

IMAGINATIONS UNLEASHED,
thanks to you.



2014-15 Annual Report

imaginationfortworth.org



IMAGINATION
FORT WORTH



Imaginations unleashed, thanks to you.



2015 *Midsummer Night's Dream* production

This year Arlington Heights High School presented William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*—with a twist. The production was set during the American Civil War, complete with period costumes, while the audience was made up of Fort Worth I.S.D. elementary school students. Future thespians learned about professional theater production and classical acting while future theater buffs explored life in the Deep South.

DREAM

Kids thrive on their opportunity to draw, dance, and dream in combination with the basic fundamentals. Imagination Fort Worth provides these important opportunities for districts who lack the budget for them.

Dear donors, partners, volunteers, and friends,

Thanks to you, in the 2014-15 program year, Imagination Fort Worth sparked the creativity of area kids. Students had more than 60,000 opportunities to draw, dance, and dream in programs that combined the basics of reading and math, science and social studies with adventures in storytelling, puppetry, and video.

Kids thrive on these experiences, but many local school districts can't provide them without our help. Their budgets don't cover the cost of providing hands-on learning with artists, actors, historians, and scientists.

We value culture in Fort Worth, and we want all area children to explore our heritage. Since 1987, Imagination Fort Worth has offered

innovative field trips and in-school programs in partnership with local arts and cultural organizations. Most of our programs—more than 95 percent—are free. Through Imagination Fort Worth, all students can experience the arts.

So thank you. Thank you for a year of transformative arts experiences. We're planning even more in 2015-16. We're working on new programs that incorporate arts and technology as well as arts and natural resources. We're also building our social media presence to increase awareness of Imagination Fort Worth in the community. And we're thrilled to create more arts experiences for area kids—more singing, more drawing, more dancing and laughing.



Lauri Bevan
Executive Director



Sid Richardson Museum Partnership Program – Integrating Arts and Social Studies

Minds blown, thanks to you.

Studies prove it: the arts support student success. Kids engaged with the arts do better in school—their grades go up and their test scores improve.

Arts education also helps level the playing field for low-income youth. Arts participation is linked to socio-economic status—kids from middle-class families are more likely to be enrolled in dance classes, visit museums, and attend theater performances. Bringing arts

into schools introduces low-income students to the same cultural experiences as their peers and provides significant intellectual benefits.

School districts want to provide arts experiences for their students, but they struggle to afford it. Arts programs and field trips are expensive, and school budgets have been cut to the bone. Many districts around Texas no longer offer field trips, or ask parents to pay for them.

OUR MISSION

Imagination Fort Worth creates mind-opening arts experiences for area students.

We provide field trips and in-school arts programs—most of them free—to local schools. We serve all Tarrant-area schools, but our primary partner is Fort Worth I.S.D., where more than 80 percent of students qualify for a free or reduced lunch. We introduce students of all income levels to the cultural riches of Fort Worth.

And we're doing it, thanks to you. Our donors make possible amazing arts encounters for Tarrant-area students.



How Americans feel about arts education*

- 93% agree the arts are vital to providing a well-rounded education for children.
- 86% agree an arts education encourages and assists in the improvement of a child's attitudes toward school.
- 83% believe that arts education helps teach children to communicate effectively with adults and peers.
- 79% agree incorporating the arts into education is the first step in adding back what's missing in public education today.

* From Sandra S. Ruppert, "Critical Evidence: How the Arts Benefit Student Achievement,"
The National Assembly of State Arts Agencies, 2006.

“Wow!” shouted, thanks to you.



2014-15 was a year of firsts for many kids.

First time acting Shakespeare.

First time watching ballet.

First time dancing a Virginia Reel.

First time exploring the banks of the Trinity.

First time painting a landscape.

First time understanding the joy art brings to life.



Elementary students attended a full-costume performance of Act III of *The Sleeping Beauty* by Texas Ballet Theater, sitting no more than 15 feet from the dancers. As well as learning about ballet, students studied the history of fairy tales and talked about why stories begin as “Once upon a time . . .”.



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Middle school students explored the Trinity River past and present in a program that combined art, science, and history. Students conducted water-quality tests on the banks of the river, learned about the founding of Fort Worth by Ripley A. Arnold, toured the exhibit “Meet Me at the Trinity: Photographs by Terry Evans” at the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, and created their own artwork, inspired by the river that flows through our hometown.



Elements of Imagination Fort Worth arts experiences

- Engage students with the arts.
- Get kids involved making or doing.
- Honor cultural diversity.
- Actively include special-needs students and kids with learning differences.
- Meet educational needs identified by teachers and district experts.
- Align with and enrich state educational standards.
- Include curriculum guides for teachers.

Connections forged, thanks to you.



Weekend for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

More than 500 deaf and hard-of-hearing high school students from across Texas travelled to Fort Worth for a weekend of performances, workshops, and events this April. At this annual event, participants forge friendships with other deaf students from around the state while interacting with professional role models who encourage them to dream and achieve.



Creativity is all about combining ideas in new ways. Imagination Fort Worth supercharges learning through programs that combine history and dance, science and theater, puppetry and language arts, math and music.

We don't just offer arts education. We create integrated arts experiences that connect different subjects and engage kids' imaginations.

And we do it all thanks to our donors, sponsors, and volunteers.



OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS— BY THE NUMBERS

Full-time staff: 2

Volunteers: 300+

Participating artists: 100+

Annual operating budget: \$450,000

Percent of budget devoted to programming, including in-kind donations: 80%

Debt: \$0

“Although research has long recognized a positive correlation between museum field trips and classroom learning, more and more classroom educators are finding themselves unable to afford buses and tour admission due to budget cuts. We are very excited to partner with Imagination Fort Worth to help change these disheartening statistics.”

Kelli Pickard

Director, Log Cabin Village



Invention Convention

Elementary and middle school students from across Fort Worth embraced creative problem-solving in this year's Invention Convention. In this popular annual contest, students identify problems and develop solutions in a challenge that incorporates engineering and design. In 2014-15, Imagination Fort Worth introduced two new cash prizes to honor creativity across disciplines, naming one student the most Art-Minded Scientist and another the most Science-Minded Artist.



Lives changed, thanks to you.



Our donors may not get to see the faces of students transfixed by their first ballet performance or absorbed in the details of an Impressionist painting, but we do. We know students wouldn't have these transformational experiences without your support.

Thank you.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Imagination Fort Worth receives numerous donations from individuals and families. We deeply appreciate this support.

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Texas Lakes Trail
Texas School for the Deaf
Texas Trail of Fame
Texas Wildlife Association
Trinity River Vision Authority
Trinity River Water District
U.S. Bureau of Engraving & Printing



Advanced student artists work alongside professionals in the annual Young Artist Apprenticeship program. Selected through a rigorous application process, twenty high school students meet for weekly sessions to develop their art portfolio as well as visit local museums and studios.

Uniting arts and minds, thanks to you.

Get involved with Imagination Fort Worth!

Without the generous gifts of time and money from our volunteers and donors, we couldn't do what we do. Get in touch today to support transformative arts experiences.

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