

THE STORY OF

Arts & Scraps

Pages of Progress

FY24 Impact Report



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ONCE UPON A TIME AT A&S:

Our Story So Far



OUR MISSION

Arts & Scraps centers the community by providing reused materials and educational resources to promote sustainability and creativity in Detroit.

OUR VISION

To reuse as much material as possible by turning it into community resources and education through relationship, innovation, and accessibility. We want to create open, accessible spaces for Detroiters to experience learning and creativity through the fun and expansive joy of reused materials. We want to teach, resource, and inspire more people in deeper ways each year.

We envision Arts & Scraps serving every neighborhood in Detroit (and much of Metro-Detroit) with programming, creative reuse materials, and partnership.

OUR VALUES

To foster critical thinking to encourage innovation

To ensure we are a resource through and for intentional decision-making

To prolong the life of materials for creative and educational reuse

LEADERSHIP'S MESSAGE:

The Mission Stays the Same

Dear Arts & Scraps Community,

What a difference a year makes.

We learned a lot through the difficulties of FY23. In FY24, with new knowledge in hand, we set out to build the strongest Arts & Scraps yet, so we can serve our community in deeper ways each year.

Our efforts have resulted in some of our deepest impact yet, with more 8-12 week programming, store customers, and donors than ever before. Most beautifully, YOU (our community) have responded with a resounding “Yes!” to our new direction, and it shows.

The fruit of our collective staff, volunteer, and donor labor is already beginning to blossom. In May of FY24, we began our Creative Cafe Meetups. They are held on our newest open day- Fridays! We also began talks with DPL Foundation around a (now confirmed) 3 year commitment to help Arts & Scraps grow into a K-12 Youth Development Initiative. Additionally, we were waiting to hear about our (now confirmed) State Budget allocation, thanks to Rep. Veronica Paiz, for 2025.

What a difference a year makes.

In this report, you will learn about how our programming has expanded, our Detroit Community Store has thrived and formed deeper community, and our volunteers have pushed to make it all possible. However, I'd be remiss if I neglect to mention how our staff has gone above and beyond to make it all possible. Arts & Scraps is lucky to employ some of the most talented, hardest working, and dedicated people in Detroit. Their passion for our mission, the students, and community we serve is a daily inspiration to myself and many others. I'm so thankful for all the ways our Board and Staff gave of themselves in FY24 for our mission and community.

Arts & Scraps is a place full of stories, big and small, about how creativity and community make the difference in our world. We hope we captured just a few for you here.

What a difference a year makes. Thank you for being on the journey with us.



Ang Adamiak
Executive Director

LEADERSHIP'S MESSAGE:

Creating Impact Together

Dear Arts & Scraps Family,

It's an honor to step into the role of Board Chair in the fall of 2024, after serving on the board for four years and supporting Arts & Scraps in its mission to be a vibrant community center, reimagining education for our youth. I would be remiss if I didn't extend my heartfelt gratitude to our outgoing Board Chair, Susan Kalkstein, whose impressive leadership and dedication have been invaluable. We are deeply appreciative of her contributions.

As we celebrate our 35th anniversary, we couldn't be more thrilled about the work we've accomplished and are passionately working, thinking, and imagining what the next 35 years will look like. This milestone inspires us to envision a future where we continue growing, creating, and providing an ever-widening circle of impact.

Navigating the challenges of COVID-19 was no small feat, but we've reemerged stronger, more energized, and more committed than ever. We are incredibly grateful to our donors for their unwavering belief in us and for partnering with us on this journey. To everyone who has given their time, talent, or treasure to ensure that we remain a staple in the City of Detroit—thank you.

I am privileged to work alongside a board of directors that constantly thinks about how we can evolve and expand our mission, reaching even more young people. Together, we are committed to fulfilling this important work. Thank you for standing shoulder to shoulder with us—whether through volunteering, shopping at our community store, sowing seeds of support, or sharing our mission with others. We are excited to continue being a creative force in Detroit, and we couldn't do it without you.

Together, let's continue inspiring creativity, sparking curiosity, and building a brighter future for the next generation.



Brandon Gleaton
Board Chair

THE ECOSYSTEM OF OUR COMMUNITY:

Education through STEAM & Adaptability

FY24 marked a significant evolution in Arts & Scraps' programming, building upon the foundation laid in FY23. Aiming for a deeper, more lasting impact on the communities we serve, Arts & Scraps transitioned from offering primarily one-time workshops and events to providing 6 to 12-week extended programs focused on fostering meaningful, ongoing relationships with students and communities. This shift emphasizes long-term engagement, with a primary focus on serving communities within the City of Detroit.

Our programs are designed around STEM curricula, thoughtfully aligned with state standards. Clients and partners are offered a variety of distinct curriculum tracks, each focused on specific topics or units. Central to our approach is an emphasis on open-ended, creative learning experiences that encourage critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity—skills that foster a lasting enthusiasm for learning.

Arts & Scraps' programming unfolds as a dynamic and engaging journey, aimed not only at academic development but also at nurturing social and emotional growth, fine motor skills, and creativity. Our curriculum remains aligned with meeting the diverse needs of our students. We extend our programs across schools, community organizations, after-school initiatives, and community centers, with a strong focus on Detroit's vibrant communities.

Our commitment is clear: to provide high-quality educational programming that sparks creativity and imagination in the young minds we serve. This report highlights the positive impact we've made, and we look forward to continuing our work, expanding our reach, and furthering our mission in the near future.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

36,027

PEOPLE SERVED
AT EVENTS

7,293

STUDENTS
IMPACTED

142

COMMUNITIES
IMPACTED

445

TOTAL PROGRAMMING
EVENTS



OUR REUSE FUEL: VOLUNTEERS

Tales from Arts & Scraps' Engine

While the physical warehouse is no longer, our Operations Team continues its work to fuel our mission. With our recent transition from three buildings to two, our team has thoughtfully reimaged how we use our space and materials, making sure that every step of our work is as efficient as possible. We are not a storage company, we are a Creative Reuse organization. Since our Operations Team manages our volunteer groups, bulk donated materials, program and kit supplies, as well as the operational needs of our buildings and staff, there is always more to do. Our goal remains utilizing as many materials as possible to resource our community.

Our relationship with Rocket Mortgage gave us the opportunity to distribute our kits to students across Detroit through grant support and volunteerism. Throughout FY24, we have resourced our community with over 4000 kits without any cost to the nonprofits, schools, libraries and community changers.

Naturally, none of this would have been possible without our volunteers; in FY24, we worked with over 1400, either in-house or in the community. Each volunteer makes a difference, whether they come once, or many times. One volunteer broke an Arts & Scraps record with over 100 occurrences and over 300 volunteer hours within the year. We are grateful for every volunteer and organization that has fueled our mission!

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

118

VOLUNTEER
GROUPS

1,425

VOLUNTEERS

4,275

VOLUNTEER
HOURS

18

TONS OF RECYCLED
MATERIAL PROCESSED



GEM OF THE MOTOR CITY: *The Detroit Community Store*

Tucked away on Detroit’s Eastside, our community has an absolute hidden gem– the Arts & Scraps Detroit Community Store.

Arts & Scraps stands tall with murals, mosaics, and sculptural pieces adorning our building and surrounding area. Inside our Community Store , you’ll find endless creative materials, all donated by community members and partners. Each day brings forth new treasures, filling our bins with fresh wonders waiting to be explored. The public can come and shop in our beloved ‘fill a bag’ section for our most predictable items, like fabric or beads. What makes Arts & Scraps unlike anyplace else is that they can also hunt through our more untraditional art items, like stained glass materials, old photographs, and unexpected surprises in our individually priced section.

There's more to our store than mere shopping. We also have a multi-use classroom stocked with creative materials and inspiration. This adaptable classroom space allows us to connect with our community in many ways. Our volunteers use this space to process the materials for our educational kits and maintain the store’s sorting and organizing. Our Creative Café Meet Ups host community creative groups with a coffee shop and creative project. All year long, this space remains open to the public for our customers and community members to use while shopping and building projects with us. With every visit to our store, there is a new possibility for exploring what drives your creativity through reuse.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

8,695
CUSTOMERS

367
VOLUNTEERS

894
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

9
TONS OF RECYCLED
MATERIAL PROCESSED



REUSE AND CONNECTION TALES

Stories of Impact and Inspiration

Read two stories of our educational impact inside and outside of Arts & Scraps.

JANICE'S STORY

Janice is a well-known storyteller and creative educator within the City of Detroit, as well as a longtime supporter of the Detroit Community Store. While interacting with the community, she always finds a way to tie every project back to resources from Arts & Scraps.

Recently, Janice asked for our help with building a traveling shadow puppet stage. After receiving donated materials from Arts & Scraps, she made an unconventional shadow puppet stage out of an embroidery lap stand. At the same time, Arts & Scraps was asked by a local preschool for a reference for puppet enrichment. The school knew we would know someone, and we knew Janice was the perfect person to call. We connected the two, and their impact continues!

Janice has continued to work with the school children creating a puppet show workshop. She continues to come back and share her stories of her student's joy with us when she visits for more materials.



"I get more than I would ever be able to resource and pay for at Arts & Scraps. And it is such a thrill to be a part of this community in a happy place. I get to do more stuff with creative people and meet people in the community I would have never been able to before. Arts & Scraps has connected me with teaching opportunities that I would not have been able to find before. The city would not be the same place if Arts & Scraps wasn't around."

**JANICE BURNETT,
STORY TELLER AND EDUCATOR WITHIN DETROIT.**

MEGAN'S STORY

"I have been coming to Arts & Scraps since it was tiny little shop over on Warren and it's always been a place you can find things that you couldn't anywhere else. Not to mention, I can get the things I need very affordably. I've been a teacher for twenty years and have been using the store that whole time. It doesn't matter if its supplies for my art room or our robotics team, Arts & Scraps resources us with what we need."

**MEGAN MORMAN,
TEACHER AT EAST ENGLISH HIGH**

REUSE AND CONNECTION TALES

Stories of Impact and Inspiration

Read two stories of our educational impact inside and outside of Arts & Scraps.

KATIE'S STORY

We live in a world where “craft” is split: one direction values fine craftsmanship; the other celebrates “arts and crafts,” associated with preschoolers, glitter glue, and hobbyists. Arts & Scraps embraces the latter, creating spaces for the skilled and unskilled public to learn, share, grow, and care for each other and the environment.

As an Arts & Scraps Instructor, I've seen kids lose teeth, improve reading, learn math, develop interests, and take on responsibilities like cleaning and helping. These activities become extraordinary as kids return, building relationships, exploring creativity, and having fun. Drawing from Black Mountain College pedagogy, Arts & Scraps uses art to empower children, teaching decision-making and democracy.

In a consumer-driven society, Arts & Scraps shifts focus from consumption to creativity, fostering problem-solving and reuse. It's magical to see kids make shadow puppets and negotiate over



materials or perfect designs. They link creations to lessons on environmental issues like penguins threatened by climate change or facts about the prehistoric Giant Penguin.

Through reducing, reusing, and recycling, kids confront ecological crises and environmental racism. Post-pandemic, organizations like Arts & Scraps offer materials and the critical thinking needed for the future.

**KATIE NOWINSKI,
PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR**

NIKEILA'S STORY

"At the Osborn Hub, Arts & Scraps has not only impacted our children within the hub but also our community as a whole. Our children love to come and work with Mr. Corey and use their imagination to make very interesting projects. It is so fun for them, that we have families who call us to see if we have any extra bags left for pick up. Mr. Corey and the Arts & Scraps team have had a great impact on the children, families, and the Osborn community as a whole."

**NIKEILA JORDAN
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MANAGER
OSBORN HUB, BRILLIANT DETROIT**

INTRODUCING...

ARTS & TECH

BY **Arts & Scraps**
Education Reimagined

POWERED BY:

DPL FOUNDATION

BUILDING THE FUTURE IMPACT OF ARTS & SCRAPS: *Creativity, Innovation, and Technology*

Since 2020, Arts & Scraps has been fortunate to build a close partnership with DPL Foundation, (formerly Detroit Public Library Foundation). What began with funding our 9,500 creative supply kits distributed throughout the pandemic, led to deep relationship, capacity building, partnership on programming, and more.

When asked where Arts & Scraps could build its biggest impact going forward, Ang Adamiak answered “Building a Youth Development Initiative”, and DPLF answered the call. Through partnership with their existing program, “CODE: Grow”, Arts & Scraps will begin the process of building an initiative for 6th-12th graders to add to our existing programs.

FY24 cemented the commitment to Arts & Scraps’ capacity building, and FY25 will begin our 3 year \$75,000 partnership. By FY26, we hope to have our first programming for 6th and 7th graders. From there, we will add 2 grades each year until we are serving all. This commitment will kick-start our capacity building over the next 5 years.

We are thankful for DPL Foundation’s commitment, as well as the vision to move us toward deeper impact with many partners, old and new.

Join us in building this next phase of Arts & Scraps’ impact.

Arts & Scraps

In the News

8

ARTICLES MENTIONED ARTS & SCRAPS IN 2024

WE HAVE BEEN FEATURED IN THESE PUBLICATIONS

DETROIT
ISIT

CLICK ON
DETROIT

THE DETROIT
JEWISH NEWS

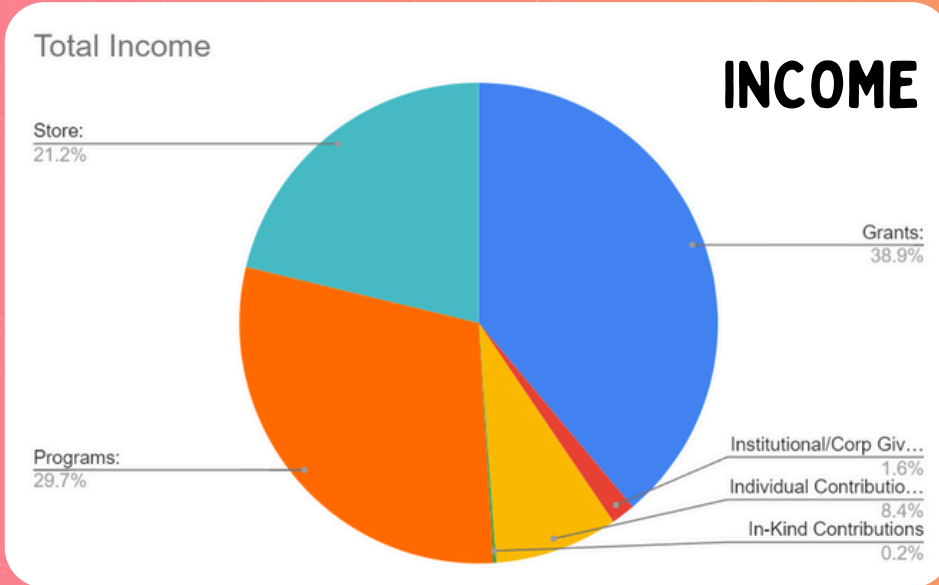
PRIDESOURCE

DETROIT
METROTIMES

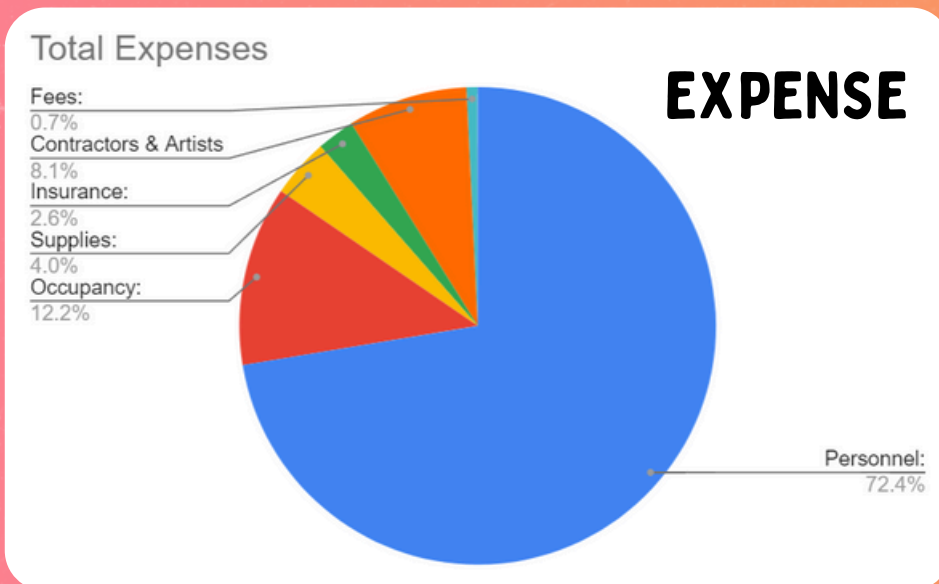
THE SOUTH END

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Each year, we aim to bring transparency to our finances, through our audited 990, our complete [GuideStar profile](#), and through this report. We believe this transparency makes us stronger.



Arts & Scraps maintains a multi-pronged approach to income, believing both earned and unearned income help us build a path towards a sustainable organization. We continue to grow our donor and grant base, as we believe that will help us reach increased impact.



Overwhelmingly, our staff create our impact, so we invest in them in return. At a ratio of 1/100, our staff multiply our work through and with volunteers to reach our community. This year, we are proud to invest over \$22,000 into artists and partners even smaller than Arts & Scraps.

THE IMPACT YOU MAKE:

When you donate to Arts & Scraps, your investment is multiplied by our volunteer's efforts and the many teachers, artists, and community members we serve alongside. Our values push us towards daily impact, with and for our community. This is only possible with you!



OUR VOLUNTEER PARTNERSHIPS



Blue Cross
Blue Shield
of Michigan



meridian
A WellCare Company



GLOBALTIES > U.S.
DIPLOMACY BEGINS HERE



signaladvisors



ROCKET
Companies, Inc.

buildOn



AmeriCorps



DOWNTOWN
BOXING ☆ GYM



DTE Energy



DEFINE DETROIT



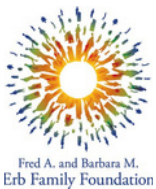
MADONNA
UNIVERSITY



OUR SUPPORTERS

Thank you so much!

CLICK ON THE LOGOS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WONDERFUL SUPPORTERS!



THANKS & ATTRIBUTIONS

**DEAR DETROIT COMMUNITY, SUPPORTERS, VOLUNTEERS, EMPLOYEES,
BOARD MEMBERS, AND ALL THE ARTS & SCRAPS ENTHUSIASTS,**

What an inspiring year it's been! We've faced new challenges, but with your unwavering support, we not only navigated them— we thrived, crafting something truly remarkable together.

To our vibrant Detroit Community: you continue to inspire our mission, infusing creativity into every corner of the city.

Supporters, long-standing and new: your generosity and belief in our vision make all things possible, paving the way for a future filled with art and innovation.

Volunteers: you're the heartbeat of Arts & Scraps; your time and dedication transform possibilities into reality.

To our employees: your commitment drives our purpose every single day, and Board members: your guidance shapes our journey.

Through every twist and turn, you've stood by us, showing that, together we can do more and more as we build the vision together. Thank you for the love, the energy, and the belief in Arts & Scraps' mission for our community.

Looking forward, we're more excited than ever to keep building, inspiring, and dreaming big. Here's to another year of creativity, community, and making a difference— one scrap, student and community member at a time!

With endless gratitude and appreciation,



Arts & Scraps
Education Reimagined

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ARTS & SCRAPS IMPACT REPORT 2024

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