




ARTISTS CREATING TOGETHER

2016 IMPACT REPORT

A large, abstract yellow watercolor splash covers the left and bottom portions of the page, creating a textured, artistic background.

ACT is empowering more and more individuals through art each year. Because of you, we are all artists.

In 2016, we launched more inclusive programs, established more powerful missions, and served more individuals with disabilities in our community.

Here are a few new things we've done:

- > Launched the ACT apprenticeship program, providing intensive art education for eight artists with disabilities
- > Offered more art residency programs for local classrooms
- > Increased our studio offerings to include weekly classes for youth

This growth is just part of achieving our mission: to empower individuals with disabilities to learn, grow, and celebrate through the arts.

Your continued support allows ACT programs to grow and tap into each individual's innate creativity. Because of you, anyone and everyone can be an artist.

Thank you for being a part of our community and making ACT possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steve Jandernoa".

Steve Jandernoa

Steve Jandernoa, Board Chair

WE ARE ALL ARTISTS

At ACT, we believe everyone is an artist. Age, race, ability, gender, talent, disability, training—these categories don't apply. Art transcends divisions and creativity knows no boundaries; if you have a heart and a mind, then you are an artist.

JENNY, STUDENT

"I've been coming to ACT for eight and a half years. I like to paint and I like choir. I like the drumming, too. I get to see different people here and they're all my friends."



A close-up portrait of a Black man with short, dark, curly hair and a light beard. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. He is wearing a red jacket over a dark shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and white watercolor wash.

WE ARE PROUD

We worked harder and achieved more than ever in 2016. While our numbers are impressive, we look at the bigger picture. Working with more artists every year means we get closer and closer to our goal: empowering all artists.

DERRICK, PROFESSIONAL TEACHING ARTIST, BOARD MEMBER

"I think it's a really good collaboration between administration, parents, students... I think it's a need for any community, to give an outlet to people of all abilities. I see the effect that ACT has on students, then that broadens out to the whole community, and it creates a safe haven for people who really need it."

ALICE, STUDENT

"I've been taking classes here since 2008. They make me feel like I can make art. I make photo cards in my free time now."



**TODD, BOARD MEMBER,
SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER**

"I'm excited that ACT is continually evaluating themselves and their mission and seeing how they can reach more and more individuals and bring them into the arts, meeting them where they are. It excites me to think what ACT will do."



ELIZABETH, PARENT

"ACT is Drew's second home. He doesn't think twice about people who are different or who have different abilities. I think we have a lot to learn from that."



EMILY, BOARD MEMBER

"It's about being in the moment and being happy."



FREDDY, STUDENT

"I come here every Tuesday. It's definitely true. My favorite stuff is doing singing and dancing. I'm very interested. Music is one of my hobbies."



**DAINE, PROFESSIONAL
TEACHING ARTIST**

"ACT opened up my eyes that my talents can be utilized in ways I never would've thought. They give students opportunities that they never would've had otherwise... No matter age, race, ability, I see time and time again people step up and open up because of this."



**JOSH, PROFESSIONAL
TEACHING ARTIST**

"When I go into an ACT classroom for the first time, one of the first things I say is that everyone there is a participant, everyone is there to make music together."



SAM, STUDENT

"Being an artist makes me feel good. I like showing people what I can do."



CAMILLE, PARENT

"Your children don't need to feel like they have to already be an 'artist' in order to participate. ACT will help them find their talent."



KATIE, STUDENT

"I've always loved music and I love to cook. I'm a creative person, and I'm a talkative person. I love to smile and make people happy."



ALYSSA, INTERN

"ACT is special because in the studio and other locations ACT works in, they create an inclusive community. When you enter the room, you are surrounded with positivity and creativity."



GABBY, STUDENT

"This is my first time coming to ACT. I'm definitely coming back."

WE ARE SUPPORTED

Our annual operations in 2016 were funded by a mix of community organizations, local companies, and independent citizens. This is more than money; this is empowerment.

ISABELLA, STUDENT

"She's starting to put more sentences together and articulate her thoughts. And I really think it's because of ACT." -Michelle, Isabella's mother





WE ARE VALUABLE

They said, "I have time." They said, "I care." They said, "I will."
From helping hands to encouraging words to just being there,
our teaching artists and volunteers are essential to the success
of ACT. We are all artists, and some of us are heroes too.

BECKY, PROFESSIONAL TEACHING ARTIST

"I studied Art Therapy in college and learned about ACT when I moved to Grand Rapids. ACT provides opportunities for self-discovery and gives everyone access to art in all forms. I really feel like it's about breaking down barriers and welcoming everyone in, celebrating everyone."

WE ARE GRATEFUL

ACT would not be possible without the support of generous people, organizations and companies. 2016 was a banner year full of achievements, but only because of you. We thank you.

DREW, STUDENT

"I've been coming a long time to ACT. Years and years. My favorite thing is drumming...I play good music. Jenny is my friend. We always like to do classes together."



\$129,336
Special Events

\$72,760
Corporate Support

\$54,827
Individual Donations

\$54,250
Foundation Grants

\$53,437
Earned Income

\$23,444
Government Grants

\$9,649
Misc. Income & Donations

\$397,703 2016 Budget

6,019

INDIVIDUALS SERVED

- 2,884 Children ages 0-17
- 1,505 Transitioning adults ages 18-26
- 1,630 Adults ages 26+
- 20+ Professional Teaching Artists
- 25+ Community Events
- 50+ Classes Offered

PROFESSIONAL
TEACHING ARTISTS

Kelly Allen	Jaimé Johnson
Shirley Arill	Kathy Keehn
Laura Armenta	Macy King
Emilee Arter	Channing Lee
Becky Baker	Jess Luiz
Eirann Betka	Demy Marti
Abigail Bradley	Quinn Matthews
Valory Canfield	Tom Reynolds
Annalise DeYoung	Bertram Sluys
Josh Dunigan	Di Szczesny
Matt Elliott	Lori Teft
Erinn Epp	Brian Urbane
Nora Faber	Kat VanHammen
Michael Feehan	Gretchen Vinnedge
Diane Forbes	Molly Weatherbie
Brienna Gerard	
Jody Grantz	
Daine Hammerle	
Maren Taylor	
Herman	
Derrick Hollowell	

21,619

VOLUNTEER HOURS

762

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS

- 13 Partner Events
- 14 ACT Events

PROGRAMS

- Youth Programs
- Community Programs
- Adult Programs
- Health & Healing Programs

ART FORMS

- Illustration
- Culinary Arts
- Choir
- Painting
- Art of Gardening
- Ceramics
- Theatre
- Upcycled Art
- Drumming
- Creative Movement
- DJ-ing
- Printmaking
- Photography
- Music

COMMUNITY
PARTNERS

ROBERT F BEARD CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION



ACT is supported in part by an award from
the MICHIGAN COUNCIL FOR ARTS AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS and the NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

KEY SUPPORTERS

- AIGA WEST MICHIGAN
DESIGN FOR GOOD
- AON RISK SOLUTIONS
- HYDE CREATIVE
- LOWELLARTS!
- SCOTT GROUP STUDIO
- STEELCASE
- VARNUM LLP

ARTS FOR ALL
SOCIETY MEMBERS

*Members who have pledged support
at their giving level for 5 years.*

COLLECTOR

- Mike & Sue Jandernoa
- Steve & Holly Jandernoa

INNOVATOR

- Carl & Kelly Jandernoa
- Mitch & Sarah Miller
- Jeff & Karrie VandenBerge

FRIEND

- Dirk Hoffius
- Rob & Monica Jandernoa
- Mark & Lori LaCroix
- Rhonda Lubberts
- Thomas & Mary Stuit

MUSE

- Michael & Valerie Feehan
- Rick & Teresa Kosla
- Ken & Edie Muraski
- Margaret Nault
- Beth & Phil Skaggs

ART ENTHUSIAST

- Mary & Steven Cok
- Chris & Bruce Hayden
- Marcia & Nat Love
- Laura & Tom Madison
- Lily & Sean McGavin
- Steve & Beth Olson
- Terry & Mary Rott
- Larry & Cindy Williamson

CREATIVE CONTRIBUTORS

- AUXILIARY Advertising & Design
- Emily Stephen Photography
- Pageworks Printing

BOARD MEMBERS

- Mike Azzi
Warner, Norcross & Judd
- Lindsey Bosch
Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith
- Nick Butterfield
Herman Miller
- Mary Dixon, Vice Chair
Dixon Interior Design
- Betsy Edgerton, Advisory Member
St. Thomas the Apostle School
- Sadie Erickson
InSite Capital & Chemical Bank
- Libby Ferin
Scott Group Studio
- Pam Haffenden
Spectrum Health
- Derrick Hollowell
Artist
- Steve Jandernoa, Chair
42 North Partners
- Carol Johnson
Artist
- Todd Jones, Secretary
Grand Rapids Public Schools
- Mark LaCroix
Natural Capital Partners
- Spencer Olson
Berends Hendricks Stuit
- Nikki Outhier
Boys & Girls Club of Grand Rapids

Emily Shatto-Evans
Aon Risk Solutions

Beth Skaggs
Varnum LLP

Chad Zagar, Finance Chair
Crowe Horwath

STAFF

- Angela Steele
Executive Director
- Emily Evers
Development Director
- Melissa Schulert
Program Coordinator
- Chelsea Tanis
Program Coordinator

ACT has been helping people of all abilities express themselves creatively in the arts since 1986, and 30 years later we're stronger than ever.

ACT looks forward to many more years of celebrating human expression. Here's to 2017. Here's to artists. Here's to everyone.



ALL ARTS. ALL ABILITIES.

GIVE

Donating to ACT's annual fund supports our programs and the individuals we serve. Our goal is to keep program costs as low as possible for participants and offer financial assistance to those in need.

VOLUNTEER

We rely on our volunteers to support and carry out our programs year-round. Opportunities include roles at one-time events or ongoing weekly classes.

CONNECT

Share ACT's mission with your friends and neighbors and expand our reach in the community. As an ACT ally, you are a critical part of helping impact more people each year.

artistscreatingtogether.org

