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REPORT  
24



DOUGHERTY ARTS CENTER



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# Mission Statement



## MISSION

The mission of the Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) is to support emerging through established artists who create, showcase, and experience the arts firsthand.

## VISION

We envision the DAC as Austin's cultural living room where people of all ages, races, ethnicities, abilities, genders, sexual orientations, socio-economic statuses, nationalities, and religions gather to create community through the arts.

## HISTORY

Formerly a Naval and Marine Reserve Center, built in 1947, the building was dedicated to the City and named for the late arts advocate Mary Ireland Graves Dougherty in 1978.

Since then, the Dougherty Arts Center (DAC) has been offering arts experiences for a broad audience through its four (4) main components:

- The Dougherty Theater
- Julia C. Butridge Gallery
- Dougherty Arts School
- Artist Professional Development



**56,650**

TOTAL VISITORS

**33,355**

GALLERY VISITORS

**15,886**

HOURS OF PROGRAMING

**9,772**

PERFORMANCE ATTENDEES

**1,200**

ADULTS TOOK A STUDIO CLASS

**1,760**

YOUTH REGISTERED FOR PROGRAMS

**1,650**

CREATIVES EMPLOYED OR VOLUNTEERED

**1,613**

PEOPLE USED FREE RENTAL SPACE

**940**

HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**600**

PEOPLE ATTENDED FREE EVENTS

**318**

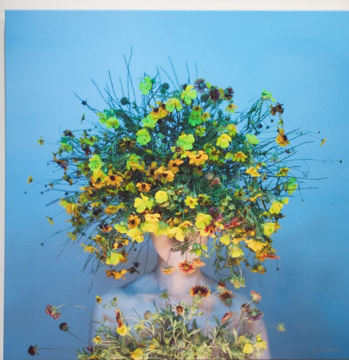
RENTALS

**70**

THEATER PERFORMANCES



## Julia C. Butridge Gallery



Large, sweeping landscapes, interactive mixed media sculptures, miniature collages, and baroque style photography are just a few ways in which this season's exhibiting artists invited their audiences to explore the concept of identity, challenge perspectives, and reflect. Over the past year, the DAC's Julia C. Butridge Gallery saw an increase in attendance at both artist receptions and artist talk events. These free, public events provided 950 people the opportunity to participate in civic engagement through the arts. The diverse season of exhibits gave many artists their first chance to talk about their art publicly, gain media exposure and build sustainable creative careers. Austin CultureMap listed Scent of Austin exhibit by Ziesook You as a "must see".

**33,355**

**VISITORS**

**20**

**RECEPTIONS & TALKS**

**21**

**EXHIBITS**

**53**

**ARTISTS**





In June, the JCB Gallery developed a relationship with the City of Austin's Youth Initiative Office by participating in the Summer Internship Program. Two teens completed a seven week internship, gaining hands-on experience in event planning, exhibit management, and arts administration. During their internship they designed and created new exhibit space in the east gallery.

## EXHIBITING ARTISTS

Neal Flynn | Zoe Pettit | Jacob Guzman | Salvador Rodriguez | Alex Abbott | Jenny Swannack | Chelsea Biggerstaff | Gabriella Blasquez | Veronica Christianson | Ali Rex | Rebecca Bennett | Leslie Kell | Elena Lipkowski | Ziesook You | Bernie Diaz | Katie Conley | Jill Garcia and Kim Phu (MuthaGoose) | Kaelyn Provost | Natasha Kanevski | Danika Ostrowski | TCTA | DAC Staff | KB Brookins | Sari Shryack | Amitai Plasse | Billy Ray Mangham | Carl Block | Denise Elliott Jones | Greg Barton | Jess Wade | Jamie Lea Wade | Karen Woodward | Liz Potter | B Shawn Cox | Sylvia Troconis | TVHeadATX





From professional theater and dance company productions to community produced events, live concerts and film screenings, the DAC is one of the only public performance venues in Austin that is dedicated to supporting the local performing arts economy. The number of reservation requests submitted to the Creative Spaces program, which allows organizations and individuals to reserve one of the DAC's rehearsal rooms for free, doubled between FY23 and FY24. One community member said "The fact that the DAC offers rehearsal and meeting space as a free resource is amazing, both for our group and others in an increasingly expensive city. Please don't stop!"

4,404	PEOPLE ATTENDED PERFORMANCES
1,613	USERS OF FREE RENTAL SPACES
292	THEATER & REHEARSAL ROOM RENTALS
56	ORGANIZATIONS SERVED





Through the Artist Access Program (AAP), the DAC doubled its number of partnering organizations from FY23 to FY24. The DAC provided space and logistical support as AAP partners produced work that often amplified the voices and experiences of historically underrepresented communities. Notable programs include Wiley Dance & Design's production of *Non-Binary Joy*, and *Ceniceinta: A Bilingual Cinderella Story*, presented by Glass Half Full Theatre. In February, AAP partner Early Era Collective's production *Say That! A celebration of black artistic forms including dance and spoken word*, was featured in KEYE's We Are Austin.



The DAC Theater was also an essential space for other City of Austin departments and sites to host community events. In July, Austin Public Health utilized the theater to host *Queer Movie Night: Moonlight* free public film screening and community gathering. Other City departments and organizations that relied on the DAC's theater include the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, Austin Parks and Recreation Athletics, and Totally Cool Totally Art.

## ARTIST ACCESS PARTNERS

Early Era Collective | Glass Half Full Theatre  
Escandalo | Austin Samba | Dance Waterloo  
Fisterra Projects | Wiley Dance & Design  
Austin City Ballet | Austin Dance Ensemble



## Community Highlights



In FY24, DAC staff set out to increase community building opportunities and collaborative partnerships. Monthly DAC Night events continued to draw in larger crowds than the previous year. FY24 was overwhelmingly a year of development for new ideas and community involvement.

During the month of June, the DAC held its 4th annual Pride event series to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community. This included an open mic featuring award-winning poet Ariana Brown, a zine tutorial with Sherwood Forest Zine Library, and a Sashiko mending workshop. All three events were listed on KXAN's top 10 list for things to do during Pride.

In July, the DAC began collaborating with the Greater Austin Clay Artists (GACA) to host monthly meet ups and artist demos for anyone interested in ceramics. These events have been very popular, and have given the DAC's adult ceramics students an accessible way participate in Austin's creative community outside of the classroom.

**600** ATTENDEES

**117** VOLUNTEERS

**30** FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

## Community Highlights

Art Jam: Reinvent and Reconnect was held on January 20, 2024. The public was invited to unleash their inner artist and provide the DAC with important feedback about future programming. Activities included weaving, collaging, creative space prototyping, and a graffiti wall where individuals added their ideas about creating environmentally sustainable art. The event, attended by 150 people, was featured in KEYE We Are Austin.

In March the DAC relaunched its Volunteer program by participating in Austin Parks Foundation's Spring 2024 It's My Park Day. 15 volunteers assisted in building two new raised beds for the natural dye garden. Since the relaunch, the DAC hosted several volunteer events and welcomed seven Regular Program Volunteers to the DAC team.





## Youth Programs



No program area of the DAC employs more artists than the DAC's youth programs. In FY24, the DAC employed 33 individual teaching artists to plan and implement educational activities in both performing and visual arts. In May, the DAC collaborated with PARD Inclusion to train and certify two of its teaching artists as the first onsite Inclusion Specialists. These specially trained teaching artists ensured that all the DAC's youth participants had the resources and support they needed to thrive.

**1,620** HOURS OF EDUCATION

**1,734** YOUTH SERVED

**59** YOUTH PROGRAM SESSIONS

**33** TEACHING ARTISTS EMPLOYED





## Youth Programs



The DAC participated in early registration for summer camp 2024. Youth who receive financial aid or Inclusion Support were able to register for summer camp during the early registration period. The DAC's summer camp program, Summer Arts Escape, had one of the most successful early registration period in the Department, with over 91% of spots summer program filled. One parent commented "'My daughters enjoyed getting to know a variety of art forms, artistic expressions and also forming relationships with the artists who are leading the coursework.'"

Following a successful 2023 season, In FY24, Art In Cahoots, the Pop Up Art event series that caters to the DAC's youngest audiences and their caregivers, grew to meet popular demand. The number of the events increased, from 11 in FY23 to 22 in FY24. The number of participants also increased from 218 in FY23 to 370 participants in FY24. The DAC partnered with new spaces including libraries and cultural centers, and added new recreational sites to its schedule.



## Adult Programs



FY 2024 was a year for reimagining the DAC's adult education programs. For onsite studio classes, the focus was sustainability. In the spring, staff conducted a survey among students to gain valuable feedback on ecofriendly art practices and how the DAC's programs could continue to become more environmentally sustainable. The feedback helped guide new projects and initiatives. Instructors promoted sustainable art practices through education, and administrative staff developed updated best practices for studio operations. Notably, the Works in Progress (WIP) Teen Interns developed and implemented a filtration system that traps microplastics from water used to clean paint brushes along with educational signage for the public.

**1,251**

**PARTICIPANTS IN STUDIO CLASSES**

**102**

**ADULT STUDIO CLASSES OFFERED**

**21**

**TEACHING ARTISTS EMPLOYED**

**4**

**OFF SITE OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

## Adult Programs



Studio classes in textiles, ceramics, darkroom photography, painting and drawing continued to be popular throughout the year. While 102 classes were offered, 99% were completely full, with a waitlist of 414 people throughout the year.

The DAC 2 Go outreach program focused on providing senior centers and therapeutic recreation centers with free art education classes throughout the fall. Staff were especially proud to offer diverse classes and art forms that are first time experiences for many participants such as cyanotype, Notan art, and relief printing. Over the course of 3 months, DAC staff facilitated 12 free arts-based activities at 4 senior and therapeutic recreation centers, with a total of 87 in attendance.





Between reintroducing the Public Artist Training program, to increasing the number of residencies and internships, the DAC provided a variety of ways for artists of every medium and skill level to develop the skills they needed to be successful in the creative economy.

This year, the DAC reintroduced the Public Artist Training Program, facilitated by professional Public Artist Sue Lambe. Over the course of 12 sessions, 6 participating artists explored the production of artworks in public places, from conceptualization to installation. They met with established public artists, toured local work, and prepared their own design and submission packages.

**940** HOURS OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**14** VISUAL ARTIST RESIDENCIES

**6** FREE WORKSHOPS

**8** PAID TEEN INTERNSHIPS

**6** PUBLIC ARTISTS TRAINED

## Professional Development



Through the Visual Artist Residency, 7 emerging and established clay artists were able to access the Dougherty Arts Center's ceramic facilities and resources to develop their practice and contribute to the creative economy. New this year, resident artists offered 5 free public workshops with projects ranging from hand building mini bud vases to the Japanese art of Kintsugi. The residency was spotlighted on the ATXN series "In The Parks", featuring an interview with students and Resident Artist Chance Ramirez.

The DAC's immersive Works In Progress Teen Internship Program (WIP) provided 8 Austin teens with a paid opportunity to build skills as creative professionals while contributing to the Austin community. The FY24 Internship cohort was highly enthusiastic and self-motivated to tackle big projects including planning the highly attended DAC Night: Mad Splatter Party, as well as designing and installing the mural "Art From The Start" near the entry to the DAC school. Additionally, the cohort learned from professional artists how to design and install vinyl wrap murals, concluding their internship by completely transforming the DAC's elevator through a colorful unique vinyl wrap mural.



## EVENTS

- Total Eclipse of the Art
- DAC the Halls
- Booksellers Film Screening
- Retro Photo Slap Wrap Dash
- Mad Splatter Party
- Flower Power Pressing
- Re-Mixed Media
- Ob-la-de Ob-la-Dance
- PRIDE Event: Mend Mania
- PRIDE: Verses Unveiled
- PRIDE: Behind the Zines
- Art Jam Community Engagement Event
- VAR Workshop: Kintsugi
- VAR Workshop: Mini Bud Vases
- It's My Park Day!
- DAC Story Hour
- Austin Studio Tour
- Exhibiting Artist Talks & Receptions

## EXHIBITS

- Access by Neal Flynn
- *The Parallax Project* by Zoe Pettit
- *Boxed In* by Jacob Guzman
- *Senderos del Desierto II* by Salvador Rodriguez
- *Finding Wholeness* by Alex Abbott
- *Colored Sensations* by Jenny Swannack
- *Process & Reprocess* Residency Group Show
- *Off The Clock* DAC Staff Exhibit
- *Thin Spaces* by Rebecca Bennett, Leslie Kell & Elena Lipkowski
- *Scent of Austin* by Ziesook You
- *End of Year Showcase* Totally Cool Totally Art
- *Paper Trails* by Bernie Diaz
- *Parts to Whole* by Katie Conley
- *Luster Woo* by MuthaGoose
- *Looking for Illume* by Kaelyn Provost
- *Nobody is Perfect* by Natasha Kanevski
- *Texas: A Panoramic Journey* by Danika Ostrowski
- *Freedom House* by KB Brookins
- *Adorn: Stories of Found Memory* by Sari Shryack
- *Texas Artists / Texas Music*. Group Show

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Natural Dye Garden
- Regular Volunteer Program
- 23rd Street Artist Market
- Greater Austin Clay Artists Meet Up (Collaboration)
- Theater Rental Program
- Creative Spaces Rental Program
- Artist Access Program
- APH Screening of "Moonlight"

## PERFORMANCES

- *NatyaParna 2*, Austin Marathi Mandal
- *Bharatanatyam Arangeetram*, Gowthami Manikandan
- *Work Hard Play Hard*, Heartsond Dance
- *Epoca Dorada: The Golden Age of Latin Big Band*, La Peña and Javier Jara Music
- *Showcase 2024*, QiLi Dance
- *The Decades Tour*, River City Pops
- *Twisted: The Untold Story of a Royal Vizier*, Speedrun Studios
- *The Feud*, Texas Comedies
- *Spelling Bee*, Dance Waterloo (AAP)
- *Non-Binary Joy*, Wiley Dance & Design (AAP)
- *"Say That!"*, Early Era Collective (AAP)
- *Ceniceinta: A Bilingual Cinderella Story* Glass Half Full Theatre (AAP)
- *Rest Fest: Eclipse Edition* Fistera Project (AAP)
- *AbundANCE!* Austin Dance Ensemble (AAP)
- *Performance Project 2024: The Process of the Art* Austin City Ballet (AAP)
- *Puffs*, ACE Academy
- *Soulful Sounds in Austin*, Acute Inflections
- *April Rain Academy Recital*, April Rain Dance
- *Year In Reverse*, ARTC
- *Fall For Bellydance*, Austin Bellydance
- *A Night of Trova and World Music*, Cipitio Records

## YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Art In Cahoots Touring Pop Ups
- Saturday Youth Studio
- Creativity Club Afterschool Program
- DAC 2 Go! Lending Library Program
- Summer Arts Escape Camp

## ADULT STUDIO CLASSES

- Raku Workshop Series
- Evening Clay Combo Class
- Pottery Wheel For Beginners
- Horsehair Pottery
- Experiments in Surface Decoration
- Kitchen Tool Kit Pottery
- Slabs: A Deep Dive
- Try It! Solar Dye Food
- Try it! Solar Dye Flowers
- Try it! Solar Dyeing
- Try it! Pottery Wheel Challenge
- Try It! Needle Felted Ornaments
- Independent Study
- Beginning Darkroom
- Experimental Darkroom
- Master Copy Painting
- Basics & Beyond Classes (M-TH)
- Paint & Draw Like Vincent Van Gogh
- Explore the Self Portrait
- Beginning Acrylic Painting
- Value Painting in Black and White
- Mindfulness & Memory
- Mixed Media & Watercolor
- Drawing 101
- Urban Sketching
- Intro to Silkscreen
- Kitchen Textiles
- Loom & Scarf Weaving
- Handcrafted Journals & Papermaking

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Visual Artist Residency Program
- Works In Progress Teen Internship
- APH Summer Internship Program
- Public Artist Training Program
- Emerging Teaching Artists
- Working Together for Collaboration
- Speak Truth To Power: Creativity & Advocacy
- Improv For Building a Resilient Mindset
- Incorporate Your Own Non-Profit
- Intro to Grant Writing For Artist

## Staff

Culture & Arts Program Manager	Guiniviere Webb
Culture & Arts Program Supervisor	Lucy Miller-Downing
Theater & Events Coordinator	James Byers
Gallery & Outreach Coordinator	Morgen Denton-Jackson
Business Specialist	Lori Luce
Visitor & Volunteer Services Specialist	Cidnye Stott
Culture & Arts Education Specialist, Youth Programs	Catherine Chao
Culture & Arts Education Specialist, Youth Programs	Mackenzie Blair
Culture & Arts Education Specialist, Adult Programs	Daphne Holland
Theater & Events Specialist	Jefferson Lykins
Marketing Rep A	Claire Bryant
Graphic Designer	Kyle Armstrong
Maintenance Worker III	Andrew Garcia
Building & Grounds Assistant	Louis Arellano

## Get Involved!

Visit [austintexas.gov/getinvolveddac](https://austintexas.gov/getinvolveddac)

