



Arizona School for the Arts

2022-2023 ANNUAL **REPORT**



Creative Thinkers & Leaders



ABOUT

Arizona School for the Arts is a public charter school located in downtown Phoenix that provides an innovative concentration of rigorous academic college preparation informed by the performing arts to students in grades 5-12. Established in 1995, ASA delivers a nationally recognized quality of education that inspires creative thinkers and leaders and attracts more than 800 students each year across Maricopa County.

Learn more at [GOASA.ORG](https://www.goasa.org).



MISSION

ASA inspires creative thinkers and leaders through providing an innovative concentration in college preparation informed by the performing arts.

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Arizona School for the Arts

FROM THE CEO

Dear ASA Community,

Metamorphosis, the theme and imagery of Showcase 2023, captures both the underlying essence and extraordinary evolution in ASA's growth. As a school, we have always valued innovation, the ability to be responsive and flexible while staying rooted in our foundational pillars of learning in an engaged community, being curious together, and fostering both critical thinking and creative development. Emerging into a post-pandemic era, we found ourselves needing to recommit to our foundations but also embracing the new normal. Finding the right leader in such a pivotal moment was daunting but essential. ASA was incredibly fortunate to announce our new Principal in March of 2023, Elma Džanić Bass. As a consultant working with the school already, faculty and staff were overjoyed to discover her interest in joining us permanently and leading the school. We already knew Elma to be someone who deeply understood ASA's mission, who valued community, brought fresh vision and had a demonstrated track record of leading change.

ASA has embraced the ethos of continual growth and change that we experience as people and as an institution, yet remain intertwined, connected and flourishing together like the leaves of our metamorphosis tree as they reach inward, upward, and outward to explore the world.



All my best,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Leah Fregulia".

Leah Fregulia
Head of School and CEO



BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2022-2023

The Board of Directors ensures Arizona School for the Arts stays true to its mission in all its critical strategic decisions. Their support to improve our community, campus, and position as one of the Valley's most sought-after educations is invaluable.



Dr. David Garcia
President



Alexander Laing
Vice President



Dr. Heidi Jannenga
Secretary / Treasurer



Dr. Anthony Dietz
Past President



Kevin Allen



Michelle Buckley



Andrei Cherny



Michelle Davidson



Dr. Edward Finn



Yetta Gibson



Betty Hum



Karen Lugosi



John O'Neal



Allison Otu



Nonnie Shivers



John Snider



Jeff Steinert
Honorary Faculty Board Member
Academic



Jessica Elder
Honorary Faculty Board Member
Performing Arts



Amara Washington-Bess
Honorary Student Board Member
Class of 2022

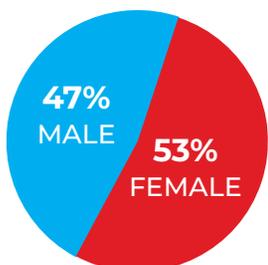


Amalia Nevarez
Honorary Student Board Member
Class of 2023



Madeline Yang
Honorary Student Board Member
Class of 2023

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DEMOGRAPHICS



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear ASA Families,

I want to thank you for embarking on a remarkable journey with me and our greater school community this year; it has been a year of bold initiatives, innovative approaches, and unwavering commitment to providing an exceptional educational experience for our students. In the spirit of growth and evolution, we worked hard to align ourselves more closely with our core values. This process allowed us to rediscover our foundational roots and articulate a vision that truly reflects who we are as a community of learners.

Our core values serve as the compass guiding our actions and decisions. Throughout the year, we rooted ourselves deeply in these values – centering our **community**, showing up with **courage**, leaning into **curiosity**, driving with **creativity**, and engaging with **care**. Each decision, initiative, and program was driven by our unwavering commitment to uphold these principles.

Centering Our Community:

At the heart of our approach is the recognition that a thriving community is the foundation of an exceptional educational experience. We centered our efforts on fostering a sense of belonging and connection among students, parents, and staff. Through collaborative events and open dialogues, we strengthened the bonds that make ASA a unique and supportive community.

Showing Up with Courage:

To be an ASA pigeon is to embody courage in the face of challenges. We encouraged our students and faculty to embrace discomfort, take academic and artistic risks, and step outside their comfort zones. This courage fueled a culture of resilience and a willingness to explore new frontiers in learning and personal growth.

Leaning into Curiosity:

Curiosity is the spark that ignites the flame of lifelong learning. We celebrated and nurtured the innate curiosity of our students,

encouraging them to ask questions, explore new ideas, and discover the joy of learning. By fostering a culture of curiosity, we empower our students to become lifelong learners and critical thinkers.

Driving with Creativity:

Creativity is at the heart of innovation. We infused our classrooms with a spirit of creativity, inspiring students to approach challenges with imaginative solutions. From project-based learning to artistic expressions, creativity became a driving force that enriched our educational landscape.

Engaging with Care:

The ASA pigeon is a symbol of care and support. This year, we placed a strong emphasis on recognizing the needs of others and offering support. Through mentorship programs, counseling services, and community outreach, we created an environment where every member feels seen, heard, and supported.

To be an ASA pigeon is to embrace the values that define us – a commitment to diversity, a spirit of curiosity, the courage to take risks, the drive to create, and the engagement with care. We are immensely proud of the accomplishments and growth we've witnessed in each student and grateful for the partnership of our dedicated families.

Thank you for entrusting us with the education and well-being of your children. We look forward to another year of collaboration, innovation, and community-building.

With gratitude,



Elma Džanić Bass
Principal





SENIOR LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION | 2022-2023

The Senior Leadership and Administration is committed to driving an equitable learning and teaching environment that inspires student growth and belonging, achieves outstanding academic and performing arts achievement, and fosters a strong and connected school community.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Leah Fregulia

Head of School and CEO

Elma Džanić Bass

Principal

Monica Anthony

Dean of Arts

Kristi Kleiser

Dean of Students

Emma Popish

Dean of Academics

Jamie Bledsoe

School Office Administrator

Eden Lewkowitz

Operations Director

Leslie Religioso

Development and Marketing Director

Elizabeth Shaw

Business Director

Carolyn Smith

Executive Assistant to the CEO and Alumni Relations Coordinator

ADMINISTRATION

Laura Apperson

Senior Accountant

Sarah Boden

Front Office

Administrative Assistant

Tisha Clark

Accountant

Veronica Cons

School Social Worker

Adam Divito

Maintenance Specialist

Jenny Kelly

Attendance Clerk and Health Center

Alva Samora

Registrar

Min Skivington

Donor Relations and Marketing Manager

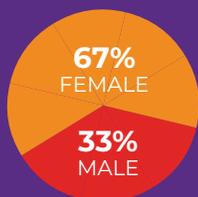
Liz Wakeford

College Counselor

Cody Wooley

Operations Assistant

Faculty members are highly-qualified to enable students to discover and embrace their academic aspirations and unique artistic talents. Many academic and arts faculty hold advanced degrees and/or are professional artists.



5% ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER

3% BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN

15% HISPANIC/LATINO

0% NATIVE AMERICAN

10% TWO or MORE/OTHER

67% WHITE

FACULTY MEMBERS

44 Full-time Academic
25 Full-time Arts
3 Part-time Arts

FACULTY DEGREES

48% Academic Bachelors
50% Academic Masters
2% Academic PhDs
21% Arts Bachelors
50% Arts Masters
21% Arts DMA

FACULTY RETENTION

73% Academic
93% Arts

RECOGNITION | 2022-2023

A RATING

Arizona Department of Education
2022-23

RANKED #1

BEST HIGH SCHOOL FOR ARTS IN AZ
Niche.com, 2022-23

TOP 15

BEST ARIZONA HIGH SCHOOLS
BEST PHOENIX METRO HIGH SCHOOL
U.S. News and World Report, 2022-23

TOP 40

BEST ARIZONA CHARTER
MIDDLE SCHOOL
U.S. News and World Report, 2022-23

TOP 100

BEST U.S. CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL
U.S. News and World Report, 2022-23

2023 AP HONOR ROLL - GOLD 2023 AP ACCESS AWARD

Recognition for developing an AP program that creates a college-bound culture and gives students opportunities to earn college credit and to maximize their college outcomes. ASA was also honored with the AP Access Award for ensuring AP coursework is equally available to students no matter their backgrounds.

ACCREDITATIONS

cognia

rmacac

Rocky Mountain
Association for College Admission Counseling



FACULTY | 2022-2023

Dedicated to the highest standards in teaching that set ASA apart, our teachers inspire the next generation of creative thinkers, leaders, and performing artists!

BAND

Dr. Thomas Breadon
Ashley Burrows
Natalie Gallatin
Elizabeth Guzman
Derek Sanchez

CHOIR

Dana Bender
Dr. Josef Curtis
Jessica Elder
Katherine Rosenfeld

DANCE

Talia Boresow
Gillmer Duran
Gia Firicano
David Krensing
Yumi La Rosa
Kleiton Sistélos

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Dianna Bellian
Collin Clark
Ginette Guarino-Rossi
Erin Jonas
Kristi Kleiser
Teresa Layden
Jessy Richards
Diane Wolin

EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

Roy Banuelos
Danielle Carranza
Adhieu Cithec
Hollie Paquin
Jennifer Vanderslice Colonna

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Rebecca Kendall
Byron Miles
Ramón Miranda
Daniel Monsalve Ruiz

GUITAR

Joshua Pierce
Dr. Erik Sloyka

LIFE SKILLS

Lucille Berk
Lizzie Pompa
Jessica Wooley
Maria Zamarron

MATH

Camille Dominguez
Andrew Doumakes
Dr. Charles Hopkins
David Kenton
Arman Markosyan
Carly McClain
Andrei Neag
Robert Tolar

PIANO

Dianne Cangelosi
Aiko Yamada Mancini
Dr. Elias-Axel Pettersson
Angelica Prado-Stern

SCIENCE

Kate Miele
Connie Padian
JoAnne Palmer
Kaitlyn Rose
Jeff Steinert
Faith Taylor
Beth Wootten
Emma Wisehart

SOCIAL STUDIES

Kimberly Brown
Pat Drahrman
Karl Huck
Richard Livoni
Liz Sparks
Lisa Speck
Marissa Watson
Roy Wilkins

STRINGS

Mila Crise Gallardo
Maria Simiz
Dagmara Suchon
Dr. Allyson Wuenschel

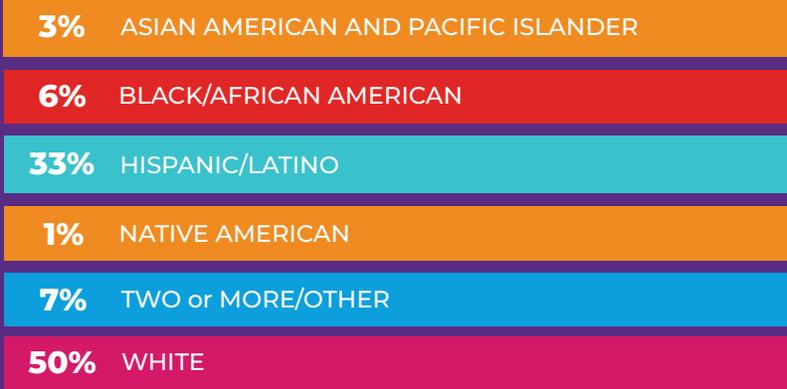
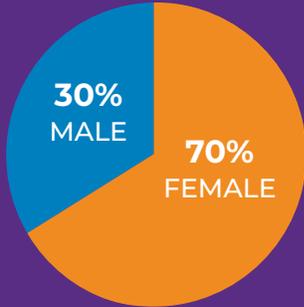
THEATRE

Robert Chambers
Dr. Craig Kosnik
Elisa Kurbat
Melissa Rex



STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS | 2022-2023

812
ASA STUDENTS



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT | 2022-2023

SAT RESULT (Average Scores)	ASA	NATIONAL
READING/WRITING	632	520
MATH	584	508

AP COURSEWORK (Grades 10-12)	
STUDENTS ENROLLED	143
EXAMS TAKEN	215
PERCENT OF PASSING GRADES (3+)	67%
AP SCHOLARS	18
WITH HONORS & WITH DISTINCTION	19

ACT RESULT (Average Scores)	ASA	NATIONAL
ENGLISH	23.8	18.6
READING	24.3	20.1
MATH	21.6	19.0
SCIENCE	21.7	19.6
COMPOSITE	23	19.5

PERFORMANCE & EXTRACURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

ASA's artistic scholars excelled in music, dance, and theatre competitions and performances at the state, regional, and school levels, earning recognition for their outstanding performances. These achievements are a testament to the school's dedication to the arts and its caliber of performing arts faculty and programs. Additionally, ASA boasts an active student body that participates in more than 40 extracurricular and co-curricular clubs, ranging from award-winning competitive clubs to student government, student unions, interest clubs, and honor societies. Here are just a few notable accomplishments and recognitions achieved by students, groups, and ensembles in the past year.



1) In September 2022, the ASA Mock Trial Team participated in the highly prestigious **Yale Mock Trial Bulldog Invitational** and made their mark by winning the 6th-place trophy. The competition brought together around 160 high school students from some of the nation's best high school mock trial teams and fostered a better understanding of and appreciation for mock trial.



2) The ASA Model UN Team participated in the **MUN Westwood Conference** on October 29, 2022.

The conference was attended by approximately 300 delegates hailing from 16 different schools to discuss and debate various global issues. Sienna Morrison '26 was awarded the Runner-Up Best Delegate for the UNHCR committee. Meanwhile, Ahuitzilin Enrique '24 was awarded the Best Delegate and Runner-Up Best Policy Statement for the UNICEF Committee.



3) The **Fall & Spring Department Series** performances aim to showcase the growth and progress of ASA students in seven performing arts disciplines. These performances demonstrate ASA's dedication to nurturing creativity, development, and artistic expression. Every ASA student

performs as part of their performing arts learning in music, dance, or theatre. There were over 50 performances this past year!



4) ASA's Cross Country team competed at the **CAA Cross Country State Championship** on November 5, 2022, with a total of 20 athletes across the Girls & Boys Junior High and Varsity Divisions. The team put up an impressive showing, with the Varsity girls finishing in 4th place and the Junior High girls finishing in 10th place. Several standout performances were also recognized, including those by Olinmazatemictli (Maza) Reyes '23 and Imogen Dietz '23; Clare Lueken; and Lucas Gardner '24 who all made the Roadrunner All-Region Team.



5) The Signature Series

performances are an exhibition of the exceptional talents of ASA students, and they often offer the opportunity for collaboration among different performing arts disciplines. These performances showcase innovative choreography, musical scores, and acting performances. ASA was proud to present its 2022-2023 **Signature Series** Season to the wider community, which culminated in the year-end **Showcase** event on June 1, 2023.

The Addams Family

November 3 - 6, 2022

Fall Dance Recital

November 30, 2022

Choral Collage

December 6, 2022

Masterworks

February 28, 2023

Spring Dance Recital

March 29, 2023

The Women of Provincetown Players

March 30 - April 2, 2023



6) ASA Middle School Robotics, comprised of 26 students from grades 5 to 8, performed exceptionally well at the December **2022 FIRST® LEGO® League Challenge** qualifying tournament. The team won three awards, namely Robot Design, Core Values, and Innovation Project Awards. Additionally, three teams - The Generators, The Energized Capacitors, and Team Energin Cubed - advanced to compete in the 2023 State Tournament, where they took home awards. The Electric Taki Eels team also contributed significantly to the academic club's season success.



7) ASA Band students, directed by Dr. Thomas Breadon, participated in the **ABODA Fall Concert Band Festival** on December 2, 2023. The Chamber Winds ensemble received an "Excellent with Recognition" award for their skills and musicianship.



8) At the **2023 FIRST® Tech Challenge State Competition**, two ASA High School Robotics teams – Power Outage and Voltage – competed and demonstrated exceptional teamwork and skill. Team Power Outage, won the 1st Place Promote Award, Judge's Choice Award, and 2nd Place Motivate Award. These achievements showcase both teams' creativity and dedication toward promoting STEM education and inspiring others to pursue their passion for robotics.



9) Eight high school students from ASA participated in the **AZ Thespians Regional Festival** on January 21, 2023. They competed in 13 different events and earned 10 'Superior' ratings, which qualified them for the national festival in June 2023. Congratulations to Tessa Brethowr, Ashleigh Herek, and

PERFORMANCE & EXTRACURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

Tess Snider (Class of '23) and Ian Gray, Adam Kurbat, Star Mahoney, Morgan Massey, and Anyiah Smith (Class of '24).



10) The 63rd Annual Phoenix Youth Symphony Orchestra Young Musicians Competition

announced the winners in both Senior and Junior Divisions. ASA student Abraham Kim was awarded 1st Place and the Jean & Robert Frankenberger Grand Prize in the Senior Division, while ASA students Jayden Yoneyama '30 (pictured), and cellist Justin Kang '28, won in the Junior Division for violin and cello.



11) Model UN Students continued to impress with accomplishments at the **Sonoran Desert MUN Conference at Maricopa Community College** held on February 2023. Several students were recognized: Maza Reyes '23 - Distinguished Delegate;

[12]

Lauren Lane-Snider '24 - Distinguished Delegate, UNICEF Runner-Up Best Delegates, and Runner-up Best Diplomat; Ian Elder '24 and Carmen Duerinckx '24 - Security Council Best Policy Statement.



12) ASA Chamber Singers, under the direction of Ms. Dana Bender, along with the talented faculty of the Choral Department, achieved the highest rating of "Superior" at the **43rd Annual Northern Arizona University Vocal Jazz Madrigal Festival**, one of the largest festivals of its kind in the United States.



13) ASA World Guitar students, under the direction of Mr. Joshua Piece, achieved the highest rating of "Superior with Distinction" at the (ABODA) **Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association Area Guitar Festival** on February 15, 2023.



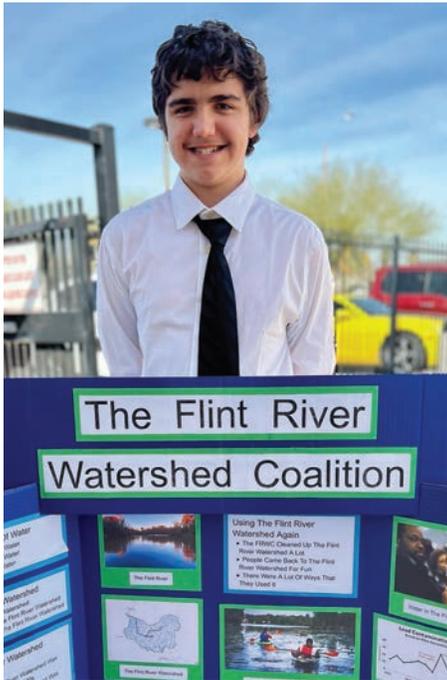
14) The Arizona Young Artists' Competition

provides an opportunity for artists to compete in the disciplines of Dance, Classical Voice, Musical Theatre Voice, and Acting. The annual competition allows young Arizona artists to experience the audition process and garner productive feedback and pertinent experience through adjudication by highly regarded arts professionals. The 2023 Dance category was won by Ellery Donlon '23.



15) Three ASA Mock Trial teams participated in the **AZ High School Mock Trial All-Region Tournament** and went on to compete in the State Competition held in March 2023. Team 1, consisting of Pilar Carlisle, Imogen Dietz, Maddie Rossi, Jojo Raia '23, Sara Iyer, and MaeYa Kotter ('24) placed

an impressive 4th Place in the State. Additionally, Saige Douglas '24, from Team 2, was selected for the All-State team.



16) March marks 3QP at ASA! The **3rd Quarter Presentation (3QP)** project is an annual learning experience for all students in grades 5 to 12. It is an integrated project designed at each grade level and begins with topic selection, research questions, and evaluating sources. Students are guided through in-depth research, personal analysis, and organizational strategies to develop a 5-10 minute presentation with a visual aid that is presented to a panel of their parents and teachers. It is a valuable and formative experience that unites students through the years and is ranked as the most important experience by ASA alumni.



17) On March 31, 2023, ASA Percussion students traveled to Tucson to participate in the **13th Annual Field of Steel**, along with several other area schools. The students, under the guidance of Ms. Liz Guzman, had the opportunity to experience the rich traditions of Trinidad and Tobago by performing traditional soca and calypso music, as well as original works for the steel pan ensemble and popular American music. The event also featured a special guest artist, Liam Teague, from Northern Illinois University.



AMEA Middle School All-State Festivals

- 11 students made All-State Band, with 3 students claiming 1st Chair Overall
- 12 students All-State Orchestra



AMEA Middle School Solo & Ensemble Festival

- Zev Levin-Pilafian '30 Euphonium, Superior with Distinction
- Alice Elder '28 Percussion, Superior
- Rob Foley '28 Percussion, Superior

AMEA High School All-State Festivals

All-Region Band

4 Band Students

All-Region Choir

7 Choral Students, with one claiming 1st Chair

All-Region Orchestra

8 Orchestra students, with two claiming 1st Chair & two claiming 2nd Chair and 2nd Chair Alternate

All-State Band

1 Percussion Student

All-State Choir

5 Choral Students, with one claiming Tier 2 soprano solo

All-State Orchestra

3 Orchestra Students, with one claiming 1st Chair (violin) and 2nd alternate (Bass); Two claiming Best in Class Solo (piano) and Best in Class Solo (cello)

Tier 3 AMEA Honors Recital

- Dan Kang '25 Piano Solo

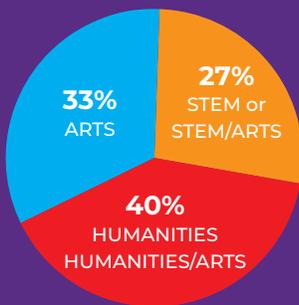
Tier 2 AMEA Solo

- Eva Pombo '26 Soprano
- Dan Kang '25 Piano Solo
- Abraham Kim '28 Cello

CLASS OF 2023 PROFILE



DIVERSE INTERESTS AND PURSUITS



INTENDED MAJORS

74 SENIORS

100% GRADUATION RATE

97% COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR CONSERVATORY BOUND

15% FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

MORE THAN **80%** ACCEPTED TO **TOP 3** COLLEGE CHOICES

1 NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST

3 NATIONAL HISPANIC RECOGNITION AWARDEES (NHRA)

28 ARIZONA ARTS SEAL RECIPIENTS

11 ARIZONA SEAL OF BILITERACY

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2023!

COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY & CONSERVATORY ACCEPTANCES



American University
Arizona State University
& Barrett Honors College
Baldwin Wallace
Ball State University
Bard College
Berklee College of Music
Boston Conservatory at Berklee
Boston University
Brandeis University
California Polytechnic State
University
Chapman University
Clemson University
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Cornell University
DePaul University
Embry Riddle University
Fordham University
Fordham University - Alvin Ailey
Dance Program
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Grand Canyon University
Hampshire College
Hartt School
Haverford College
Hawai'i Pacific University
Ithaca College
Mesa Community College
Montclair State University

New York Institute of Technology
New York University
Northeastern University
& Honors College
Northern Arizona University
Oberlin College and
Conservatory
Oklahoma City University
Penn State University
Phoenix College
Point Park University
Prescott College
Princeton University
Reed College
Rider University
Royal Northern College of Music
Royal Welsh College of
Music and Drama
San Diego State University
Sarah Lawrence University
School of Art Institute of
Chicago (SAIC)
Scottsdale Culinary Institute
Southern Methodist University
State University of NY - Purchase
College
Syracuse University
Texas Christian University
Texas State University
The New School
Tufts University
University of Arizona -
W.A. Franke Honors College

University of California -
San Diego
University of California -
Santa Barbara
University of Colorado - Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Hartford
University of Massachusetts -
Boston
University of Massachusetts -
Amherst
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of New Hampshire
University of North Dakota
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of Rhode Island
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of Southern California -
Gloria Kaufman School
of Dance
University of Texas
University of the Arts
University of Utah
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
Vassar College

METAMORPHOSIS: AN ARIZONA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS SHOWCASE

JUNE 1, 2023 | PHOENIX ART MUSEUM + CENTRAL CHURCH



Arizona School for the Arts
SHOWCASE



Showcase, ASA's annual year-end tradition, was once again a truly immersive and unforgettable experience that left attendees feeling uplifted, inspired, and connected to the vibrant community of performers and supporters that make up ASA.

More than **1,400** attendees and audience members were fully immersed in **23** performing events and over 17 hours of performance content. The performances, centered on growth and transformation, were carefully crafted to provoke thought and inspire attendees. Showcase featured more than **560** student performers representing all **7** performing arts disciplines, including band, choir, dance, guitar, piano, strings, and theatre. The audience was filled with enthusiastic students, parents, families, faculty, staff, alumni, sponsors, and community members, who were all captivated by the diverse range of performances. In addition to the inspiring shows, attendees experienced a variety of academic and extracurricular club installations and poetry readings that showcased the unique and diverse interests of ASA students.

We were also proud to recognize notable ASA alumni, including Mark Jacobson '07, Scott Fitsimones '15, and Rachel Procter-Murphy '16, who were honored as the **2023 Distinguished Alum Honorees** and **2023 Rising Star Alum Honoree**, respectively.

With gratitude to our 2023 Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor



Main Stage Sponsors



THE
Song-Nichols
FAMILY

Interactive Stage Sponsors

Betty L. Hum Photography
L. Roy Papp & Associates LLP
Osborn Maledon
Polsinelli
Quarles
Rizing Tide Foundation

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT | 2022-2023

2023 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HONOREES



Mark Jacobson | Class of 2007

With a sense of humor and a respect for the craft that shines through all of his stage, screen, voiceover, and improv work, Mark Jacobson is an actor to watch, both figuratively and literally. As his performance footprint increases, the qualities that made Mark the epitome of an ASA student become apparent to a growing audience. You may have seen him in various guest roles on *NCIS: Los Angeles*, *FBI*, and *This is Us*, among many others, or heard his voice as PEGS1 on *I Am Frankie* without even knowing it, but 2022 was the biggest year in his career...so far. In November, Mark played Gabe Kaplan in the premiere episode of Hulu's *Welcome to Chippendales* and then had a supporting lead role as Jet in *The 12 Days of Christmas Eve* starring Kelsey Grammar and Spencer Grammar. All of this was on the heels of a supporting lead role in the September released Morgan Freeman-Josh Hutcherson feature film, *57 Seconds*, playing Josh's best friend.

It's not just work on the large and small screen in which Mark excels. He is also an accomplished stage actor with roles in everything from world premiere theater to Shakespeare, making excellent use of his training with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts, Upright Citizens Brigade, and The Groundlings alongside his Bachelor of Arts degree in Acting from the USC School of Theatre.

Mark is a cast member of *Coeurage Ensemble*, a "pay what you want performance ensemble" that is committed to bringing theater performance to Los Angeles and online audiences. During the pandemic, Mark spearheaded The NOMAD Project: Location-Inspired Stories for Coeurage, a series of 10-15 minute original audio plays that takes the listener on snapshot visits to different locations around L.A. Visit goasa.org/alumni to read an interview catching up with Mark about his experiences as a working actor.



Scott Fitsimones | Class of 2015

"I'm Scott, a startup founder in San Francisco. I started building iPhone apps in my spare time, as an escape from doing my music school's homework." – scott.xyz

It's not precisely what one would want to hear from the music school in question, but it certainly demonstrates the Curiosity, Individuality, Critical Thinking, Creativity, and Innovation pieces of ASA's Core Values. Homework aside, Scott earned a Flinn Foundation scholarship to attend college. Majoring in Computer Science at Arizona State University, he met Jonathon Barkl and Chelsea Boarder, and together they co-founded AirGarage, an online marketplace connecting parking space owners and drivers, in 2017. While still in college, the trio saw a need to supply more affordable parking for ASU students and employees alongside empty driveways belonging to Tempe residents and began making connections between the two. In an interview for *VoyagePhoenix* in March 2018, Scott shared, "Success for

ASA ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

As our school grows, so do our student and family alumni groups. If you are a student alum or parent of an alum, we invite you to visit ASA or attend traditions like Showcase and other events that help build and maintain these important connections.

Visit goasa.org/alumni for more alumni features, updates on ways to connect, and sign up for our quarterly ASA Alumni Pigeon Post e-newsletter – for both student alumni and parent alumni.

our AirGarage marketplace has a few definitions. It's how many people's lives we touch, how many people we help save a few extra dollars so they can get a movie ticket instead of burning it on parking. For us, it means expanding to the entire southwest, soon Tucson and the UC schools." Today, success means more than a million uses of AirGarage by drivers across 30 North American cities and millions of dollars in outside investment, earning Scott, Jonathon, and Chelsea a spot on Forbes' "30 Under 30" list this year.

A big picture, long-term thinker, Scott views AirGarage not simply as a business opportunity but as a way to help make cities better by fully utilizing the spaces built as mandated by parking minimums and reducing the urban sprawl of more parking. But, what do you do when zoning laws make that effort impossible? Scott's answer was founding CityDAO, a decentralized autonomous organization devoted to purchasing land with the view to building a city that is blockchain-governed by its citizens. The collective has already purchased land in Wyoming and, more recently, in Colorado. Scott was invited to speak about his vision at TED2022 and, in general, what DAOs could mean in the future; he followed up with the publication of *The DAO Handbook: How Internet Strangers Are Building Collective Movements*.

Keep up with Scott on www.scott.xyz or watch his 2022 TEDTalk at bit.ly/fitsimonedtalk2022.



2023 RISING STAR ALUMNI HONOREE

Rachel Procter-Murphy
Class of 2016

It is somehow fitting that this year's Rising Star honoree is studying Astrophysics. Like many children, Rachel says that she was fascinated by space and would have liked to be an astronaut, but it wasn't until Jeff Steinert's class that she became interested in Physics.

Currently a Ph.D. student in Physics at the University of Maryland, Rachel had the opportunity to participate in a series of complementary analyses for the IceCube Neutrino Observatory at the South Pole following the sighting of one of the closest and brightest gamma-ray bursts of all time in October of last year. The analyses focused on neutrino emissions from the gamma-ray burst, and the resulting whitepaper was released in *The Astrophysical Journal* Letters on March 28th, with an accompanying press release from the IceCube Observatory.

She acknowledges that ASA's unique mission helped play a role in getting to this point in her education, "ASA's 'Arts + Smarts' allowed me to develop skills such as public speaking and effective writing that are

not always taught (or taught well) in some STEM disciplines. After six years of third-quarter presentations, recitals, and several musical theater performances, I learned how to perform under pressure and pivot when things don't go according to plan." She also has fond memories of the teachers who helped stimulate her curiosity, from 8th grade Math teacher Mr. Kirkman to Mr. Tolar in calculus, who showed her the answers to the questions raised by Mr. Kirkland, to Mr. Steinert, who always fostered her curiosity and encouraged her to pursue physics.

Rachel has work ahead before achieving her doctorate, but sees the possibilities in front of her, "There are a lot of things I am interested in, so I could see myself pursuing several different paths. The two main ones I am currently considering are staying in academia and becoming a professor or doing research for NASA or a private space company." But one thing she will always have is her natural curiosity which she says has been one of her main motivators driving her to seek answers and then keep going. She explained that, in her experience, scientific discovery only raises more questions and said that it is something that is best explained by a quote from the educationalist Earl C. Kelley, "The answers we have found only serve to raise a whole set of new questions. In some ways, we feel we are as confused as ever, but we believe we are confused on a higher level and about more important things."

LEADERSHIP & DONOR HIGHLIGHT | 2022-2023

Dr. Anthony Dietz and Dr. Susan Pepin

What brought you to Arizona School for the Arts?

When we arrived from New Hampshire in the fall of 2015, our fifth and eighth-grade girls faced a bewildering array of school choices. Then we met Javier and Jennifer Cárdenas, and they told us about this downtown school that integrated academics and the performing arts. Intrigued, we went for a visit and encountered classrooms with engaged articulate students and a campus brimming with music, song, and dance. We met Leah, who described ASA as a “unicorn school”, whose blend of academics and the arts encouraged creativity, dedication, and discipline, which enabled students to punch well above their weight in any endeavor they chose. We were hooked, and decided to go all in.

How would you describe your family's ASA experience? How has ASA impacted your children's lives, both academically and artistically?

It was rewarding to watch both Grace '20 and Imogen '23 bloom at ASA, each in their own way. ASA's small and supportive environment gave them opportunities to find their voices and discover qualities that might have



been drowned out in a larger, less flexible school. They founded clubs, captained teams, competed in robotics, mock trial, and cross country, all while working hard on their academics and playing cello and oboe in the orchestra. But most of all, through a very difficult and turbulent time (the Covid-19 Pandemic), ASA leaders, teachers, staff, students, and families all modeled how to bravely face problems with a growth mindset, while striving to behave in a responsible, kind, and accepting manner.

Can you share what they are doing now as ASA alums and what you are most proud of as they become young adults?

Grace is in her senior year at Yale, majoring in environmental science. Her senior thesis research project is on the Alewife fish population in Connecticut, and she plans to continue chasing her newfound interest in fish by spending this summer working on an Alaskan fishing boat. Imogen is in her first year of an Urban Planning major at Cornell,

pursuing an interest that was sparked by her ASA senior 3QP on urban heat islands. As parents, we are incredibly proud of how our daughters are continuing to learn and to apply their knowledge and talents to better the world and be better in the world.

As parents, both of you have been actively involved with ASA, contributing your time and resources. Tony, you coached Robotics and Cross-Country for several years, in addition to serving on the Board of Directors and as Board President from 2020-2022. What inspired you to volunteer your time?

We were inspired by ASA's mission, which really resonated with us and with what we hoped for our daughters. We saw how great the school was, but also saw areas we could contribute. Once we started getting involved, we found out that our interests and expertise matched some of ASA's gaps and needs. At first, Tony helped apply his engineering training to help out with the robotics team. Later, when he complained to Javier about ASA's lack of a cross-country team, Javier challenged him to start one. Leah was supportive, and the assumption that arts kids weren't into sports was refuted when fifty students showed up to the first practice and when ASA teams and athletes went on to win regional and state

championships. In her turn, Sue was able to apply her medical training to advise the health and wellness committee. It has been wonderful watching other ASA parents and community members apply their talents and training to help the school: lawyers coaching mock trial, architects contributing to school construction projects, doctors advising on health and wellness, photographers capturing priceless images, and many, many more pitching in wherever they can.

Why was it important for your family to participate and give to the ASA Annual Fund?

Our ASA participation really brought home the old adage—you get from something what you put into it. ASA gave us the chance to be really involved in our daughters' education, and in so doing, we ourselves were enriched. When we arrived at ASA, we were astonished to learn that Arizona was near or at the bottom of all the states in per-student funding, and at the same time, we were impressed that ASA could offer so much to its students. On joining the board, Tony asked the then board president, Dan Schay, what the school's biggest challenge was. "Funding," he answered, and it has remained a perennial problem, with the school relying on parents and other generous contributors

to make up the difference between what the State provides and what the school needs for its thriving arts program. At the time, the rate of giving among families wasn't close to full involvement, which in turn made others less inclined to give. We came to appreciate a new culture of giving at ASA, with everyone contributing what they could for the good of all the students. This led to a tangible sense of community and pride in the success of every ASA student. For us, this was the biggest benefit of participating in the Annual Fund.

Lastly, any stand-out memories from your family's or students' time at ASA?

There are so many stand-out memories from our family's time at ASA: dancing cellists at Showcase; Grace entering home straight in the lead and then powering up the hill to win the Cross Country State Championship, and then Nora Muma repeating the feat five years later; Imogen and the 'Bees' celebrating when they learned they would be going to the Worlds Robotics competition; Grace improving her 3QP delivery after advice from Maria Simiz to treat it like a cello performance with a measured cadence; Imogen giving her opening statement at Mock Trial in the court house; and getting to watch each graduating class shine.



WITH GRATITUDE | 2022-2023

We are deeply grateful for the generous contributions of parents, grandparents, student and parent alumni, faculty, staff, and community champions. **Thank you for helping us make a brighter future for our students and the world they will shape.**

Donors who are identified with a 🎵 symbol have contributed a gift in support of the 2023 - 2024 School Year during the 2022 - 2023 Fiscal Year. It's important to note that this contribution is not included in their cumulative Circle of Giving identification for this Annual Report.

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We express our gratitude to our leadership donors who have contributed **\$2,000 or more** and recognize them for their generous support. Thank you for being the driving force behind our mission and inspiring the next generation of creative thinkers and leaders.

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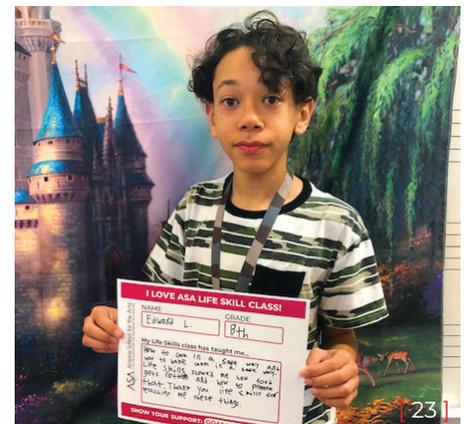


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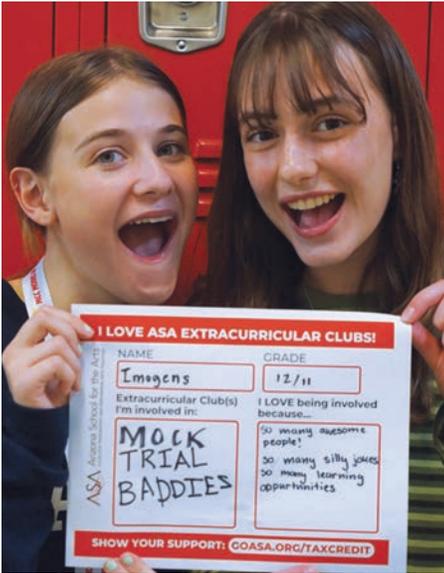
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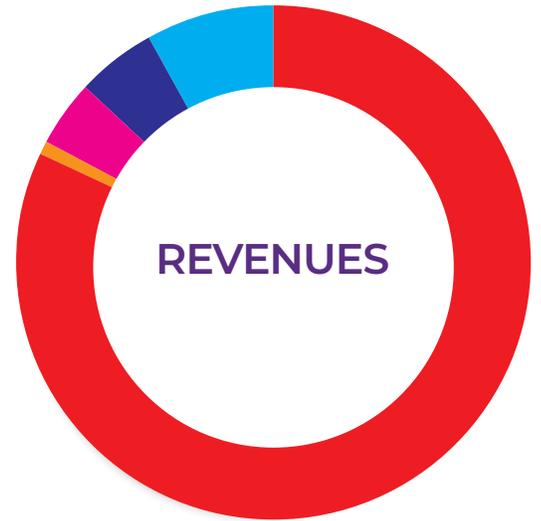
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FINANCIALS | 2022-2023

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position Year Ended June 30, 2023.



State Sources (Per Pupil)	82%
Fundraising	8%
CARES & ESSER Grants	4%
School Activities	5%
Federal & State Grants	1%



Salaries & Benefits	66%
Academic, Arts, Student & Admin	14%
Facilities	6%
Bonds-Interest and Expenses	12%
School Activities	1%
Fundraising	1%

FINANCIALS | 2022-2023

Consolidated Statement of Activities Year Ended June 30, 2023

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:			
State aid	\$ 7,324,432	\$ 844,608	\$ 8,169,040
Grants	553,068		553,068
Tax credit contributions		138,946	138,946
Contributions - other	629,718		629,718
Student activities	457,671		457,671
Investment income, net	3,377		3,377
Miscellaneous revenues	62,201		62,201
Net assets released from restrictions	1,049,240	(1,049,240)	
Total revenue and support	10,079,707	(65,686)	10,014,021
EXPENSES:			
Salaries	4,840,518		4,840,518
Payroll taxes and benefits	1,373,940		1,373,940
Professional services	933,130		933,130
Instructional supplies	446,204		446,204
General supplies	135,082		135,082
Printing and postage	5,450		5,450
Equipment rental	42,341		42,341
Repairs and maintenance	147,950		147,950
Dues and fees	19,993		19,993
Insurance	49,145		49,145
Travel, training and related	18,888		18,888
Utilities	167,456		167,456
Student activities	48,265		48,265
Interest expense	726,357		726,357
Depreciation	405,052		405,052
Space rent	39,009		39,009
Amortization of deferred charges	18,160		18,160
Miscellaneous expense	34,236		34,236
Bond related fees	5,000		5,000
Total expenses	9,456,176		9,456,176
Change in net assets	623,531	(65,686)	557,845
Net assets (deficit), beginning of year	(246,618)	110,128	(136,490)
Net assets, end of year	\$ 376,913	\$ 44,442	\$ 421,355

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position Year Ended June 30, 2023.

ASSETS

Current assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,328,158
Restricted cash	26,468
Due from government	167,001
Prepaid interest	158,230
Prepaid expenses	29,968
Total current assets	3,709,825

Other assets

38,947

Property and equipment, net:

Land and land improvements	5,251,672
Buildings and improvements	12,315,677
Site improvements	351,613
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment	1,883,620
Construction in progress	148,474
Less accumulated depreciation	(5,531,587)
Total property and equipment, net	14,419,469

Total assets

\$ 18,168,241

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable	\$ 146,633
Accrued payroll and related	393,108
Accrued interest	59,756
Other liabilities	14,148
Long-term debt, current portion	523,787
Total current liabilities	1,137,432

Other long-term liabilities 24,798

Long-term debt, net 16,584,656

Total liabilities 17,746,886

Net assets

Without donor restrictions 376,913

With donor restrictions 44,442

Total net assets 421,355

Total liabilities and net assets

\$ 18,168,241

ANNUAL GIVING

Every gift, volunteer, and support from our community makes a difference. Arizona School for the Arts relies on this ongoing generosity to build, sustain, and further elevate the level of excellence in our performing arts and academic programming. ***Thank you for providing all ASA students the opportunity to grow and thrive in countless areas!***



ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GIVE

**VOLUNTEER
YOUR TIME**



BOX TOPS



COMMUNITY GIVING

**EMPLOYER
MATCHING
GIFTS**




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LEGACY GIFTS**

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SUPPORT EVENTS**

Arizona School for the Arts
SHOWCASE

ASA | Signature Series
PERFORMANCE EVENT



**STUDENT AND PARENT
ALUMNI GIVING**

**GIFTS OF
SECURITIES**




**DEDICATION
TRIBUTE GIFTS**



#ArtsandSmarts

ASA Amphitheatre
*An illuminated glimpse
into 2023 - 2024*





2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT
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