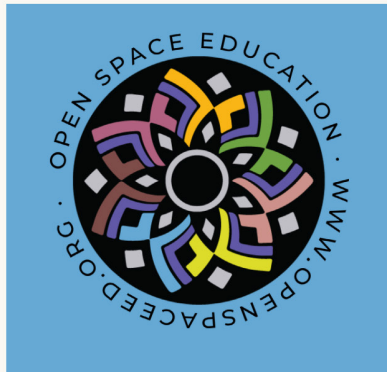
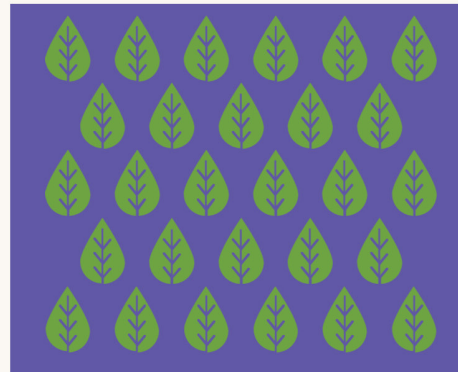




OPEN SPACE EDUCATION

2022-23 IMPACT REPORT





Teaching Artist Lil Lamberta leads students on a multimedia parade at Fonticello Park.

Dear Friend,

It is with wholehearted gratitude that I share this Impact Report. We accomplished much at Open Space Education (OSE) this fiscal year, and we know that our work was made possible by caring donors and volunteers like you.

Your generous contributions enabled us to reach more young people in Richmond Public Schools (RPS) this year than we thought possible! We're excited to share the tremendous impact you've made in our community through your support of our mission to offer equitable access to nature, art, and alternative modes of learning for our city's youth. The growth and healing that we are seeing from students as a result of our nature-based arts programming has galvanized our effort.

Thank you for continuing to work together with us to create this positive change. We truly appreciate your support!

With gratitude + curiosity,

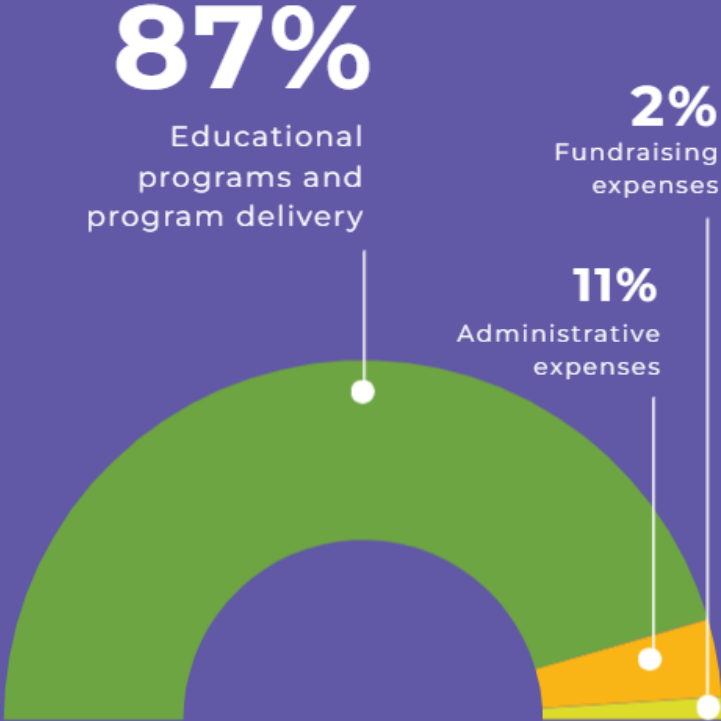
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Blythe King', written in a cursive style.

Blythe King, OSE Founder and Director



DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS RAISED

During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, we dedicated our financial focus to growing our programs and expanding the reach of our mission. Thanks to the time contributed by generous volunteers, we were able to offset expenses and use the bulk of funds raised to create and deliver meaningful educational experiences to children.





MEET SYDNEY: AN OPEN SPACE SUPERSTAR

Sydney was homeschooled before her family moved to Richmond during her 4th grade year. After enrolling at J.L. Francis Elementary, her mom noted that Sydney didn't have any accessible school-based programs that nurtured her love for art and nature. She began a search to find something to help fill the void.

Things changed when they discovered OSE. Sydney's first introduction to OSE was the GIVE + TAKE: Nature-Based Art program, and she's taken every program offered since! Now in middle school, Sydney has used some of the techniques and skills she learned during those programs to further explore. She's particularly proud of the fledgling business she created by crafting nature-inspired textiles and jewelry to sell.

“Her special interests continue to bloom, but her creativity was really sparked by Open Space.”

*-S. Carlos,
Sydney's mom*



GRANTS AWARDED

\$18,077
NextUp RVA

\$15,260
Virginia Outdoors Foundation
Get Outdoors (GO) Fund

\$13,000
Positive Youth Development Grant
(City of Richmond ARPA Funds)

\$7,375
CultureWorks
Cultural Equity Grant

\$1,500
Virginia Commission for the Arts
Arts in Education Express Grant

\$1,000
University of Richmond/
Partners In the Arts



2022-23 PROGRAM REACH



A dozen talented working artists connected with both homeschooled students and those attending Richmond Public Schools this academic year to help fill the need for enriching, alternative learning opportunities. By developing programs that ignite student creativity and connection to nature, these artists also helped to establish ongoing partnerships with:

- Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts
- Chimborazo Elementary
- Westover Hills Elementary
- MLK Middle School
- River City Middle School
- Albert Hill Middle School



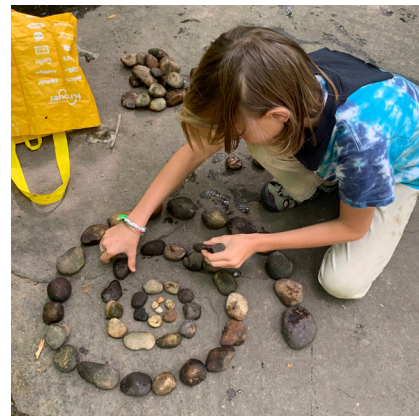
MEET ANDY: AN OPEN SPACE SUPERSTAR

10-year old Andy (right) attends Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts. His mother enrolled both Andy and his younger brother, Asa (lower left), in OSE programs to nurture their love of hands-on activities and the outdoors, but she wasn't expecting some of the other benefits that surfaced for them along the way.

Though Andy was the oldest student in some of the programs he participated in, it gave him an opportunity to serve as a model for younger students and build new leadership skills. He learned new artistic techniques, and with encouragement from staff, explored his creativity and developed a style of his own. Andy now loves learning about the work of other artists, and continues to draw inspiration from exposure to new works and materials.

“He’s taken a lot of pride in being an artist. He owns his art now, and we create together at his request.”

*-Blue S.,
Andy’s mom*



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

FUNCTIONAL CERAMICS: FROM PLANTING TO EATING is a unique 6-week educational experience, in partnership with RPS middle schools, that combines elements of nature-based learning, art education, plant cultivation, and food justice. Held outside at Fonticello Food Forest, this program aims to empower young people to understand the importance of sustainable food systems and healthy food choices.

The program starts with students learning about the art of ceramics and how to create functional pieces such as planters and dinnerware. Throughout the program, students plant, care for, and harvest their own vegetables and herbs with the guidance of community farmers and activists. Participants use the ceramics they made as planters. The program culminates in a final feast, where students prepare and serve a meal using the ingredients they grew and the dinnerware they created.

Food justice is a holistic view of the food system that sees healthy food as a human right. Students learn about the disparities that exist in access to healthy food and the importance of supporting local, sustainable food systems. This program is designed to educate and inspire the next generation of food justice advocates, empowering young people to make informed food choices that promote health and sustainability for themselves and their communities.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

GIVE + TAKE: NATURE-BASED ART is a unique offering by Open Space Education that combines art education and nature-based learning. The program is designed to amplify abilities and create breakthroughs in youth by helping students connect to the natural world through creativity and recognize their interconnection with each other.

The program consists of weekly sessions that are led by professional teaching artists. Each session is structured to be hands-on, immersive and experiential, allowing students to develop new skills and enhance their relationship with the natural world. The program also provides opportunities for students to learn from each other and develop their social-emotional skills.

Open Space Education is dedicated to providing equitable access to its programs, which is why the **GIVE + TAKE: NATURE-BASED ART** program is offered tuition-free in partnership with Richmond Public Schools. The program helps to address the unequal distribution of nature and arts experiences along lines of race and income and ensures that all students, especially those in disadvantaged communities, have access to the benefits of being in nature and engaging in art education.



2022-23 STUDENT FEEDBACK AND PERSONAL GROWTH



83%

of students **felt more confident** after their Open Space class.



86%

felt inspired to take better care of the earth after their Open Space class.



91%

of young people felt their Open Space class **increased their interest in art and nature.**



93%

said that they **learned or tried something new** in their Open Space class.



To make a
donation
or to learn
more, visit



OpenSpaceEd.org

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Richmond Public Schools

VCU ArtEd

Girls For A Change

NextUp RVA

Fonticello Food Forest

Artspace Gallery

VisArts

University of Richmond's
Partners In The Arts

Earth Folk Collective

Duron Chavis

All The Saints Theater
Company

Friends of Jefferson Park



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
for the
ARTS
arts.gov

