2023 was a year of growth for Hyde Park Art Center. Within the first year of Jen Tremblay Chambers and Aaron Rodgers’ co-leadership, the staff increased to meet the need for more initiatives and programs for our community. In this reflection, the Art Center is excited to highlight our many successes and growth thanks to your support. 2024 marks our 85th year as an institution, and we are excited to continue putting a spotlight on Chicago’s artists of the past, present, and future.

Hyde Park Art Center would not exist without the community’s investment in Chicago art and artists. Our lead program supporters are acknowledged within the 2023 updates below, and a comprehensive list of this year’s Advocates concludes the report. We are also incredibly grateful for our lead institutional supporters: Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events; Comer Family Foundation; Rachel Conant; DRW Foundation, Lawrence Furnstahl and Charles Sitzes; Denise and Gary Gardner; Dedrea and Paul Gray; Illinois Arts Council Agency; Paul and Mariana Ingersoll; Laksmi Fund, Peter and Erin Lane; Jill and Michael Lowe; John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; Sonya Malunda & E. Charles Lampley; Walter and Shirley Massey; Sundeep Mullangi and Trissa Babrowski; Cheryl and Thomas Rudbeck; and Richard Wright and Valerie Carberry.

On behalf of our board, staff, teaching artists, and community, thank you for helping us sustain and support the arts and artists in Chicago. We invite you to reflect on an amazing year at Hyde Park Art Center.
Children explore Edra Soto’s exhibition at the July Center Day
In 2016, Hyde Park Art Center set out a vision for the Oakman Clinton School & Studios in which all people could create art together. With the spring 2022 launch of Open Arts, the nation’s first contribute-what-you-can model for arts education, became a reality. In the past 18 months, more than 3,000 students have taken 200 Open Arts classes, many of whom signed up for the first time because the price of admission was no longer a barrier. However, there was still work to be done. At the time of the launch, two-thirds of studio classes were offered on the Open Arts model. Given the incredible demand for these classes, we made a commitment to expand the program. We are thrilled to announce that as of this winter term, ALL of our Oakman Clinton School & Studio classes are Open Arts!

The high quality of Open Arts programs is reflected in both the rate and number of registrations and the feedback from our students. Since July 2022, there have been 4,077 enrollments and 3,191 students in Open Arts programs. Registration for these courses continues to reach capacity within 24 hours. The trend towards increased racial and economic diversity of students also continued in the second year of Open Arts. (See demographic charts on next page)

Overall, the student community continues to praise their teaching artists, peers, and the community at Hyde Park Art Center. A ceramics student shared, “The ceramics program at the Art Center is phenomenal. Students and teachers have created a wonderful community of which I felt welcomed and accepted. So much expertise, enthusiasm, and experience in that space. Without Open Arts, I would not have been able to afford it to take this class. I am so pleased I was able to experience ceramics.”

We have seen that the contribute-what-you-can model builds community by allowing those who can afford to pay to support others. A student from the Art Center’s thriving older adults program shared, “I pay the suggested amount because I like the way Open Arts has increased the diversity of people able to use the center. It should reflect what the overall community is.”

In addition to increasing the number of Open Arts classes in order to meet the incredible demand, the Art Center also took steps in 2023 to strengthen School & Studios infrastructure. Registration software and storage needs were the two areas of highest priority. Fall term saw the launch of a custom-built registration software that more easily facilitated the contribute-what-you-can model. Storage and studio efficiency are intimately tied. Studios A, B, and C are currently under construction to increase storage space for a better student experience.

We look forward to the continued growth of the School community as we celebrate the first 100% Open Arts term at the Art Center!

Open Arts was supported by Clinton Family Fund in memory of Burton Kanter; Good Chaos; Joyce Foundation; Sacks Family Foundation; Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation; and a community of supporters.
OA Student Race/Ethnicity (2023)

- Caucasian/White: 32.3%
- Hispanic/Latinx: 13.6%
- Black/African: 36.9%
- Multiple/Other: 7.1%
- Asian: 10.1%

OA Student Household Income (2023)

- <$20k: 33.7%
- $20k-$34.9k: 17.4%
- $35k-$49.9k: 13.2%
- $50k-$74.9k: 16.6%
- $75k-$99.9k: 5.8%
- $100k-$149.9k: 8.3%
- +$150k: 5.0%
2023 Creativity Campers

Families work in the print studio
Exhibitions

Hyde Park Art Center’s 2023 exhibition cycle was one of the most diverse and critically acclaimed to date. Free and open to the public seven days a week, the Art Center presented 12 solo and group shows reaching tens of thousands of visitors.

Destination/ El Destino: a decade of GRAFT (April 23-August 6, 2023), featuring new and existing artwork by artist Edra Soto headlined the year. A native of Puerto Rico, Soto began the GRAFT series to address the complex emotions generated from migrating to the US while remaining connected to family on the island—a feeling of dislocation compounded by the country’s ambiguous status as an unincorporated territory of the United States. GRAFT was first developed during Soto’s participation in the Art Center’s Center Program in 2012 and has evolved into a widely exhibited series. Soto’s exhibition at Hyde Park Art Center was covered by Newcity Art, ARTnews, Chicago Reader, Artforum, Hyperallergic, and WTTW News, among other publications. Her work has also recently been featured in The New York Times’ “Critics Pick” column, in praise of her work in the Whitney Museum’s no existe un mundo poshuracán: Puerto Rican Art in the Wake of Hurricane Maria.

Another ongoing highlight of the year is Candace Hunter’s largest solo exhibition to date, The Alien-Nations and Sovereign States of Octavia E Butler (November 11, 2023-March 3, 2024). The work explores ideas from Parable of the Sower and Xenogenesis Trilogy (Lilith’s Brood) by speculative fiction author Octavia E Butler (1947-2006). Hunter presents a new series of collage-based works, installations, video, and sound works that illustrate the meticulously sculpted worlds that Butler imagined in her novels, examining their significance for Black bodies and future societies.

Finally, we were thrilled to present the culminating exhibition of the 2020 and 2023 iterations of Not Just Another Pretty Face. Patrons commissioned an eclectic mix of painting, sculpture, photography, and even furniture through this triennial program, created in the mid-1990s to introduce Chicago artists to potential collectors. To date, the Art Center has raised more than $1,000,000—half of which goes directly into the hands of artists, with the other half investing in the Art Center’s programs. Through Not Just Another Pretty Face, nearly 400 original works of art have been commissioned by 275 new and established collectors.

2023 Exhibitions were supported by Abakanowicz Arts and Culture Charitable Foundation; Joyce Foundation; and individual partners.
Teen Programs

This year, 263 teens from across Chicago gathered at Hyde Park Art Center for free after school and summer programs. These opportunities offered arts instruction, mentorship from professional artists, college and career support, and paid stipends to make and exhibit their work. The Art Center offered a wide range of art-making classes including ceramics, photography, and music production, as well as leadership programs such as Youth Board of Artists.

In 2023, teens came from a total of 39 high schools. They also traveled from 31 zip codes across the city to access the unique resources at Hyde Park Art Center. Both the number of teens and the geographic diversity showed huge growth compared with the 2021-22 school year, when pandemic restrictions limited in-school recruitment. In 2022-23, access to the schools for recruitment returned to pre-pandemic allowances and enrollment increased to 176 distinct registrations compared to 52 registrations in the previous year.

One of the highlights of the year was the annual teen exhibition, *A Universe of Self-Experience* (July 22-October 15), which featured the work of nearly 40 teens. The exhibition contemplated the myriad ways in which the artists perceive, experience, and discover their own world. The work ranged from paintings to print, and multimedia pieces to animation. 10 teens participated in an artist panel at the show’s opening on July 22 to share their work with parents, supporters, and the community. This celebratory event not only provided an opportunity for the teen artists to hone their presentation and public speaking skills, but also greatly enriched the meaning of their work for all those who attended. Teen Programs Manager Alex Herrera concluded the panel with a graduation ceremony, thanking all of the teens for their work throughout the school year.

*2023 Teen Programs were supported by Acclivus, Inc.; Caerus Foundation; Dan J. Epstein Family Foundation; Guida Family Fund for Creativity; LeRoy Neiman and Janet Byrne Neiman Foundation; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; Polk Bros. Foundation; and Sacks Family Foundation.*
Teen artist poses with her work in A Universe of Self Experience
Jackman Goldwasser Residency

In 2023, Hyde Park Art Center hosted 4 yearlong (Radicle) resident artists: Sofia Fernandez Diaz, Eric Perez, Kushala Vora, and Rhonda Wheatley, offering free studio space to make work, research new projects, and connect with the Art Center’s network of artists, curators, and audience. Our entire community benefited from the opportunity to explore and connect with their practices. Fernandez Diaz led a session of Creativity Camp, teaching students about natural dyes. Wheatley shared her mindfulness and meditation practices as the lead teaching artist for the Art Center’s programs for unaccompanied refugee youth in the care of Heartland Alliance. Resident artists also showed work in exhibitions, with Eric Perez participating in the second Veterans’ Triennial, Surviving the Long Wars: Unlikely Entanglements and Kushala Vora in Not Just Another Pretty Face and the Center Program exhibition Beneath the Visible.

We were also thrilled to welcome Belarusian artist Rufina Bazlova as part of an ongoing partnership between the Art Center and CEC ArtsLink’s acclaimed international fellowship program. Bazlova uses traditional folk Belarusian embroidery to depict socio-political issues. Her Art Center residency focused on #Framed in Belarus. The project aims to create portraits of the more than 1,400 illegally convicted Belarusian citizens using a traditional Belarusian embroidery technique of red thread on a white background, thereby recording an important era of Belarus’s contemporary history using traditional folk art. As part of her residency, Bazlova participated in several public events, including the inaugural talk for the University of Chicago Neubauer Collegium’s “Costumes and Collapse” three-year project; and a Fiber and Material Studies Mitchell Lecture at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The 2023 Residency Program was supported by Abakanowicz Arts and Culture Charitable Foundation; David C. and Sarajean Ruttenberg Arts Foundation; and Joyce Foundation.
2023 Radicle Resident Artist Eric Perez shares his work.

Resident Artists and Exhibitions and Residency Team at the 2023 Gala. From left: Eric Perez, Allison Peters Quinn, Philip Qian, Rufina Bazlova, Tran Tran, Mariela Acuna, Sofia Fernandez Diaz, Kushala Vora, and Candace Hunter.
In 2023, more than 1,000 Chicago Public Schools students from across the South Side collaborated each week with professional teaching artists to learn critical creative skills and have an experience that transcended their day-to-day. Through Pathways K-8, the Art Center partnered with 9 schools, providing on-site art instruction to 1,032 students in 39 classrooms. This is a 17% increase from the 862 students reached in the 2021-22 school year. Pathways K-8 teaching artists worked alongside classroom teachers to integrate visual arts into the curricula, whether history, science, or math. For many students, this is the only visual arts instruction they receive.

One school, Woodson Elementary, had gone 10 years without any visual arts instruction, but now through Pathways, their students receive weekly access to art materials and top-notch teaching. Prior to the Pathways partnership, Woodson did not have a dedicated space for making art. The Art Center’s Director of Partnerships, Gregory Smith, worked with school leadership to convert a portion of the library into an art room, ensuring that the students are fully equipped for their lessons. We plan to celebrate student creativity with an exhibition of their work at Woodson this school year.

Hyde Park Art Center offered an onsite after school program called Creative Crew, which provided studio time for up to 15 middle-school aged students quarterly. In the 10-week sessions, students focused on one medium, such as ceramics, pencil drawing, or painting, to enhance and articulate their artistic techniques in a safe environment for expression and self-identity. This program serves as a bridge between in-school instruction and the Art Center’s after school Teen Programs.

2023 Pathways K-8 was supported by Crown Family Philanthropies; Cynthia Heusing and David Kistenbroker; LeRoy Neiman and Janet Byrne Neiman Foundation; Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; and Polk Bros. Foundation.
Professional Pathways

The 2022 launch of Open Arts, which encompasses all of Professional Pathways classes, has cemented Hyde Park Art Center’s reputation as an accessible and diverse hub for contemporary art. This year, 67 artists enrolled in programs to push their practice and their careers to the next level. Offerings included critique-based courses such as two 10-week Bridge Programs and the Center Program, our flagship year-long seminar that offers an alternative to often cost-prohibitive MFA programs. Skill building workshops, such as Grant Writing for Artists, also continued to provide integral support for working artists.

Sylvia Gonzalez, a 2017 Center Program participant, returned to the Art Center to curate and lead the 2023 Center Program. Her leadership of this program has demonstrated the great value of artist-led programming, and of long-term engagement and career opportunities. Gonzalez’s commitment to social justice activism is reflected in a Center Program cohort with deep investments in the City of Chicago and the Art Center as sites of civic engagement. The cohort’s community-minded approach has manifested in myriad ways inside and outside of the Art Center’s walls, including sharing resources, offering studio space, and connecting with one another’s networks. Center Program artist Ameera Pernebsati recently opened a gallery space called Lys Arts where she runs workshops and displays work by other Art Center-affiliated artists.

Stop by the Art Center through February 25 to see Beneath the Visible, the culminating exhibition of the 2023 Center Program.

2023 Professional Pathways was support by Joyce Foundation and Kanter Family Foundation
2023 Bridge Program artists with Teaching Artist
Jonathan Castillo

2023 Center Program artists with lead curator,
Sylvia Gonzalez, front row, right
Artists Run Chicago Fund

Chicago has a long history of artists creating new models that lift their peers and engage their communities. Hyde Park Art Center is proud to continue that legacy with the Artist Run Chicago Fund: significant grants to small, artist-run spaces and projects across the city. 2023 was the fourth year of the program, which awards $8,000 unrestricted grants for spaces to strengthen their diverse and experimental programs. We are thrilled to share that the Art Center has now awarded a total of $1 million to more than 100 artist-run spaces.

This year, the Art Center also introduced a one-time opportunity to support distinct projects by artist-run platforms in partnership with Art Design Chicago, an initiative by the Terra Foundation of American Art. These grantees were awarded $8,000 in unrestricted support, and an additional $4,000 to present a public facing program through ADC.

Artists continue to share the deep impact of these grants. Gareth Kaye from Apparatus Projects says, “The ARC fund will grant Apparatus the financial support to more deeply consider what we do, how we do it, and where we are positioned within this particular moment of Chicago’s art historical narrative. Without this grant we would have less room to ask serious questions and take risks that matter to us.”

For a full list of grantees please visit: www.hydeparkart.org/get-involved/artist-opportunities/artists-run-chicago-fund/

2023 ARC Fund was supported by Field Foundation of Illinois; Good Chaos Foundation; and Terra Foundation for American Art.
Public Programs

Hyde Park Art Center proudly offered 42 public programs in 2023, ranging from family art-making, to artist talks. Programs were specially designed to welcome community members of all ages and levels of familiarity with contemporary art. Center Days, our flagship open-house days featuring activities throughout the building, remained a huge draw throughout the year. The July Center Day featured a live Bomba band in conjunction with Edra Soto’s exhibition. Families could head to the maraca-making activity and then use them to play along. The Art of Pride also returned for the second year featuring performances and vendors from artists in the LGBTQ+ community. The outdoor Movies in the Lot series and Teen Arts Fest rounded out a packed summer schedule.

A highlight of our winter programming were the Catwalk Concerts, a music series in partnership with Experimental Sound Studio sponsored by the Artists Run Chicago Fund. Guests enjoyed performances from experimental sound artists Allen Moore and Valencia Bey alongside illuminated video projections and film-based art on the façade of the Jackman Goldwasser Catwalk.

2023 Public Programs was supported by Jentes Family Foundation.
Children explore Edra Soto's exhibition at the July Center Day.
Chicago Civic Orchestra quartet performs music by black composers at the 2023 MLK Day Celebration
The Art Center is nothing without the support of our community. We are incredibly grateful to partner with you to stimulate and sustain the arts in Chicago.

Thank you for making our 84th year such a success.

2023 Supporters

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Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs + Special Events
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Justine Jentes + Daniel Kuruna, Jentes Family Foundation
Cari + Michael J. Sacks
Terra Foundation for American Art

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Peggy + Yung Bong Lim
Local South Foundation
Jill + Michael Lowe
Sonya Malunda + E. Charles Lampley
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$5,000-$9,999
Martin Friedman + Peggy Casey Friedman
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Kineret Jaffe + Morton Silverman
Dagmar + Bryce Albert Knorr
Timothy J. Leahy Jr. + Sara Hopkins
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$2,500-$4,999
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David Frej + Nancy Lerner Frej
Grand Victoria Foundation
Jack + Sandra Guthman
Nickol + Darrel Hackett
Krista + Merrick Hatcher
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$1,000-$2,499
Raissa Bailey
Karla H. Barry
Joseph A Batchelor
Allison Beaulieu-Cholke
Richard Born
Clea Braendel
Markell Bridges
Aaron Rodgers + Zita Brizzi
William L. Brown + Diana Young
Sally + John Carton
Thomas + Barbara Donnelley
Marilyn + Larry Fields
Nancy Fishman
Fred Burgland Construction Company
Jana French + Peter Gotsch
Thea Goodman + Eric Oliver
Kelly Grimmert + Stuart Newling
Guy Caland Puymartin + Christina Marie Kotz
Nicola Halsall + Francis Idehen
Glenn + Michelle Holland
Akiva + Martin Jacobs
Khloe U. Karova
Karen Kawashima
Sally + Jonathan Kovler
Edward + Tracy Lance
Trinita Logue
Stuart Mann
Talmadge Mason
Claire + Alex Millet
Madeline Murphy Rabb
Maria Nelson + Eli Barrows
Christina Ochs
John + Roxana Oxtoby
Joan Pantios
Daniel T. Parker
Oscar Pineda + Sonia Hernandez
Megha Ralapati + Adam Waytz
Phoebe Rice
Johanna Russ
Bruce Sagan + Bette Cerf Hill
Shanti + Ivan Samstein
Garrett + Holly Shatzer
Eva Silverman
Kate Tomford
Erica + Thomas Tully
Linda Usher + Malcolm Lambe
Eric + Cheryl Rucker Whitaker

$500-$999
Mariela Acuña
Ellyn + John Bank
Brent + Alyssa Blankenship
Tim Brown + Jill Riddell
Martin Buchheim + Cynthia Jurisson
Dahlia Gives
Amina Dickerson + Julian Roberts
Janet + Michael Dougherty
Kimberly + James Elbaor
Linda Erf Swift
Robert Flynn
Tanya Gill
Katherine Griem
Susan Hershenson + Marvin Lieberman
John Hirsch
Brooke Hummer
Candace Hunter
Lisa + Raymond McDonald
Otto Miller + Daniela Giovagnani-Miller
Robert Neer + Ann Eldridge
Anne O’Connor + Marvin Martin
Louise Pappageorge
Elizabeth Parker + Keith Crow
Richard + Hoppie Penn
Kathleen Powers
John Reppy + Anne Rogers
Melinda Ring + Michael Kaplan
Julie Roin + Saul Levmore
Kunal Sen
Linda + Mark Shapiro
Cynthia A Smith
Michael Stivel
Jeanette Tremblay + Robert Chambers
Anne Van Wart + Michael Keable
Satannia + Sylvester Williams
Nick Wiseman

$250-$499
Anonymous
Carly + Sean Biggins
Caroline Brown
Jason Dunda
Susan + Paul Freehling
Boone Gorges
Duncan + Beth Harris
Laura Kahan
Laurie LeBreton
Erik Perez
Steven Rosofsky
Bernardo + Jennifer Salazar
Howard + Roberta Siegel
Scott + Kim Stiffle
Jessica Tovrov + Tom Rodgers
Lawrence Wolin
Judith Zeitlin + Wu Hung

$100-$249
Duffie A. Adelson
James + Ruth Block
Kent Born
Laura + Kent Born
Muriel Chandler
Catherine Cheng
Michelle Collins
Marcia + Kenneth Dam
Kate Dumbleton
Melanie Deane
Rosalie + Marvin Fruchter
Margaret Graham
Thomas Gull
Joseph Hable
Nancy Hagen Goldstucker
Stephen Haswell Todd
Jayne Hileman
Jennifer Holmes
Cody Hudson
Kathy + Roger Huff
Jonathan Castillo
Jackie Kazarian + Peter Cunningham
Michael Kennedy
Laura Kofoid
Laura Kracke
Amy Lawsky
Haerim Lee
Nika Levando Berman
John + Jill Levi
Dann Liddicoatt
Brian G Lipinski
Katharine B. + Jim Mann
Sarah Mirkin
David Muschler + Ann Becker
Isobel Neal
Thea Nichols + Justin Petertil
James Parker, Jr
Nancy + Sam Peltzman
Lucy Pick
Richard + Charlene Posner
Karen Rechtschaffen
Enid + Debbie Rieser
Blanche Roberts

$1-$99
AmazonSmile Foundation
Anna Arsenault
Angelica Badillo
Jennifer G Baker
Lynn Basa
Nicholas Batiste
Sharon Brinkman
Whitney Bush
Gillion Carrara
Cisley Cemler
Virginia B. Clark
Isaiah M Davis
Robert Jay Friedman
Cheryl Gist-Williams
Howard Goldfinger
Terry + Jeffrey Greenstein
Peter Hackley
Elease Hunter-Dorsey
Cody Hurder
Kate Lorenz + Steve Nelson
Ruth Koval
Nancy J Lawrenz
Michael Leahy
Allison Li
Emilt Litten
Carla Lollar
Corinne Lyon
Mary Beth + Peter McCarthy
Ruby Ortiz
Brittney Potier
Matt Rahn
Barbara B. Randolph
Nicholas Schaaf
Lucianne Siers
Marion Sirefman
Chuck + Elizabeth Sklar
Kristin Steinke
Lois Stone
Ronald + Juanita Temple
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