# Artists! Amazing pARTners







partners 2025 Annual Report the ART of Education

# MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

# DEAR FRIENDS OF PARTNERS,

As we reflect on another remarkable year, I am struck by how art continues to shape how students in Teton County see, feel, and understand the world around them. In a place known for its natural beauty, the creativity nurtured inside the classroom is just as important as the inspiration found outside it.

What began as a grassroots response to arts funding cuts has become a cornerstone of educational enrichment in our valley. This year, pARTners reached over 2,600 students across Teton County, each one engaged in projects that opened their minds, stretched their imaginations, and deepened their understanding of all subjects.

We know the arts are not extra. They are essential. Art education fosters self-expression and critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation, skills that translate across disciplines and last a lifetime. By working directly with teachers and artists, our projects link creativity with curriculum in

"We know the arts are not extra.
They are essential."

science, math, and literacy. This is not enrichment, it is education at its most engaging and transformative.

We are proud of our continued partnerships with Teton County
School District, Mountain Academy,
JH Community School, and the many local artists whose time and talent make these experiences possible. I'm especially grateful for our Executive Director, Ruth Moran, whose leadership and science background help us bridge the gap between the arts and STEM in meaningful and lasting ways.

As Board President, a pARTners Board Member for nine years, and someone who has benefited from a strong arts education, I know firsthand the power of this work. The importance of creative learning is as vital today as it was in 1994. Every child deserves



the chance to explore, experiment, and express themselves; your support ensures they can.

Thank you for standing with us. We invite you to continue supporting integrated arts education in every classroom, every student, and every school.

With gratitude,
Jessica Jaubert
President of the Board
pARTners



#### Staff

Ruth Moran
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### **Board of Directors**

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"Art is a place for children to learn to trust their ideas, themselves, and explore what is possible."

MARYANN F. KOHL



#### **MISSION**

pARTners ignites creative thinking and self-expression in students by integrating the ARTS into Teton County K-12 curriculum.

#### **TAGLINE**

Celebrating over 30 years of ART in the classroom!

### **GOALS**

#### Provide access to quality arts education for ALL students.

pARTners funds, designs, and implements a wide variety of creative and academic arts education programs by introducing community artists into Teton County classrooms.

#### Raise awareness of the value of arts education.

Through consistent communication about our innovative arts programming, pARTners demonstrates the importance of the arts in nurturing well-rounded, successful students. Research shows that the integration of the arts into the curriculum positively impacts student achievement.

#### Secure resources to expand and sustain arts education.

Consistent funding allows pARTners to increase the variety of projects offered and ensures that our arts curriculum remains relevant and aligned with educational standards and demands.

# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

pARTners integrates the arts into Teton County curriculum by administering two distinct programs: Educator Project Grants and Integrated Arts Projects.



#### **Educator Project Grants**

provide educators with funding to design and implement arts-based learning projects that fulfill curriculum goals in collaboration with pARTners-approved artists. All artist planning and teaching time, as well as project materials, are funded by pARTners. This grant program also purchases necessary equipment to enhance the arts in classrooms.

This year, with the Educator Grant program, pARTners purchased a Raku for the new ceramics room at Jackson Hole High School. This purchase will impact thousands of students over the upcoming years as it provides a vital piece of equipment that will elevate the ceramic program and allow students to gain access to a new set of skills.



Integrated Arts Projects are recurring programs that occur across whole grade levels (K-12) in TCSD#1, impacting approximately 1,998 students! These projects share a common mission: the integration of arts education across all academic disciplines, enhancing student creativity and innovation.

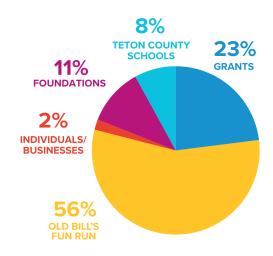
**1,998 STUDENTS** 

# **FINANCES**

### Figures for 2024/2025 Budget

# TOTAL INCOME \$134,000

OLD BILL'S	56%
GRANTS	23%
FOUNDATIONS	11%
TETON COUNTY SCHOOLS	8%
INDIVIDUAL/ BUSINESSES	2%



# TOTAL EXPENSES \$133,000





"If there exists a model of an organization that does a lot with a little, pARTners is it!"

**COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS COMMITTEE** 

Collaboration allows pARTners to thrive and make a bigger impact on our students. We would like to thank all our creative and educational partners for helping us bring the arts to the students of Teton County.

#### **OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Teton County School District #1, TCSD Rec. District, Art Association of Jackson Hole, Dancers' Workshop, Center for the Arts. Fort Frame and Grand Teton National Park

#### **OUR ARTISTS**

Joanne Brings Thunder, Al Hubbard, Charley Daveler, Emily Boespflug, Ben Roth, Eric Midgley, Abby Paffrath, Shane Barnhart, KJ Morris, Lori Solem, Juniper Troxel, Oona Doherty, Kara Borgeson, and Shana Steaman



# DURING THE 2024-25 **SCHOOL YEAR, PARTNERS**

served an estimated

students

in Teton County

designed, planned & implemented

Integrated **Arts Projects** 

in K-12 classrooms. TCSD #1

nearly

Educator Grants

introduced

artists

in Teton County classrooms

# **INTEGRATED ARTS PROJECTS**

TCSD #1



**KINDERGARTEN** 

## **Dancing Alphabet**

pARTners collaborated with Dancers' Workshop to teach kindergarten students the letters of the alphabet through dance and visual art

"At Munger Mountain Elementary, our students have the incredible opportunity to explore and express their creativity in deep and meaningful ways. A special "Thank You" goes out to the generous and ongoing support of PARTners. Through their mission of integrating the arts into the K-12 curriculum. PARTners helps ensure that the arts remain an essential part of every student's education at MMES, and their vision of inspiring a creative passion for the arts through education continues to transform our school and students"

**ELYSE MOCK** MMES ART TEACHER

"pARTners lives up to their name. They are amazing to work with, because they know the teacher's needs, and actively support enhancing our student's curriculum. We are lucky to have them as a community partner!"

#### **ERIC MIDGLEY**

DANCER'S WORKSHOP DANCE SCHOOL DIRECTOR





# Learning about Light through Kaleidoscopes

Students worked with pARTners artists to construct and decorate their own kaleidoscopes. This creative project supports their science standard on how light reflects off different surfaces. They also learn that the smaller the angle, the more reflection they observe in their kaleidoscope.



"pARTners has been such a fun and important part of the kindergarten year. Every year teachers, students and parents look forward to the Kindergarten ABC dance. It is a wonderful tradition that has been in the valley for years! I can't imagine teaching kindergarten without the ABC dance!"

#### **QUINN BONNETT**

K TEACHER COLTER ELEMENTARY



# **2ND GRADE**



## Parfleches and the Importance of **Buffalo in Native Cultures**

Al Hubbard, an artist and educator from the Northern Arapahoe Tribe, visited second-grade classrooms to teach students about parfleches and the significance of the buffalo in Native culture. The students then created their own parfleches, using symbols that best represented their lives.

## **Tipi Education and Art**

2nd-grade students learned about the history, form, and function of tipis. First, students made small watercolor tipis to practice the creative art form. They then worked in small groups with pARTners artists to decorate larger canvas tipis based on their symbols and stories they had written in the classroom.





# Native American Buffalo Hide Painting

Students created their own buffalo hide story, inspired by authentic Native American hide paintings and stories.



# Wyoming Topographic Maps

Students created a 3-D topographic map of Wyoming and Teton National Park to identify and learn about the physical features and landforms of the state and region.

## Mythical Creatures and Fairies (Drawing, Painting, Symmetry, and Imagination)

2nd-grade students expanded their drawing and storytelling skills by designing mythical creatures or fairies. This project encouraged students to explore facial features, symmetrical wing patterns, and environmental storytelling by designing habitats for their creations. Using metallic watercolors and a variety of drawing tools, students added magic and sparkle to their work while learning about composition, symmetry, and creative self-expression.



# **3RD GRADE**

#### **Ledger Art**

Joanne Bring Thunder, a renowned Shoshone artist and the great-granddaughter of Chief Washakie, recently visited third-grade classrooms to educate students about Ledger Art. This unique form of Native American artwork conveys significant stories through illustrations. The term "Ledger Art" originates from the late 1800s when Native American artists began using ledger paper, traditionally used for accounting, as their canvas. Joanne emphasized the importance of preserving Native stories and memories, a tradition that began with painting on animal hides before the advent of paper.

## **Alebrijes Inspired** Paper-Mâché Masks

Students embarked on an extraordinary journey into Mexican folk art, creating vibrant alebrije-inspired masks. Over several weeks and numerous art classes. students explored various materials, including plaster, papier mâché, CelluClay, acrylic paints, fluorescent, and glow-in-the-dark paints. Using dotting tools, they designed intricate patterns and textures that brought their fantastical creatures. to life









Alebrijes Inspired Paper Mâché Masks

# 4TH GRADE

# Oregon Trail Flash Fiction and POP Art Inspired Watercolors

Students selected historical photos from the Oregon Trail era and wrote flash fiction letters depicting life on the trail, based on these primary resources. They then collaborated with a local artist to create watercolor photo transfers inspired by Pop Art.

#### **Creating Fossils through Art**

With the guidance of a pARTners artist, students created a trace, cast, and inclusion fossil. By imitating the creation process of the various fossil types, they were better able to understand how they formed and their different environmental factors.

#### Careers in the Arts

Students learned about different arts careers, with classroom visits from a local architect.

"This project made me recognize the value of interdisciplinary thinking in helping students better understand important academic vocabulary terms. "I loved this project because I was able to relax and be creative. I hope we can do it again in the future."

**RONNIE-JEAN BERNARD**, 4TH GRADE TEACHER



# **5TH GRADE**



Students delved into Mexican folk art by designing surreal creatures inspired by a dreamlike realm. They utilized their creativity to conceptualize a unique

creature, which they subsequently crafted using papiermâché techniques and decorated with acrylic and glow-inthe-dark paints, enabling the sculptures to illuminate in the dark.





In our interdisciplinary Science in Art project, students honed their observation skills by selecting a scientific or natural image and recreating it through a variety of artistic lenses. Each student explored multiple media—including graphite, colored pencil, pastel, watercolor, and marker—to interpret their chosen image in unique ways. This iterative process not only developed their technical skills but also deepened their understanding of visual communication and experimentation. Through this project, students learned how scientific observation and artistic expression intersect.







"The new Indigenous projects are truly amazing, and the kids were highly engaged and involved. pARTners brought artist, Joanne Brings Thunder from the Shoshone tribe, to teach students about Ledger Art and Native Beading. They had the opportunity to ask questions and touch the various artifacts and pieces of art. This was an invaluable learning experience, and students came away from the project with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the culture."

JAMES HOWELL, PRINCIPAL AT CES

## **Native Beading Project**

Joanne Brings Thunder, a renowned Shoshone artist, showcased the intricate beadwork of the moccasins she creates and wears for ceremonial purposes. The students then had the opportunity to practice the basic box stitch and make beaded keychains.





# 6TH-8TH GRADES





## **Endangered Species Chalk Art Project**

Students created beautiful pieces of chalk art with several pARTners artists to highlight the importance of the Endangered Species Act. Through their artwork, they create awareness of what animals are considered endangered.

## Sage Grouse Paper-Mâché Project

Students collaborated with a local wildlife biologist to create papier-mâché sage grouse to support the grouse rehabilitation project. They used these art pieces as decoys to attract grouse to a new and healthier ecosystem. A partner's artist worked with them to hone their papier mache skills and learn about form and function.









"I can truly say this is my favorite pARTners project. It not only engages the students, but also brings the community together. I love watching parents bring their children to the school on weekends to admire these incredible pieces of art. We are grateful for what pARTners does to inspire our students to think outside the box and participate in creative activities."

**SETH FETTERS**VICE-PRINCIPAL OF JHMS

#### STUDENT TESTIMONIALS:

"It was so fun to learn more about art and how art can help make a difference. I love animals, but don't think of myself as an artist, and I was able to do this project."

"It was cool to express our artistic abilities to protect creatures we love."

"It made me feel good we were spreading awareness about species needing our help and making sure we are not losing key creatures to our environment."

"As a teacher, these extracurriculars can feel impossible to pull off in addition to everything else. It is so important to have organizations to help us make it happen, as our students often take more away from these special projects than what we do in the classroom. Thank you pARTners for helping us make this happen!"

#### **HUNTER JONES**

7TH GRADE SCIENCE TEACHER





**Ecology of the Greater Yellowstone Nature Journals** 

**Artists Up Close** 

pARTners sponsors a series of professional artists from the community to lead students in mini-residencies.

9TH-12TH GRADES

#### **RAKU POTTERY**

Students learned the basics of this 16th Century Japanese art form and created their own pieces using this special firing technique. This year, pARTners purchased JHHS their own Raku Kiln (\$3,000) so that they had the ability to make this unique type of pottery on campus.

#### AP ART PORTFOLIO REVIEW AND COACHING

Students worked with several local artists to receive feedback on their art portfolios and advice about next steps in their art careers.

#### **BIRDS OF PREY**

Jackson Hole High School's Woodshop and Sculpture classes collaborated with local sculptor Ben Roth to create raven sculptures, integrating local environmental themes and materials. Woodshop students crafted raven silhouettes, while sculpture students added texture using found materials. The completed sculptures are displayed in the school's rotunda.



#### **ECOLOGY OF THE GRE NATURE JOURNALS**

Ecology students colla artists to master the us colored pencils, and b depicting nature. Than student received an a various supplies. They in observing their surr the art materials to viv observations to life.





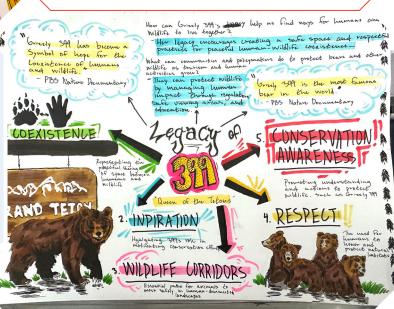


"I can't thank pARTners enough. This was a brand new class at Jackson Hole High School, and the supplies and artist support brought learning to a new level. As a teacher, we have a vision of what we want our students to experience and pARTners made that come to fruition. They not only purchased supplies that were not in my budget, but also paid an expert to come in to teach the students artistic concepts that I could not. Thank you!"

JOHNSON WHIPPIE
JHHS SCIENCE TEACHER

#### ATER YELLOWSTONE

aborated with local se of watercolors, lack ink for accurately aks to pARTners, each rtist's sketchbook and guided the students oundings and using idly bring their



# 2024/2025 **EDUCATOR GRANTS**

Grants to educators to implement arts-based learning projects in their classrooms and community.

Educator Grants provide educators with funding to design and implement arts-based learning projects that fulfill curriculum goals in collaboration with pARTners-approved artists. All artist planning and teaching time, as well as project materials, are funded by pARTners. This grant program also purchases necessary equipment to enhance the arts in classrooms.



## **Ecosystem Dioramas**

Students built three-dimensional iniature representation of an ecosystem, to showcase the relationships between living organisms and their environment.

## **Arts Summer Sampler Camp Enchanted Forest** Home

Students imagine an enchanted forest homes with three-dimensional miniature representations.





"Art is a place for children to learn to trust their ideas, themselves, and explore what is possible." MARYANN F. KOHL

#### Raku Kiln

This year, with the Educator Grant program, pARTners purchased a Raku Kiln (\$3,000) for the new ceramics room at Jackson Hole High School. This purchase will impact thousands of students over the upcoming years as it provides a vital piece of equipment that will elevate the ceramic program and allow students to gain access to a new set of skills.



\$3,800 EDUCATOR GRANTS



Raku Kiln

# THANK YOU. **DONORS!**

Your commitment to arts education makes a real difference in the lives of our children.

Justin and Meredith Adams

Allison von Maur

Arts for All Grant-Town and County

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Fric and Jennifer Balsa

John and Patty Batenhorst

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Raft On In dba Dave Hansen Whitewater

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Wendy Rominger

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Wyoming Cultural Trust Jeff and Barabara Wogoman Workshop-Sue Flemming

"This unforgettable experience would not have been possible without the generous support of pARTners. Thank you for helping us provide this enriching and inspiring opportunity for our students, allowing them to grow both artistically and collaboratively across multiple disciplines."

HANNAH HORIGAN, JHHS SCULPTURE TEACHER

Please support pARTners and our important programs by donating at www.partnersjh.org

Pamela Winters

Michael and Cheri Witz

Wyoming Arts Council



pARTners is an asset to our schools. We can learn through art exploration and guest artists. Students are engaged in the lessons and enjoy learning through art

LAUREN BRZOZOWSKI, ART TEACHER AT JES