

ArtStream Fast Facts As of 10/2022

Founded: May 2005

Founders: Sally Kinka, Patricia Krauss, **Emilia O'Connor**, Nicolette “Nic” Stearns, Patti Woolsey
(still active with ArtStream)

History: The five founders met while working at *Bethesda Academy of Performing Arts (BAPA)*, now *Imagination Stage*, a children’s theatre located in Bethesda, Maryland. Knowing that children benefited from the creative, playful, and joyful possibilities of performance, they were convinced that people in non-traditional settings would, too. ArtStream started by working with the populations the founders were passionate about, including children in hospitals, grieving children, wounded veterans, and people with disabilities.

Mission: Through collaborative performance and lifelong learning opportunities, people with intellectual and developmental disabilities gain the skills and confidence to engage with the world.

Who We Are: ArtStream’s classes, workshops, and performing companies fuel each student’s imagination, creativity, and focus. And that’s not all. Students improve communication and social skills and develop friendships. Newly discovered talents and capabilities improve self-esteem, poise, and confidence that extends into their daily lives. All ArtStreamers are valued for their creative contributions. At ArtStream we work together, learn from each other, and Perform Our Art Out.

Whether in classes, workshops, or rehearsals, ArtStreamers play games. Theatrical games that require them to listen, to engage, to communicate, and to collaborate with each other; improvisational games that teach them how to make eye contact, think on their feet, make connections, synthesize information, and solve problems.

ArtStream’s demanding and very entertaining process encourages ArtStreamers to discover their creativity and strengths and perform with confidence!

Who We Serve:

ArtStream programs are open to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs), including autism. Participants should be able to function in groups of up to 30 people with 1:4 staffing; **independently meet self-care needs; follow directions; and demonstrate respectful, safe behavior at all times**. ArtStream performing companies are open to adults 18+. Acting experience is not required to take a class or workshop. To participate in a Performing Company, you must have taken at least 8 weeks of classes in the past 2 years.

ArtStream solves two problems: **1.** After school ends, services disappear (the “services cliff”); **2.** Young adults don’t know how to engage in the community (call a friend to go bowling, invite someone to a movie) so they end up sitting on the couch losing their social skills...The ArtStream solution is learning social skills with peers in a fun, confidence-building way. It’s great to come into a rehearsal and hear “we went to a movie this weekend, we went to a festival...”

Why We Are Unique: The ArtStream difference is that people with IDD’s get to make choices by creating their own character, contributing to a performing company’s scenes, dialogue and plot points, or participating in a class by selecting a favorite game or choosing a Shakespeare monologue to perform.

Visit a class or rehearsal and you will see every student eagerly making suggestions, sharing ideas, taking learning risks, and practicing new skills in an atmosphere of total acceptance.

Social and communication skills are applicable to home, school, workplace and community.

Tuition classes and Performing Companies (Theatre Company and Cabaret) are inclusive, using volunteer mentors to partner with the actors, serve as role models, and help ArtStreamers feel engaged and supported.

Annual Budget:

ArtStream's fiscal year is July 1-June 30.

- In FY21: 22% of revenue came from tuition, contracted service fees and ticket sales; 28% from grants; 45% from individual donors.
- In FY20: 23% of revenue came from tuition, contracted service fees and ticket sales; 39% from grants; 37% from individual donors.
- ArtStream's **reserve** as of October 2022 is: \$197,718. Reserve Policy divided into two funds – Opportunity (new initiatives) and Operating (temporary shortfall)
- 350 individual annual donors, 37 grants ranging from \$2,000-\$64,570.
- Two largest grants are government: Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (AHCMC) and Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) provided 30% of annual grant budget in FY22. Largest grant is MSAC \$64,570.

Organization:

7 full time staff people, part time Database Coordinator
Graphic design consultant

Awards/Recognition:

ArtStream volunteer mentor received the Scottish Rite – Valley of Washington's Knights of St. Andrew Outstanding Community Service Award, November 2018-2021
Catalog for Philanthropy "Best of the Best" nonprofits 2012-2015, 2017-2020, 2021-2023
Down Syndrome Affiliates in Action (DSAIA) Leadership Conference named "Positively Speaking" best Teen/Adult Program 2017
Bethesda Magazine Guide to Giving 2015, 2017-2019, 2022

Evaluation Results:

New annual evaluation survey conducted each January. 2022 results:

At ArtStream I feel welcome, I share my ideas, I am proud of what I do, I feel more confident, I have friends/ ArtStream has helped me feel comfortable working in a group and helped me care about other people's feelings.

In addition, ArtStream conducts audience surveys.

Teaching Artists: Over 55 teaching artists contract with ArtStream. ArtStream Teaching Artists have degrees in special education, fine arts, performing arts, drama therapy, acting, dance, music, and related fields. They receive on-the-job training from Master Teachers and attend bi-annual training sessions.

Teaching Artists have an average tenure of nine years with ArtStream. All Teaching Artists are certified in CPR.

Master Teachers provide coaching, observation, and training.

Volunteers:

During the year ended August 31, 2021, ArtStream’s programs benefitted from the services of volunteers. Auditors estimate a total of 1,514 hours of services were provided by volunteers, with an estimated value of \$41,626.

3-5 volunteers support each Theatre Company.

Costume shop: 3,000 items

Programs

Classes

ArtStream’s performing arts classes serve over 850 people. The retention rate in our classes is 99%. In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic we expanded our offerings by adding several new class formats online. In addition to regular 8-week classes, we created weeklong classes called “Take Five – ArtStream Intensives.” Class topics include Musical Theatre, Scriptwriting, Scenes from the Stage, Comedy for All, Sing Your Heart Out, Acting for the Camera, and more.

ArtStream offers classes two ways:

1. Tuition/registration classes for adults
2. Contract classes for all ages through partner organizations, typically offered by the partner organization to their constituents

Workshops

ArtStream regularly offers several different kinds of workshops. In our “Super Social Saturday” workshops, we create a welcoming environment for our participants to learn socializing skills, let loose, and have fun. Starting in May of 2020, we offered our virtual Super Social Saturday workshops weekly (instead of monthly), and then in June 2020 we doubled the number of workshops to meet demand. Currently we have weekly online Super Social Saturdays, and monthly in-person at MainStreet.

Theater Companies (TCs)

In ArtStream’s Theatre Companies, 90 adults with IDD’s create and perform in original musical theatre productions on professional stages. The retention rate in our TCs is 94%. The actors, along with volunteer mentors and a professional production team, vote on a theme, improvise scenes and characters, develop a script, songs and choreography, then perform before audiences numbering in the hundreds. Typically, each Company performs 6 times.

Note: Barrier-free Theatre was originally developed and pioneered by Sally Bailey, M.S.W., M.F.A., B.F.A., R.D.T., B.C.T. Using the Barrier-free model, adult actors with disabilities are empowered to create characters in original musicals that reflected their own interests and abilities.

Cabaret

ArtStream's four Cabaret companies each perform one original annual production. Up to 15 (typically 5-8) actors agree on a theme for ensemble music and dance performances, and then each actor works with the choreographer and music director to develop solo and small group music, dance or drama performances.

Traveling Troupe

The actors in our Traveling Theater Troupe showcase their original works and extraordinary talents at various sites and events throughout the metro region. In July 2018, they performed their first event, the National Anthem at Orioles Park, for which they also performed the sign language interpretation. In September 2018 and 2019, they performed an original scene from a Theatre Company production at the Kennedy Center's Page-to-Stage New Play Festival. In November 2018 and 2019, ArtStream's traveling troupe performed at the Shared Horizons Thanksgiving Dinner Dance.

Sibling Happy Hour

Siblings of ArtStreamers meet monthly to support each other and share experiences.

"Transition Tickets"

Two free tickets for students with IDD's, ages 16-26, to attend an ArtStream performance. We hope they will be inspired by seeing their peers on stage and join ArtStream! In FY19, 30 free tickets were distributed and 5 people signed up for classes.