457
TOTAL ASSETS	135,257
Net Assets	132,221
TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	135,257

DONORS & FUNDERS

Over 150 individuals, families, foundations, businesses, and organizations made our work possible through their financial support. For gifts ranging from \$5 to \$60,000 and more, we are deeply grateful!

A full list of donors is published in our performance playbills. A digital copy is available upon request.

2021-22 Augustana Arts Board of Directors

Kent Mueller, CO-PRESIDENT

Marcia Olson, CO-PRESIDENT

John House, TREASURER

Amy King, SECRETARY

Leah Quigley, DIRECTOR

Sarah Wise, DIRECTOR

DAN TINIANOW, DIRECTOR

Ann Hultquist, EX-OFFICIO

Andrew Peters, EX-OFFICIO

2021-22 Staff & Consultants

Lynn Nestingen, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Lindsay Genadek, OUTREACH & EDUCATION COORDINATOR

CJ Heck, MARKETING COORDINATOR

John House, BOOKKEEPING/ACCOUNTING

Erin Sullivan, GRANTWRITER

AUGUSTANAARTS

5000 E. Alameda Ave.
Denver, CO 80246

303.388.4962
info@augustanaarts.org
www.AugustanaArts.org



Ralph & Florence
Burgess Trust

Rea Charitable Trust



*And with tremendous gratitude
and thanks to all our individual,
family, and corporate donors!*