



De Colores Arts

Connecting humanity through the arts.

IMPACT REPORT

2022



We envision a world where everyone is seen as a unique individual, connected to themselves and each other.



We create inclusive space for connection and self-expression through the arts.



We are grounded, honest, authentic, and inviting. We nourish growth.

Welcome to De Colores Arts.



Present

Connected

Responsive

Grounded

THE LANDSCAPE



Depression affects an estimated 26% of adults with autism. 6



Adults with disabilities experience higher levels of mental health conditions and substance use than do adults without disabilities. 2



20 to 30% of male adults on the spectrum have anxiety disorder. Females with autism average 40%. 3

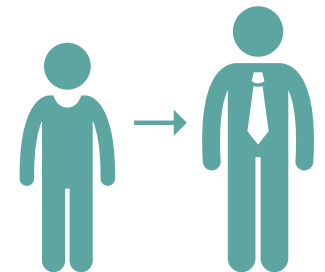
In a recent survey from 2021, adults with disabilities were three times more likely to report suicidal ideation in the past month compared to persons without disabilities (30.6% versus 8.3% in the general U.S. population) 5



Compared to the general public, people with autism are seven times more likely to be chronically lonely and six times more likely to have low life satisfaction. 4



Over 35% of DDS autism cases are individuals transitioning out of the school system leaving adults with little social, emotional or vocational support. 1



1. Autism Society San Francisco Bay Area + DDS - [Autism in California 2020](#)
2. CDC - [Mental Health and Substance Use Among Adults with Disabilities - March 2021](#)
3. Stanford - [Dr. Lawrence Fung on Impacts on the Neurodiverse Community 2021](#)
4. International - [National Autistic Society UK 2020](#)
5. CDC - [Disparities in Suicide 2021](#)
6. Autism Speaks - [Autism Statistics and Facts 2021](#)

OUR IMPACT

De Colores Arts offers a community integrated, person-centered program, utilizing art as the medium to improve lives and spark joy!

Our participants experience:

- Significant and positive impact on self-esteem and empathic abilities
- Enhanced levels of trust among peers and community
- Meaningful friendships with diverse individuals
- A positive sense of self and connection to their unique capacities



Open

Sensing

Direct

Honest



Wet-On-Wet Watercolor

"I enjoy doing fun story scenes, and I've learned to wait for my turn and let staff finish their talking. I ask for breaks. Using my tools is taking breaks – taking deep breaths and calming down." - Jasmine

JASMINE

Student since 2017



"Jasmine has come a long way. She loves to brainstorm ideas, do group activities, and wait for her turn." - Fariza, Jasmine's Mom

Real

Unique

Genuine

Authentic



DCA STORIES

"I like my De Colores friends because they understand me and are like family to me. They help me learn through the arts, which is what I like doing most. I can't express how I feel, the arts are the best way I know how." -Alex

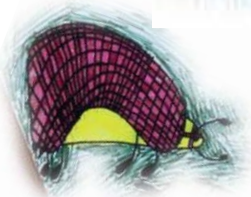
I'm happy when I see my friends Elliana, Kelly, Sarah, Geno, Jonathan, Adrian, Shana, Hailey, Michaelia, Jasmine, Thomas & Valerie, Dante & Adrianna, Aaron & Irma, Andrew & Alexi. They're all nice to me and they make me happy." - Alex

ALEX

Student since 2017



Alex & Christian in Improv



DCA STORIES

JONATHAN

Student since 2017



Improv for Interaction® Zoom
"The Swimmer"

"I love seeing all of my friends! I really enjoy all of the games and activities. And the teachers are all so nice to me!"- Jonathan

"DCA and its outstanding staff and programming has become a huge and extremely positive part of our son Jonathan's life!



Before the pandemic, through the past couple of challenging years, and as our family moved cross country, the classes have brought so much joy and consistency to Jonathan's weekly schedule when many other aspects of life were uncertain."

- Emily, Jonathan's Mom



DCA STORIES



When I sat in on performances, I was impressed with the forward thinking and empowering language that staff uses."

- Jill, Eric's Mom

ERIC

Student since 2020

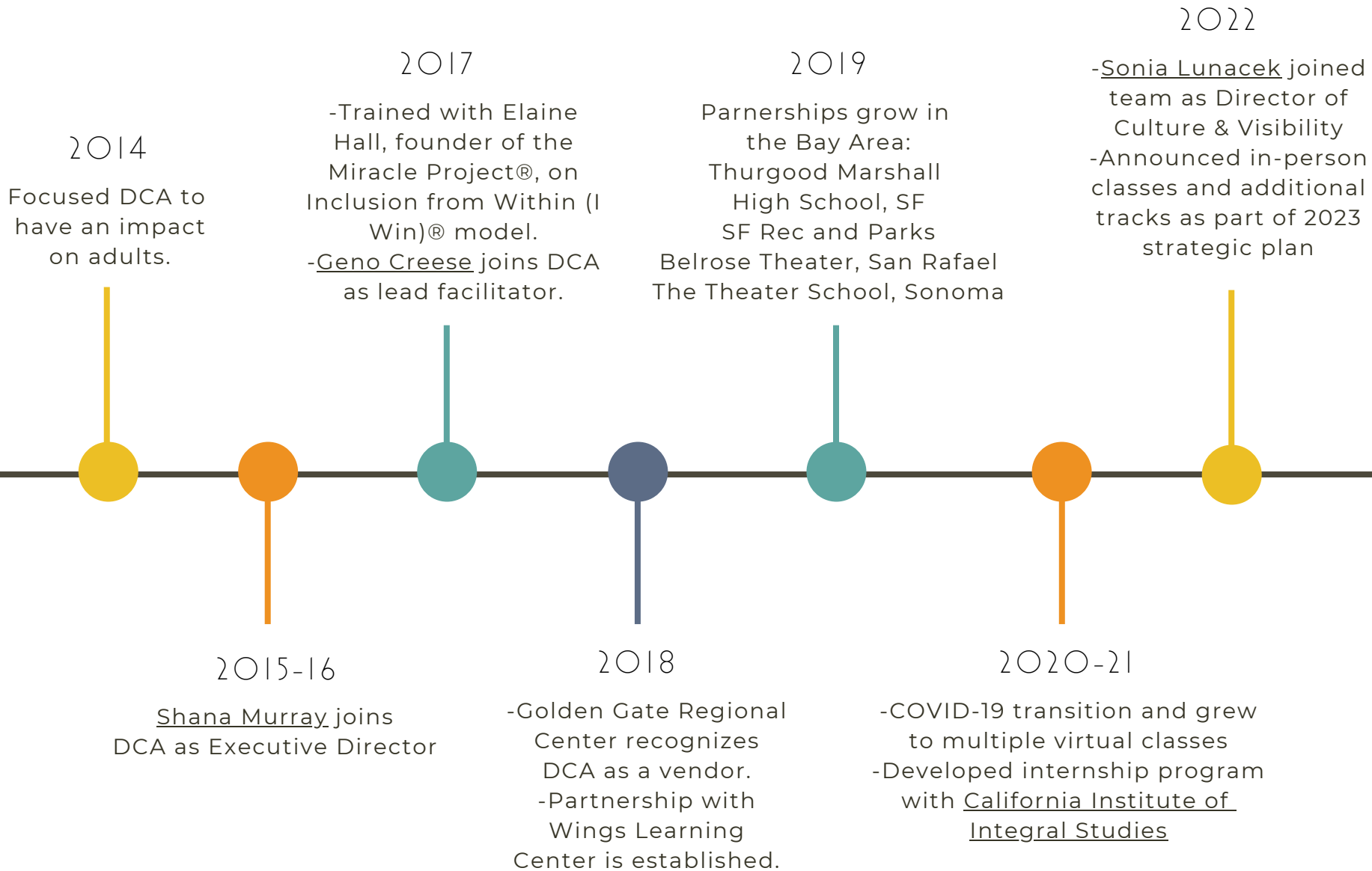
"When the pandemic happened, Eric's day program shut down. Even when multiple parents reached out to offer them help with zoom, they took no action. DCA opened their arms to Eric even though we live on the opposite coast. Eric loves participating with his new friends and even now that his day program is up and running in person, the connections he has made with participants and teachers at DCA mean so much to him that he wouldn't miss a class." - Jill, Eric's Mom



Improv for Interaction® Zoom
"Mayor of Halloween Town"



DCA 2014 - 2022



DCA COLLECTIVE

Statement of Impact

De Colores Arts was formed to enliven the intrinsic motivation of participants through their engagement with each other and through artistic means.

Intrinsic in DCA's mission is the cultivation of each team member's process capability and the conditions where each person feels a sense of interconnectedness with each other and their community. We live this mission by deepening of a sense of belonging to a community of colleagues who respect, appreciate, and genuinely love each other.

Those who are part of DCA's collective are better aligned to more effectively participate in their communities.

Irma Velasquez, DCA Founder and Board Chair

Around the
Table:
Around
The World

Yoga
Together

Poetry:
The Art of
Language

Voice-Over

2022 Offerings

Improv for
Interaction®

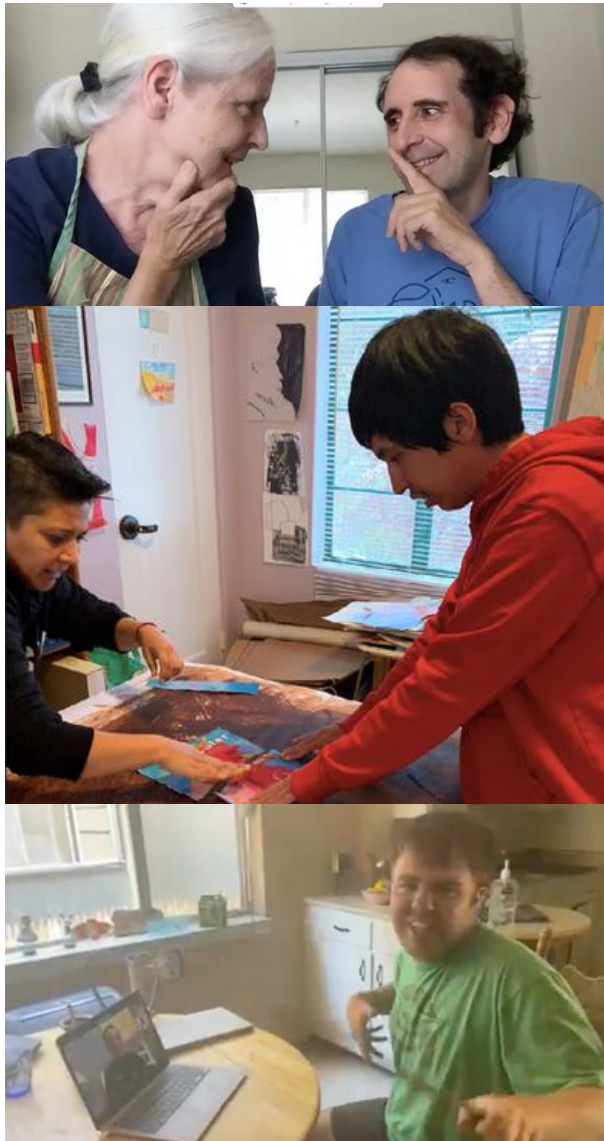
Music and
Movement

Intuitive &
Experimental
Drawing

Rhythym
Makers



DCA COLLECTIVE



Thomas, Valerie, Aaron, Suzie & Dante
Find Their Voice In Art

Our team is comprised of artists, therapist, teachers, inspiring individuals in their fields, friends & families.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Irma Velasquez (Chair)
Kirsten Carpentier
Emily Kubinsky
Melissa Luvisi

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shana Murray, MNA

DIRECTOR OF VISIBILITY & CULTURE STUDIOS

Sonia Lunacek

DIRECTOR OF OFFERINGS STUDIO

Geno Creese, MA, AMFT

PROGRAM FACILITATORS & SUPPORT TEAM

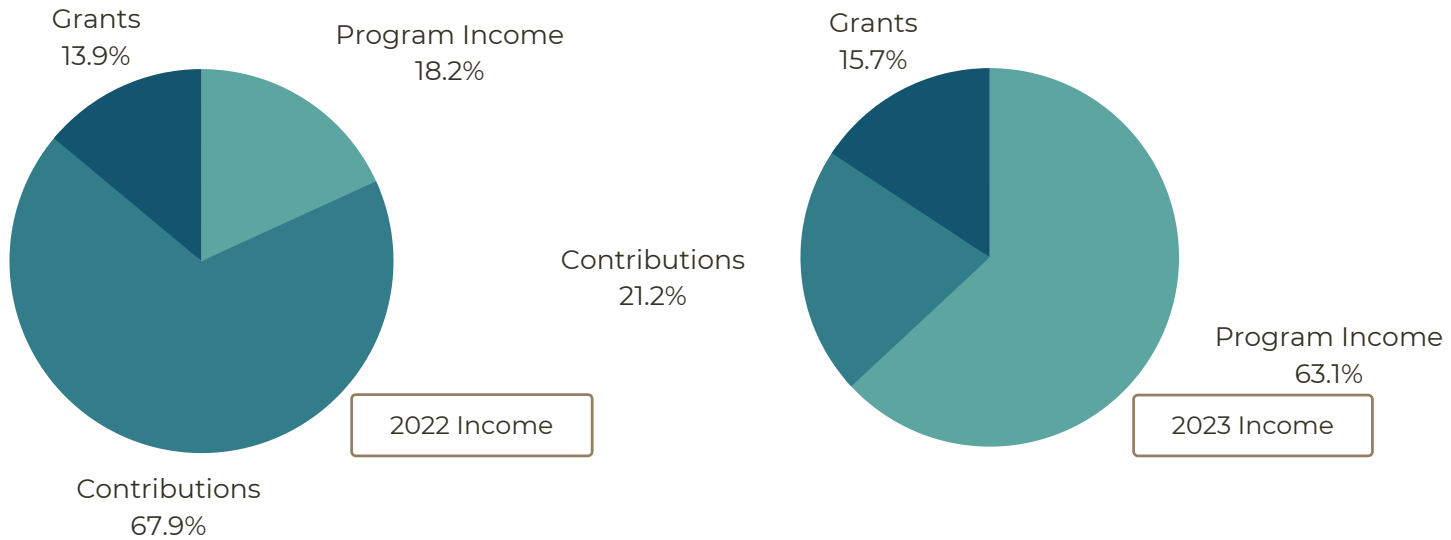
Christian Asa-Harris
Elliana Wolnisty
Adrian Gebhart
Kelly Nelson
Sarah Fletcher

Faith Von Minden
Brad Robertson
Hailey MacCarthy
Amelie MacCarthy
Adriana Briff

DCA Team Bio's



OPERATIONAL SNAPSHOT



2023 DCA Goals

- Grow capacity by hiring a program director and additional trained facilitators.
- Broaden student impact within additional community partnerships.
- Sustain revenue to support investment in staffing infrastructure and fair wages.
- Document written DCA curriculum and model.
- Cultivate cohort communities to replicate DCA model.



Welcome

Process

Possibility

Inviting

OPERATIONAL SNAPSHOT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OVERVIEW

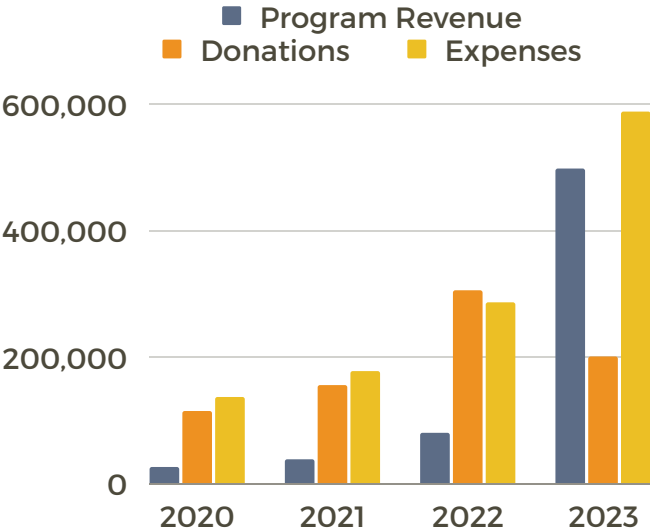
DCA revenue has progressively grown, and will exponentially increase in 2023. Contributions have sustained expenses to this point. 2023 will see less reliance on contributions and more sustainable programmatic revenue.

PARTNERSHIPS CREATE SHARED VALUE

Placing the necessity of partnerships directly within DCA's strategic business model sparks limitless possibilities for innovation and mutual growth that can only be fully measured once these relationships begin. Implementing a shared value approach shifts the mindset of operational strategies. A co-creation occurs when we each view our success as a network of social actors, with unique resources that support each other.

New partnership collaborations begin as interest and need arises. The success of our model begins with a track of 12 participants, 12 hours a week. This streamlined approach allows versatility that meets participant and partnership variables, and allows ease to implement our model. DCA recognizes the unique needs of each community and is able to respond mindfully to scale the model as appropriate.

DCA Growth Trend



OPERATIONAL SNAPSHOT

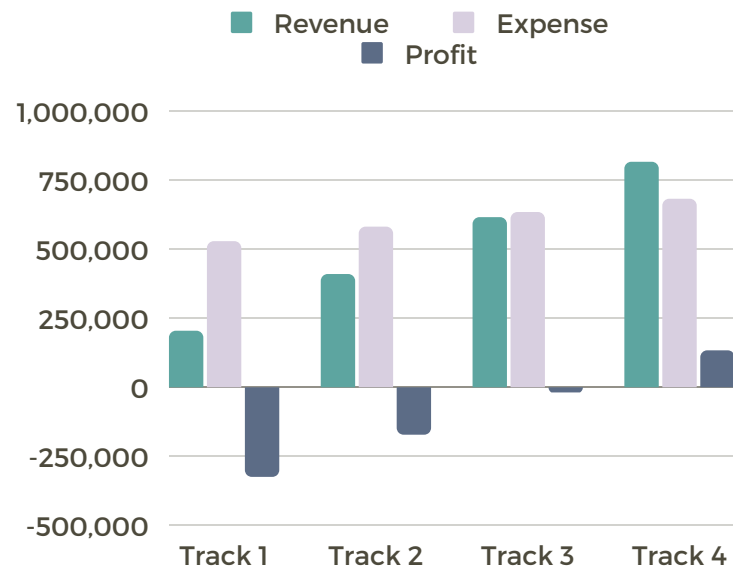
REACHING SUSTAINABILITY

DCA tracks are offerings delivered in partnership with an arts, education or social organization. Layering of tracks will grow our revenues and increase our profit margins. At the same time, we will develop efficient infrastructure to deliver the same level of service in a replicable model.



Thomas and Shana move across the floor

Multiple Tracks Scale To Sustainability



The sheer act of connection with others in a healthy space can help elevate and regulate our brain and bodily processes. Joining a DCA space becomes about much more than the medium of art. It becomes a movement of healing.

Shana Murray, DCA Executive Director



12/12

DCA Model

Person-centered cohort of 12 participants, 12 hours

Allowing friendships and community to form, we respond to elements of loneliness, isolation, anxiety, depression, and even loss.



2020 First Virtual Class - Staying Connected

In 2023 DCA will re-launch our in-person classes and offer a hybrid model to a broad community. This hybrid approach will offer an expansive opportunity for connection and continue to build important skills developed in virtual interaction.

As new tracks form, partnerships and streamlined costs will allow for the wider visibility and growth of the DCA model.

DCA's goal is to provide a model that can be accessible across communities, regional centers, and organizations that provide social, and vocational services to those with different abilities. With the DCA model we address the fundamental human right to an inclusive, connected, and joyful life.



Sprout

Blossom

Expand

Growth



We invite you to invest in our community
and experience the impact of your contribution.

"In every community, there is work to be done.
In every nation, there are wounds to heal.
In every heart, there is the power to do it."

Marianne Williamson



www.decoloresarts.org



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