



PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS 2022/2023

We are excited to share with you the highlights of our organization from the past fiscal year. Wilson Arts is a 501c3 non-profit organization with the mission of improving the quality of life for all citizens of Wilson County by being a hub for artistic experiences that enrich, educate, and entertain Wilson County and beyond.



563 EVENTS/ACTIVITIES
54 WILSON ARTS EVENTS
316 REHEARSALS
54 DAYS OF CLASSES
122 OUTSIDE RENTALS
17 COMMUNITY EVENTS
39,108 VISITORS
798 VOLUNTEERS

SUMMARY

Wilson Arts manages the Edna Boykin Cultural Center and owns and operates the Wilson Arts Center.

This past year, we hosted an astounding 563 events & activities between these two facilities - an increase in activity from last year. These have taken the form of special events, performances, rentals, workshops, and rehearsals.

54 of those were special events organized by Wilson Arts.

316 of the activities were rehearsals that we hosted for Playhouse, ACT! for Youth, Vision Community Theater, and S2P2.

We held 54 days of visual arts classes.

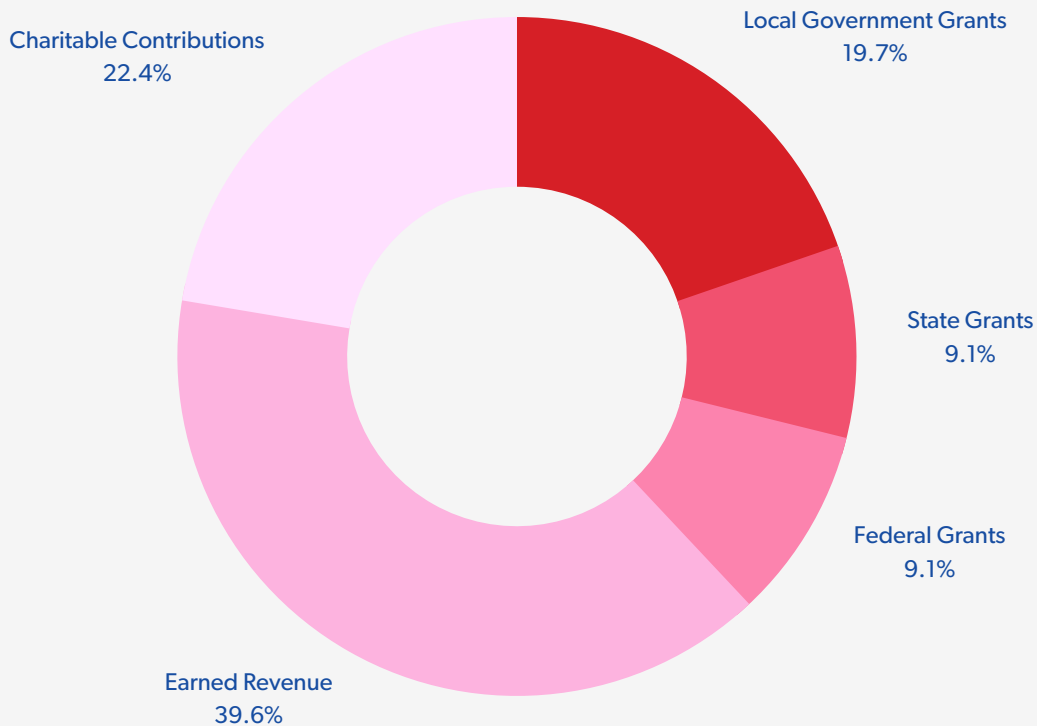
The Boykin Center and the Wilson Arts Center were also rented out 122 times.

And we also took art activities off-site to other community events 17 times with events such as Juneteenth, Festival Del Verano, Elm City Carnival, and more.

It took 798 volunteers to pull off these fantastic numbers and we are so thankful for our village of arts supporters.

INCOME 22/23 YTD

Total Income: \$737,426

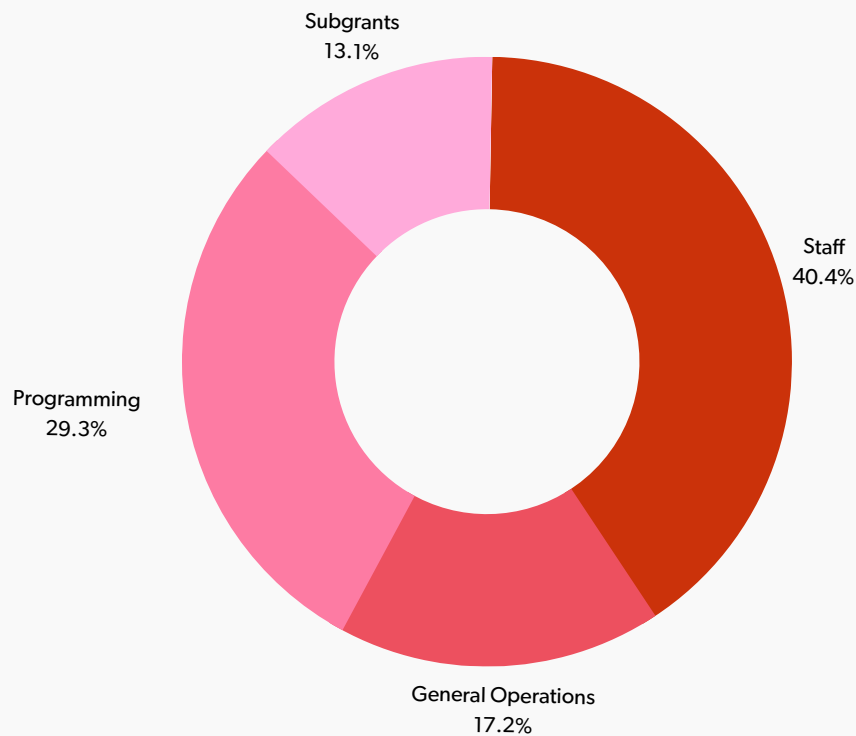


Our fiscal year runs from July to June. So far this year, our organization has brought in about \$737,426 in revenue. This is an 8% increase over last year.

Grants and earned revenue make up about 40% of our annual budget with Charitable Contributions making up about 20%. Charitable contributions usually make up a bigger piece of the pie, but our organization has seen an increase in rental activity with the new Wilson Arts Center which is helping us support general operating costs for a building that we now own. Wilson Arts has also received American Rescue Plan Act funds this year through the State and Federal Government because of COVID's impact on the world. We will likely see a decrease in grants next year as those relief funding opportunities cease to exist causing the organization to rely more on charitable contributions, local grants and earned revenue.

EXPENSES 22/23 YTD

Total Expenses: \$652,318



The organization has had \$652,318 in expenses so far this year. This is a 35% increase over last year. Such a large increase is due to the fact that our programming has flourished and therefore, associated expenses have gone back to normal this fiscal year. During the pandemic, there was so much uncertainty around earned revenue streams and programs we couldn't implement due to social distancing.



At last year's State of the Arts presentation, we announced that we were one of only sixty-six organizations in the country to receive the American Rescue Plan Grant for Local Arts Agencies through the National Endowment for the Arts! This has meant over \$50,000 in COVID-19 relief funding for arts organizations in Wilson County. The distribution of this funding aided organizations like Whirligig Park, Elite Vocal Ensemble, Eyes on Main Street, and the ProMusic Conservatory.



Anne: Additionally, Wilson Arts was able to subgrant directly to individual artists for them to create work that would benefit our community and also prioritize our under-served communities. These images represent a few of the recipients who were awarded subgrants, totaling \$50,000. It has been incredible to see these projects come to life this past year. They have manifested in the forms of public art projects, interactive art experiences at community events, educational opportunities for youth, music recording, and women's empowerment initiatives.



Every year, through funds from the North Carolina Arts Council, Wilson Arts subgrants \$12,000 in funding to non-profit organizations utilizing the arts to achieve their mission. The distribution of these funds has aided the music series at the Round House, art classes for senior citizens, art classes for those recovering from substance abuse, and the Eyes on Main Street Photography Festival which truly creates easy access for everyone to be able to view incredible photography from around the world. This has also created educational opportunities that have exposed our under-served youth to the big wide world around them.

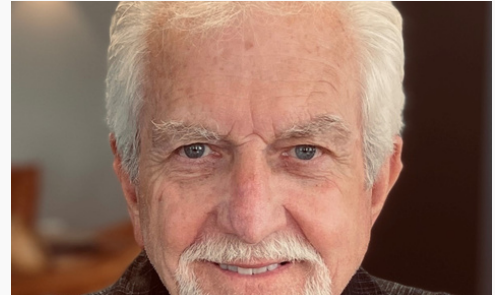
We can't do it all here at Wilson Arts, but subgrants help us extend our reach in the community and we are so grateful for the local non-profits that integrate the arts into their mission.



The Build Up Grant Program helped us increase our reach even further to support diversity in Wilson County. This grant was created to increase sustainability for BIPOC organizations and help organizations strengthen relationships with BIPOC communities and artists. This grant resulted in concerts, exhibits, and even field school training for students learning to preserve historic African American shotgun homes in East Wilson.

For each of these competitive grant opportunities, a panel is assembled from the community to recommend awards. We are so grateful for these committees of volunteers.

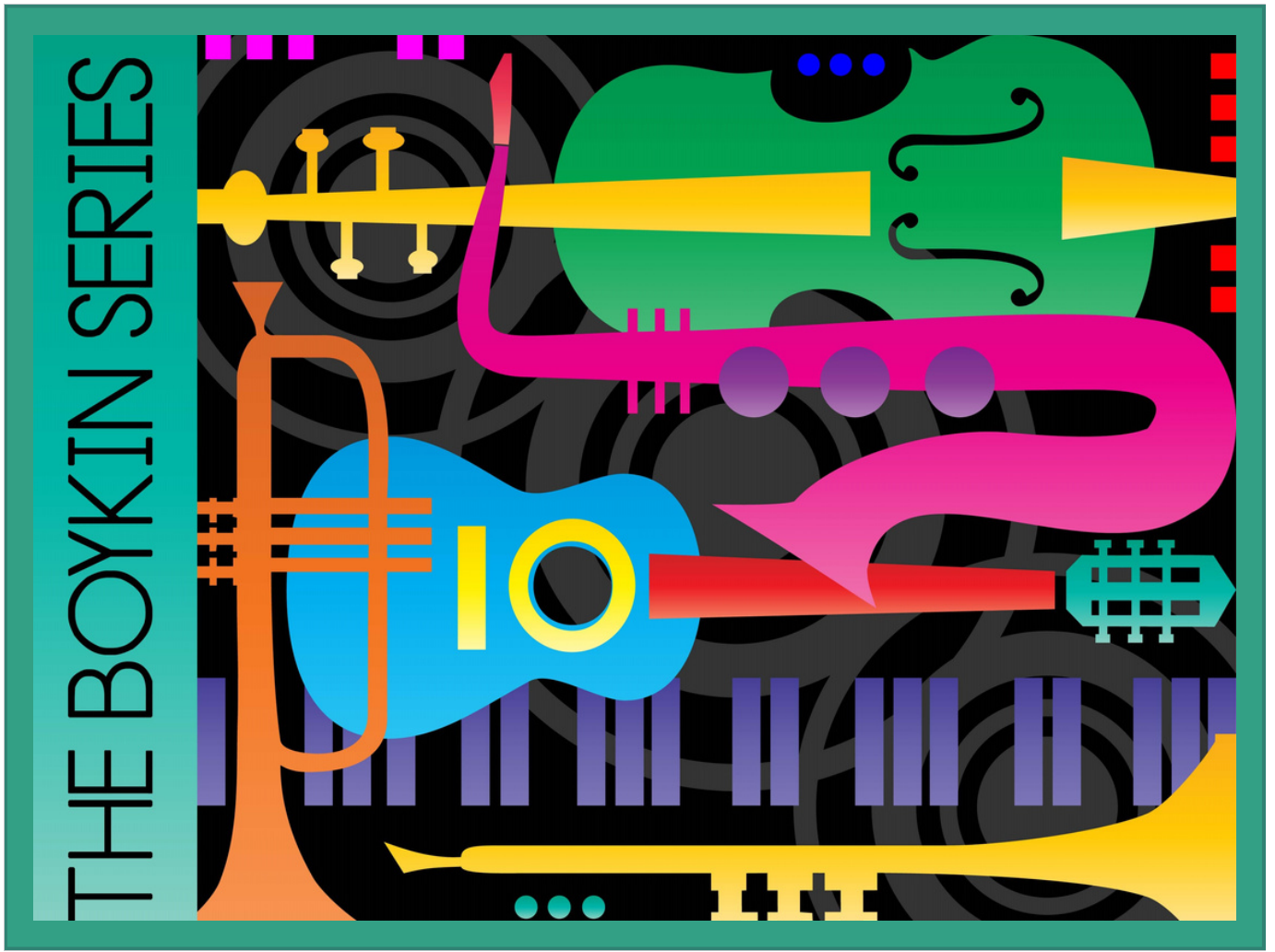
ARTIST SUPPORT GRANTS



Rae Barnes, Visual Artist
Frank Johnson, Arts Educator
Tj Morrison, Rap & Hip Hop
John Rood, Author & Illustrator
Jerome de Perlinghi, Photographer
Bo Baines, Photographer



Artist support grants are another opportunity that we offer to artists each year so that our local creatives can obtain funding to further their careers in the arts. This funding is distributed to artists in a five-county consortium. This can help them develop a website, purchase equipment to create their work or attend classes and conferences. We are so proud of our Wilson artists this year! A record-breaking five artists received this grant from Wilson County.



The Boykin Series is one of our signature programs providing professional entertainment that includes a variety of genres.



Last year, we broke the ice, by just returning to the theater and having performances again after a long while of not being able to! This year, we focused on getting back to pre-pandemic levels which has been a process but has steadily improved over the year. This past year, we had 1,581 attendees enjoy our series.

Thank you so much to the Boykin Series Committee for your tireless efforts in making these performances happen and curating a well-balanced season that results in tourism and local spending each year.



We are excited to announce Boykin Series 26! This year, we will have

Elton Live! A tribute to the music of Elton John

Nnenna Freelon - "Great Grief Live" - Nenna is a multi-Grammy nominee jazz artist and captivating performer

La Candela Flamenco - which includes fiery flamenco dancing, Latin jazz, and world music.

A Swingin' Little Christmas by Suzy Bogguss - a few holiday originals plus all of the great hits from her career

On the Border: The Ultimate Eagles Tribute Band

Lorraine Jordan and Carolina Road - bluegrass band that includes Wilson's own Kevin Lamm from Parker's BBQ

The Edwards Twins - This duo is Las Vegas' number-one impersonators of all time! They will be

recreating all of your favorite legendary celebrities of the 70's and 80's.



ACT! for Youth is a signature program of Wilson Arts whose purpose is to provide live theater opportunities for the youth of Wilson County and surrounding areas.



ACT! for Youth presented *Les Miserables*, *HONK! A tale of the ugly duckling*, and *Pinnocchio* this past year. The youth range from Kindergarten to High School Seniors. While ACT! for Youth truly never left the theater during the pandemic, this year has been about getting audience numbers back to pre-pandemic levels. We were happy to have schools field-tripping again to see our performances!

This year, the program served 141 youth and 2,342 were in attendance. ACT! for Youth is a fantastic program where natural mentorship occurs and it is a family. Youth learn to sing, dance, run lights, run sound, build sets, create costumes, and apply make-up. They also learn valuable skills that will serve them well in life - such as teamwork, being handy, how to manage a schedule, problem-solving, memorization, being in front of an audience, and the list goes on!



ACT! for Youth 2023-2024 Season



FALL 2023
 Auditions: Aug. 7 & 8
 School Shows: Oct. 5
 Public Performances:
 Oct. 6-7-8, Oct. 13-14-15



WINTER 2024
 Auditions: Nov. 6 & 7
 School Shows: Feb. 1
 Public Performances:
 Feb. 2-3-4, Feb. 9-10-11



SPRING 2024
 Auditions: Feb. 19 & 20
 School Shows: Apr. 10
 Public Performances:
 April 11-12-13-14

**Season Tickets (all 3 shows): \$36 Adults / \$26 Seniors & Students (plus tax)
 Includes reserved seating - available for season ticket holders ONLY!**

Next season, we are looking forward to Newsies, James and the Giant Peach, and The Phantom Tollbooth.

Wilson Arts is thankful to Shaun Braswell, our Theater Arts Coordinator, and to the ACT! For Youth Core Committee for all of your support for ACT! for Youth year-round and for the countless volunteers that help with each production.



We have truly had some incredible artists exhibit this year in the Truist Event Gallery including Jun Vasconcelos, Kyle Brooks, the Barton College Arts Faculty, Sebastian Correa, Jane Gardner, Caprice McNeil, Ian Rose, Darius Martinez, and a plethora of other local and non-local artists at the National Juried Art Exhibition. Between our gift shop and exhibitions, our organization has served 262 visual artists this year.

Our Visual Arts Coordinator, Dee Dee Oliver, works tirelessly with the Visual Arts Committee to curate and implement these incredible visual arts experiences. There have been diverse art forms represented, a variety of local artists that have grown with the experience of having a show, and also non-local artists who brought in exhibits that we thought our community would enjoy! We have had 1,689 people attend our gallery openings this year. These exhibitions bring culture to our community and add a splash of color to our collective local character.



Wilson Arts offers hands-on educational opportunities for youth and adults year-round. We offer a variety of media to help Wilsonians tap into and draw out the inner creator that exists in all of us. This year we served 255 kids in visual arts classes, camps, and workshops and 322 adults in workshops.



We have been a place for schools, scout troops, and other groups to come and visit and learn about galleries, theaters, and art. This year, we also were able to send, Georgia folk artist, Kyle Brooks, into the schools to share his whimsical art and talk about happiness and embracing your own individual uniqueness.



Wilson Arts is committed to reaching every corner of Wilson County by participating in community events. We participated in 17 community events this year including the Whirligig Festival, Juneteenth, Festival Del Verano, the Farmer's Market, Pride Day, and many more!



Wilson Arts also created ArtSpin which is an event in partnership with Wilson Downtown Development Corporation. ArtSpin is like an artwalk with a twist. This year, we were able to bring in outside entertainment such as aerialists, musicians, storytellers, and magicians. There is something for any age to enjoy. ArtSpin is a great event to showcase Wilson's wonderful art scene and expose the public to quality arts entertainment.



The Wilson Arts Center has been open to the public for two years now. It really feels like it has been longer than that because we have already made so many wonderful memories and it has been a joy to host fundraising events such as Miniature Masterpieces, the Holiday Invitational, the Black & White Masquerade Ball and Queens for Creativity! Thank you to the Event Fundraising Committee and the Visual Arts Committee for planning so many exciting events! We raised a lot of money for the arts and had tons of fun doing it!



Our organization continues to take an active role with public art. This year, with the help of a combination of funds from a private donor and the North Carolina Arts Council, we were able to hire artist Jun Vasconcelos to do a beautiful, vibrant mural on the side of the Wilson Arts Center. In the near future, this outdoor space will host community art classes.



This year, a major focus of our organization was collecting Arts and Economic Prosperity Study surveys. Wilson Arts worked tirelessly all year round to collect surveys at each of the non-profit art events in Wilson County. This data is part of a National Study organized by Americans for the Arts. The data is currently being compiled and the findings will be released in September of this year detailing the economic impact that the arts in Wilson County have. Thank you so much if you volunteered at all this past year to collect surveys and thank you if you filled out these surveys. It is not always the most fun volunteer job, but certainly one of the most impactful ones.



The art scene in Wilson continues to grow! The new American Center for Photographers opened earlier this month in Whirligig Station and if you haven't had the opportunity to check it out, you most certainly should - it is incredible!



SUPPORTED BY THE
MARTHA CHEATHAM HUNTER & DR. WILLIAM C.
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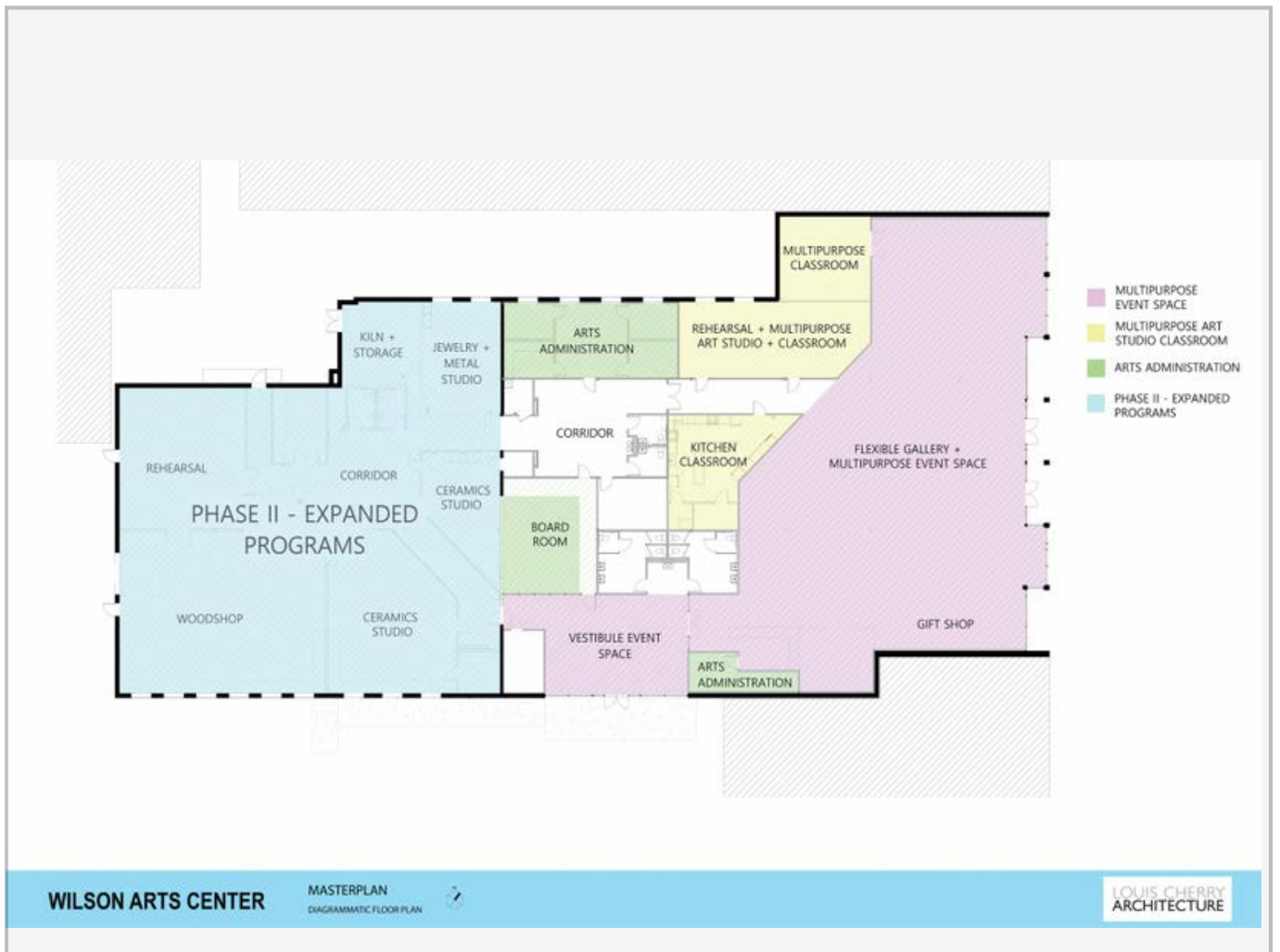
We have an exciting year ahead! In addition to our prescheduled programming, it is our honor to announce our new Creative HeARTs program, which is a program tailored for kids and adults with disabilities. We have two Meet & Greet events planned for July where we will have special workshops and also get to know some of the individuals and families that will be impacted by this program.



www.wilsonarts.com/rentals

Rentals have continued to take off in the new Truist Event Gallery of the Wilson Arts Center!

Our space has become a community gathering space for a wide array of uses from weddings, receptions, fashion shows, to church celebrations, to conferences and dinner parties. It has been heartwarming to see community members celebrating and making memories in our space and exposing more people to the work of our local artists. Rental income helps fund our depreciation to help create a sustainable future for the Wilson Arts Center over time. We were fortunate to complete phase 1 debt free with the help of many of you that are in the room tonight.



We are working towards phase 2 renovations to expand our educational opportunities for adults and youth and a separate entrance so that rentals and education can happen simultaneously. We are already outgrowing the space in Phase 1. Please consider a new gift or increasing your pledge to help us achieve our goals and fulfill our dream of makers space studios to include a ceramics studio, woodshop, performing arts rehearsal space, and jewelry & metal studio.



Thank You
2022/2023 Board of Directors

It has been a hectic year with ample opportunity and challenge. We are so thankful to our Board of Directors who push us and offer their time, brains, and heart to help us grow. This board has allowed us to level up this year. I am grateful for this group's encouragement and each person here has had something special to nurture the organization.



Thank You

Wilson Arts Staff

**Shaun, Jenn, Dee Dee, Tiara, Chandra, Cathy, Mr. Bob,
Stephanie, Amy, Marie, and JB**

Last, but not least, thank you to the incredible hard-working Wilson Arts staff that handle the details of the day-to-day, but also have the vision to grow the arts in Wilson County. We are thankful for JB and Marie who are new to the team this year! We also were able to increase two of our part-time employees to full-time employees - Dee Dee Oliver, our Visual Arts Coordinator, and Tiara Taylor who keeps us clean and organized.



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It has been an incredible year and we are so thankful for every person that has played a part. Your individual parts are important - big and small - and contribute to a thriving organization.