



2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Creative Thinkers & Leaders



Arizona School for the Arts



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 **Executive Director**

Dear Arizona School for the Arts Community,

For 30 years, Arizona School for the Arts has stood as a testament to what is possible when rigorous academics and exceptional performing arts are brought together with purpose and passion. Year after year, ASA has earned an A-rating whenever state ratings have been issued. Our graduates have consistently gained admission to top colleges and universities across the country, and today, our alumni are making meaningful contributions as leaders, artists, professionals, and changemakers around the world. These accomplishments are a source of immense pride—and a reflection of the extraordinary students, families, faculty, staff, and supporters who define ASA.

At the same time, we are navigating a rapidly changing and increasingly competitive K-12 education landscape in Arizona. Like many schools across the state, ASA has experienced enrollment declines. The reasons are complex: shifting demographics and a reduction in school-aged children, along with the expansion of Empowerment Scholarship Accounts, have created more options for families while the overall pool of students is decreasing. These realities challenge us—but they also present an opportunity.

Because while the environment around us is changing, one thing remains constant: ASA's best years are ahead.

We will always remain grounded in our mission—delivering a rigorous academic experience alongside a strong, transformative performing arts education. There is no other school in Arizona that brings these two elements together as effectively as ASA. That identity will not change. But as we look to the future, we must also be willing to reimagine what ASA can be for the next 30 years.

This means ensuring that our facilities reflect the excellence our students demonstrate every day—spaces that allow them to fully develop and showcase their talents. It means rethinking how we deliver learning: expanding course offerings, increasing program flexibility, creating meaningful internship opportunities, and building innovative partnerships that connect our students to the world beyond our campus. These are not distant ideas—they are priorities already underway, and they will be a central focus of our work in the year ahead.

What will emerge is an ASA that is stronger, more innovative, and more responsive to the needs of today's students and families—while remaining deeply rooted in the mission that has defined us since the beginning.

As we reflect on our past and embrace our future, I am filled with gratitude and optimism. The foundation we have built over the last three decades is extraordinary. And together, we will ensure that the next 30 years are even more impactful.

Thank you for being part of the ASA community and for believing in what is possible.



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Lujan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "L" and "J".

David Lujan

Executive Director | Arizona School for the Arts

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS | 2024-2025

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. Heidi Jannenga
President



Allison Otu
Vice President



Betty Hum
Secretary / Treasurer



Leola Abraham



Melvin Brown



Michelle Buckley



Andrei Cherny



Michelle Davidson



Carrie Larson



Michael Medici, AIA



Dr. Lorisa Pombo



Nonnie Shivers



John Snider



Scott Stone



Annette Zinky



Karl Huck
Honorary Faculty Board Member
Academic



Elizabeth Guzman
Honorary Faculty Board Member
Performing Arts

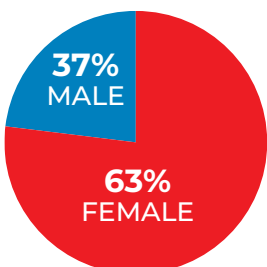


Eva Luz Pombo
Honorary Student Board Member
Class of 2024



Liam Wohlert
Honorary Student Board Member
Class of 2024

BOARD OF DIRECTORS DEMOGRAPHICS







OUR CORE VALUES

WE CENTER **COMMUNITY**

WE SHOW UP WITH **COURAGE**

WE LEAN INTO **CURIOSITY**

WE DRIVE WITH **CREATIVITY**

WE ENGAGE IN **CARE**

OUR SENIOR LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATION | 2024-2025

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, M.S.

Head of School and CEO

Elma Džanić Bass, M.Ed.

Principal

Dr. Jennifer Cady, Ed.D.

Dean of Arts

Kristi Kleiser, M.Ed.

Dean of Students

Eden Lewkowitz

Operations Director

Veronica Neal, M.Ed.

ESS Director

Leslie Religioso

Development and Marketing

Elizabeth Shaw

Business Director

Carolyn Smith

*Executive Assistant to the CEO
and Alumni Relations
Coordinator*

ADMINISTRATION

Jacob Castro

Operations Assistant

Tisha Clark

Accountant

Veronica Cons, M.S.W.

School Social Worker

Michal Paris Davis

*Recruiting and Enrollment
Specialist*

Austin Leon

*Student Information &
Attendance Coordinator*

Rhonda Mullins

*Front Office Administrative
Assistant*

Min Skivington

*Donor Relations and Marketing
Manager*

Liz Wakeford

College Counselor



SCHOOL RECOGNITION 2024-2025

Excellence is not an aspiration at Arizona School for the Arts. It is the standard. Recognized by Niche, U.S. News & World Report, and the Arizona Department of Education, ASA consistently ranks among the state's top schools — proof that when academics and the arts meet, students rise.



CONSISTENTLY RECOGNIZED

*Arizona Department of
Education, 2025*



BEST HIGH SCHOOL FOR ARTS IN AZ

Niche.com, 2025



BEST AZ MIDDLE SCHOOLS

*U.S. News and World
Report, 2025*



BEST PHOENIX METRO + AZ HIGH SCHOOLS

*U.S. News and World
Report, 2025*



BEST U.S. CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS

*U.S. News and World
Report, 2025*



PLATINUM

*2025 AP® SCHOOL HONOR
ROLL RECOGNITION*



OUR FACULTY & STAFF | 2024-2025

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

PERFORMING ARTS FACULTY

BAND

Lucille Berk
Dr. Thomas Breadon
Elizabeth Guzman
Derek Sanchez

CHOIR

Tiffany O'Neill
Dr. Josef Curtis
Jessica Elder
Katherine Rosenfeld

DANCE

Angelica Delashmette
Gillmer Dúran
Gia Firicano
David Krensing
Kleiton Sistélos

GUITAR

Joshua Pierce
Dr. Erik Sloyka

PIANO

Dianne Cangelosi
Dr. Mo Farag
Sungmin Kim
Dr. Elias-Axel Pettersson

STRINGS

Nicole Allen
Maria Simiz
Dagmara Suchon Hobbs

THEATRE

Robert Chambers
Dr. Craig Kosnik
Elisa Kurbat
Courtney Kenyon

ACADEMIC FACULTY

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Dianna Bellian
Collin Clark
Brienne Jongewaard
Teresa Layden
Eliza Lynch
Jalyn McKee
Amy Thomas

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Byron Miles
Ramón Miranda
Daniel Ruiz Monsalve

MATH

Shannon Avey
Ryan Capangyarihan
Nicole Cardoso
Patrick Hershey
Marcie Longstaff
Carly McClain
Dylan Zenner

SCIENCE

Rona Aguila
Annmarie Barton
Wynston Hamann
Angie Pestaño
Kaitlyn Rose
Jeff Steinert
Reyjane Valiente
Beth Wootten

SOCIAL STUDIES

Pat Drahan
Karl Huck
Eden Lewkowitz
Alisson Haywood
Alexander Liffiton
Mary Katherine Snider
Lisa Speck
Todd Webster

COLLEGE + CAREER READINESS & LIFE SKILLS

Lauren Lewis
Jessica Wooley

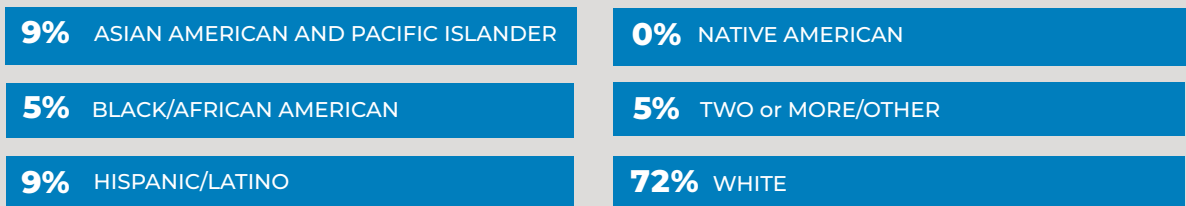
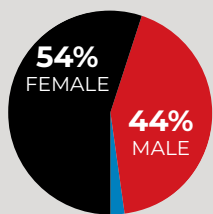
EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT SERVICES

McKenzi Chapital
Michelle Start
Diane Viktora

INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES

Andrew Doumakes
Erin Jonas
Connie Padian

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.



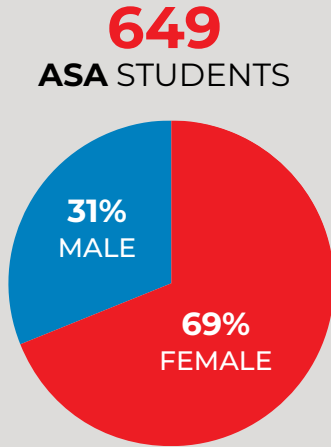
FACULTY MEMBERS

38 Academic Faculty
26 Arts Faculty

FACULTY DEGREES

46% Academic Bachelors
54% Academic Masters
23% Arts Bachelors
42% Arts Masters
23% Arts DMA

OUR STUDENTS | 2024-2025



2%	ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER
6%	BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN
37%	HISPANIC/LATINO
1%	NATIVE AMERICAN
8%	TWO or MORE/OTHER
47%	WHITE

COLLEGE READINESS AND SUCCESS | 2024-2025

ASA students significantly and consistently outperformed both state and national benchmarks on standardized testing, reflecting the critical thinking, communication, and analytical skills that define an ASA education.

SAT RESULTS	ASA	AZ	NATIONAL
COMPOSITE	1247	1064*	1029
READING/WRITING	650	599*	521
MATH	597	586*	508

*Arizona section score averages (599 Reading and Writing, 586 Math) reflect 2024 College Board state-level data, the most recent year for which Arizona section scores are publicly available. Arizona's 2025 composite average is 1,064. National section averages reflect 2025 College Board data.

ACT RESULTS	ASA	AZ	NATIONAL
COMPOSITE	24	18.4	19.4
ENGLISH	24.9	17.8	18.7
MATH	21.9	17.7	18.9
READING	25.6	19.0	20
SCIENCE	23.2	18.6	19.6

ADVANCE PLACEMENT SCHOOL SUMMARY (Grades 10-12)

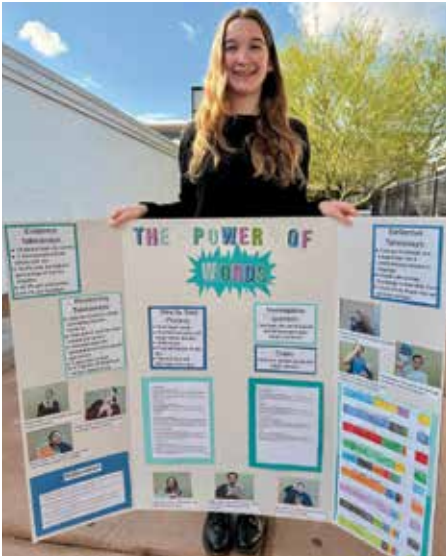
Total AP STUDENTS ENROLLED	118
EXAMS TAKEN	268
PERCENT OF PASSING GRADES (3+)	80%



OUR CREATIVE THINKERS & LEADERS IN ACTION

ASA's artistic scholars and student leaders shone in 2024–25, earning accolades and honors in the arts, STEM, student leadership, and extracurricular clubs. Their successes reflect a joyful, driven community where creativity, leadership, and innovation shine.

A HALLMARK OF THE ASA ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE



Third Quarter Presentations (3QP)

Each March, ASA students from 5th through 12th grade take on one of the school's most distinctive academic traditions: the **Third Quarter Presentation**. **3QP** is unlike any standard assignment. Students select their own research topic, develop an original thesis, and present their findings to a panel of evaluators — refining skills in critical thinking, analysis, and public speaking that serve them well beyond the classroom. It is one of the clearest expressions of what ASA means by developing creative thinkers and leaders.

MUSIC

Festival Honors

ASA's performing ensembles continued to set the bar at some of Arizona's most competitive festivals this year.



ASA Chamber Singers continued their tradition of excellence, earning a "Superior" rating at the 45th Annual NAU Vocal Jazz Madrigal Festival — one of the largest events of its kind in the nation. This marks another year in their ongoing streak of high honors, reflecting their dedication to artistry, discipline, and outstanding performance.



ASA World Guitar students achieved the highest rating at the annual Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association Area Guitar Festival, earning a "Superior with Distinction" — the festival's pinnacle of performance quality.



ASA's Chamber Orchestra

opened the 2024–25 season on a high note, earning a "Superior with Distinction" at the Arizona Band and Orchestra Directors Association (ABODA) Fall Orchestra Festival. The highest rating the festival offers, Superior with Distinction reflects not only technical proficiency but the ensemble's commitment to artistry and musical expression.

ASA Percussion students participated in the Annual Field of Steel on April 4, 2025, in Tucson, a celebration of steelpan music featuring student performances and a guest clinician, the legendary steelpanist Dr. Ray Holman. Born in Trinidad in 1944, Holman began playing pan at 13 and went on to become one of the most celebrated composers, arrangers, and performers in the steelpan world — earning a Pan Legend Award from the U.S. Congress and performing at venues ranging from the Super Bowl to the St. Lucia Jazz Festival.

Honored Across the State

Each year, hundreds of Arizona students audition for Arizona Music Educators Association (AMEA) Regional and All-State ensembles, and earning a spot is a true distinction. This year, ASA claimed seats across Regional and All-State Band, Choir, and Orchestra, and made its mark at the inaugural All-State Guitar Festival. Many ASA students also earned 1st-chair rankings. The breadth of representation across so many ensembles reflects the depth of musical talent at ASA and the dedication of our students and faculty.

AMEA 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade All-State Band

- **Bryson Shields** ('31), Trumpet
- **Maxiliano Martinez** ('31), Tenor Saxophone
- **Hannah Lueken** ('30), Clarinet
- **Mia Ronneseth** ('29), Clarinet
- **Zev Levin-Pilafian** ('29), Euphonium

AMEA Elementary All-State Orchestra

- **Luna Ritzler** ('31), 1st Violin
- **Isa Martinez** ('31), 2nd Violin
- **Evelyn Jackson** ('31), Viola
- **Alessandra Gonzales** ('31), Cello
- **Asher Crist** ('31), Bass

AMEA Junior High All-State Orchestra

- **Jayden Yoneyama** ('29), 1st Violin
- **Nina Daer** ('29), Viola
- **Rhys Darcy** ('29), 2nd Violin

AMEA Central Region Honor Band

Woodwinds

- **Loki Horowitz** ('28), Flute
- **Ume Konishi** ('26), Clarinet

Brass

- **Apolonia Hobbs** ('28), Trumpet, 1st Alternate
- **Emma Jean Elder** ('27), French Horn

Percussion

- **Alice Elder** ('28), Percussion
- **Rob Foley** ('28), Percussion

AMEA Central Region Honor Orchestra

Percussion

- **Nico Viquesney** ('25), Percussion, 1st Chair

Strings

- **Justin Kang** ('27), Cello
- **Emersen Lubeck** ('27), Bass
- **Daniel Kang** ('25), 1st Violin

AMEA Central Region Honor Choir

- **Soprano: Eva Pombo** ('26),
- **Naiya Marcelo** ('25)
- **Alto: Alice Elder** ('28)
- **Emma Tobin** ('28)
- **Emma Jean Elder** ('27)
- **Sascha Lewis** ('26)
- **Bass: Reid Johnson** ('27)
- **Kolton Koller** ('26)
- **Justin Pansing** ('26)
- **Liam Wohlert** ('26)
- **Parker Johnson** ('25)

AMEA High School All-State Band

- **Ume Konishi** ('26), Clarinet
- **Louis Dix** ('25), Trumpet

AMEA High School All-State Jazz Band

- **Louis Dix** ('25), Trumpet

AMEA High School All-State Choir

- **Emma Jean Elder** ('27), Alto 1
- **Sascha Lewis** ('26), Alto 1
- **Parker Johnson** ('25), Bass 2
- **Justin Pansing** ('26), Bass 2
- **Reid Johnson** ('27), Bass 2

- **Eva Luz Pombo** ('26), Violin
- **Daniel Kang** ('25), Violin
- **Parker Johnson** ('25), Violin

AMEA High School All-State Orchestra

- **Justin Kang** ('27), Cello
- **Daniel Kang** ('25), 1st Violin

AMEA High School All-State Guitar Ensemble



This year marked a milestone for guitar in Arizona with the inaugural AMEA All-State Guitar Honor Festival, and ASA made its presence felt from the start. Five ASA students were selected for the ensemble, a remarkable showing that speaks to the strength of ASA's guitar program and the caliber of students it develops.

- **Ella Marmorstein** ('26)
- **Sienna Morrison** ('26)
- **Tia Newman** ('26)
- **Justin Pansing** ('26)
- **Robert Peter III** ('26)

AMEA Solo & Ensemble Festival

ASA is proud to celebrate four high school musicians who rose to the top of one of Arizona's most competitive music events. Students begin at Tier 1, where nearly 900 entries from across the state are evaluated. Only the top performers advance to Tier 2, and from there, just 28 earn a Best-in-Class distinction.

CREATIVE THINKERS & LEADERS IN ACTION

The highest honor of all is an invitation to perform at the Tier 3 Honors Recital at Northern Arizona University, reserved for only six performers statewide. ASA claimed three of those six spots.

Best-in-Class Honorees:

- **Ume Konishi** ('26), Clarinet Solo
- **Daniel Kang** ('25), Piano Solo

Tier 3 Honors Recital

Performers:

- **Eva Luz Pombo** ('26), Vocal Solo
- **Daniel and Justin Kang** ('25, '27), Piano Duo

THEATRE



Taking the Stage

ASA Thespians continued to shine at the 2025 Central Area Festival of Theatre in January at Mesa Community College, where Maeve Lant ('28), Sophie Specter ('26), and Vivian Nichols ('25) each presented solo songs and monologues for adjudication. Vivian and Sophie earned "Superior" ratings, qualifying them for nationals later in the year, and Maeve's performance marked a strong debut at the festival level for the rising sophomore.

[12]

DANCE

Excellence In Motion

ASA dance students bring their training and artistry well beyond our school, competing independently at some of the most prestigious events in the country and around the world. This year, several students earned remarkable recognition across multiple competitions, reflecting their individual drive and the strong foundation they've built at ASA.

At the **Arizona Young Artists' Competition**, **Kasey Blackmon** ('26) earned the prestigious Dance Award and Scholarship, and **Karson Koller** ('28) was named a finalist, making ASA home to two of the four finalists in the dance category.



At the **Youth America Grand Prix Phoenix Regionals**, **Kasey Blackmon** ('26) placed 2nd overall in senior contemporary, **Addison Gaffney** ('26) placed 3rd overall in senior contemporary, and **Karson Koller** ('28) placed 12th overall in classical. All three earned scholarships: Kasey and Addison

to the International Contemporary Masters of Dance Workshop in New York City, and Karson a full scholarship to American Ballet Theatre's Summer Intensive Program. Addison also earned summer intensive scholarships from Oklahoma City Ballet, Tulsa Ballet, Kansas City Ballet, and Sacramento Ballet.

Kaleb Garcia, who competes in Irish Dance outside of ASA, represented the Western Region on a world stage at the CLRG World Championships, finishing 11th in the world and earning his fourth world medal. He was one of only nine dancers across 13 states to bring home a world medal and holds titles as a four-time Western Region Champion and seventh in the nation.

INNOVATORS IN ACTION

Middle School Robotics



ASA's middle school robotics program had a standout season at the December 2024 qualifier, where two of ASA's three competing teams earned invitations to the State Competition — out of just seven teams selected from a field of 22. The Lazer Sharks earned the

Robot Design Award and the Electric Eels took home the Engineering Excellence Award, with both advancing to State. Notably, most of the Electric Eels were new to robotics this year, bringing skills sharpened through their 3QP experience into an entirely new arena. The eSTEAMed Artificers also competed with impressive dedication throughout the season.

High School Robotics



ASA's high school robotics team closed out the season on a strong note, with Team Power Outage earning the Judge's Choice Award at their final qualifier, a distinction given to teams that stand out for creativity, community involvement, and exceptional teamwork.

DISTINCTIVE DIPLOMACY

Model United Nations



ASA Model United Nations students continued their winning tradition across two conferences this year. At the 2025 NovaMUN Conference at BASIS Mesa, **Marissa Warns** ('25) and **Sienna Morrison** ('26) each earned Best Delegate honors. At the 2025 Sonoran Desert MUN Conference at Maricopa Community College, **Sienna Morrison** ('26) and **Isabel Gorin** ('26) again rose to the top, earning Best Delegate honors for their work representing the United States in the Security Council, one of the conference's most competitive committees. ASA's delegates and chairs alike brought dedication and poise to every session, reflecting the program's ongoing commitment to excellence in diplomacy and debate.

MAKING THE CASE

Mock Trial



ASA sent two Mock Trial teams to the Arizona High School Mock Trial State Championship Tournament, an accomplished field of just 16 teams from across the state. ASA's top team earned

a 9th-place finish, a strong showing against some of Arizona's most prepared and experienced programs. Their performance further solidified ASA's reputation as a school that develops well-rounded, critically minded students who can compete at the highest level.

ATHLETICS WITH HEART

Cross-Country



ASA Cross-Country had a strong 2024–25 season, with sophomore **Ryder Cady** placing 2nd overall in the Men's Varsity 5K at the CAA Roadrunner Regional and **Sofia Watson** ('26) placing 3rd in the Women's Varsity 5K, both advancing to the CAA HS State Championships at Freestone Park. At the middle school level, **Mia Ronneseth** ('29) earned a 14th-place finish at the CAA JH State Championships. Several other athletes competed throughout the season, contributing to the team's success and reflecting the program's growth across grade levels.

OUR GRADUATES: CLASS OF 2025 PROFILE

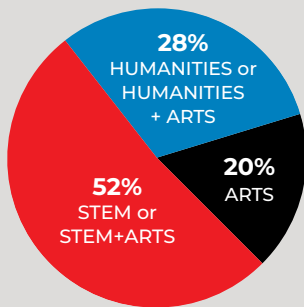


68
GRADUATES

98%
COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR
CONSERVATORY BOUND

83%
ACCEPTED TO TOP 3
COLLEGE CHOICES

DIVERSE INTERESTS
AND PURSUITS
Intended Majors



More than **34%** will pursue
an Arts major or still be
involved in the Arts

4 Million + OFFERED IN MERIT SCHOLARSHIPS

13% FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENTS

MORE THAN **50%** ATTENDED **ASA** FROM 5TH — 12TH GRADES

NATIONAL MERIT & NATIONAL RECOGNITION AWARDS

4 NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

1 NATIONAL — COMMENDED SCHOLAR

3 NATIONAL HISPANIC SCHOLARS

1 NATIONAL AFRICAN AMERICAN SCHOLAR

1 FLINN SCHOLARSHIP SEMI-FINALIST

AP EXCELLENCE SCHOLARS

16 SCHOLARS

10 HONOR

1 DISTINCTION

ARIZONA SEALS OF PROFICIENCY & OTHER RECOGNITION AWARDS

15 ARIZONA SEAL OF ARTS PROFICIENCY RECIPIENTS

5 ARIZONA SEAL OF BILITERACY RECIPIENTS

4 ARIZONA SEAL OF CIVICS LITERACY RECIPIENT

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2025!

COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY & CONSERVATORY ACCEPTANCES

The following post-secondary acceptances and decisions were reported by the Class of 2025.

Allegheny College

American Musical Drama
Academy (AMDA)

Arizona State University

Arizona State University

Barrett Honors College

Arizona State University

School of Music, Dance & Theatre

Aviation Institute of Maintenance

Bard College

Bates College

Baylor University

Beloit College

Bennington College

Berklee College of Music

Boston College

Boston University

Bowling Green State University,

College of Musical Arts

Brenau University

Brown University

California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona

California State Polytechnic
University, San Luis Obispo

California State University, Fullerton

California State University, Northridge

Carleton College

Carnegie Mellon University

Chapman University

Coconino Community College

Colorado College

Columbia College Chicago

Connecticut College

Creighton University

Culinary Institute of America, Texas

DePaul University

Drexel University

Durham University

Eastern Washington University

Emerson College

Fort Lewis College

Georgia Institute of Technology

Glendale Community College

Hamline University

Hofstra University

Ithaca College

Johns Hopkins University

Johnson & Wales University

Lewis & Clark College

Louisiana State University

Loyola Marymount University

Loyola University Chicago

Marquette University

Massachusetts College of

Pharmacy and Health Sciences

Mesa Community College

Middlebury College

Mount Holyoke College

New York University

NYU Tisch School of Arts

Northern Arizona University

Northwestern University

Oberlin College

Occidental College

Oklahoma City University

Oregon State University

Paradise Valley Community College

Phoenix College

Prescott College

Purdue University

Quinnipiac University

Reed College

Regis University

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Rutgers University

San Diego State University

San Jose State University

Santa Clara University

Sarah Lawrence College

Schreiner University

Scottsdale Community College

Scripps College

Seattle University

Soka University of America

South Dakota School of Mines and
Technology

Southern Oregon University

St. Olaf College

State University of New York

Suffolk University

Syracuse University

Syracuse University College of

Visual and Performing Arts

Texas A&M University

Texas Tech University

Trinity College Dublin

United States Air Force

University of Arizona

University of Arizona,

W.A. Franke Honors College

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Davis

University of California, Irvine

University of California, Santa Barbara

University of Central Florida

University of Cincinnati

University of Colorado, Boulder

University of Colorado, Denver

University of Connecticut

University of Delaware

University of Denver

University of Edinburgh

University of Florida

University of Houston

University of Kentucky

University of London, Royal Holloway

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

University of Massachusetts, Boston

University of Michigan

University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

University of Montana

University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill

University of North Dakota

University of Northern Colorado

University of Oregon, Clark Honors
College

University of Oregon, School of Music and Dance

University of Pittsburgh

University of Portland

University of Puget Sound

University of Richmond

University of Southern California

University of St. Andrews

University of Tampa

University of Virginia

University of Washington

University of Wyoming

Vassar College

Virginia Tech

Washington College Maryland

Washington University in St. Louis

Western Washington University

Westmont College

Whitman College

Whittier College

Willamette University

William & Mary

Williams College

Yale University

LEAH FREGULIA

Founding Faculty Member | Principal

Head of School & CEO | 1995–2025

For 30 years, Leah Fregulia helped shape Arizona School for the Arts into one of the state’s most inspiring educational institutions. A founding faculty member in 1995, she went on to serve as Principal and ultimately Head of School and CEO — guiding ASA from borrowed church classrooms to a thriving downtown campus serving more than 700 students in grades 5–12.

Leah was a steadfast steward of ASA’s hallmark model — originally established by founding leader Dr. Mark Francis — integrating rigorous college-preparatory academics with daily performing arts instruction. She led with high expectations and a genuine belief in what young people can achieve when they are challenged, supported, and inspired.

Under her leadership, ASA earned continuous Cognia accreditation (2000–2025), consistent A-ratings from the Arizona Department of Education, and recognition as a GRAMMY Signature School – Enterprise Award recipient. These distinctions reflect not only academic and artistic achievement, but a sustained culture of innovation, integrity, and opportunity.

Leah’s impact extended well beyond ASA’s campus. She was pivotal in launching the Phoenix Youth Arts Collective and championed the vision for a future Phoenix Youth Arts Campus — a community-driven initiative that positions ASA at the center of efforts to expand equitable, high-quality youth arts education across the city. She also served on the boards of Arizona Citizens for the Arts and the Hance Park Conservancy, and remains an active member of the Phoenix Community Alliance.

At Showcase 2025: Legacy, ASA proudly presented Leah with the inaugural Legacy Leadership Award in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to the school and to the broader Phoenix community. It was also announced that ASA’s outdoor amphitheatre will be named the Leah Fregulia Amphitheatre in her honor — a permanent tribute to the leader who helped lay the foundation, in every sense, for thousands of young artists. As she begins her retirement, the ASA community carries forward her vision with deep gratitude — and with full confidence that her legacy will guide this school for generations to come.



OUR ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT | 2024-2025

2025 ALUMNI HONOREES

Each year, ASA recognizes alumni through its Showcase honoree program in two categories: Distinguished Alum, honoring graduates whose careers demonstrate sustained impact and leadership, and Rising Star Alum, celebrating early-career graduates whose trajectories already reflect the promise of an ASA education. Honorees are selected for their achievements in their respective fields and for exemplifying the values of an ASA education — intellectual curiosity, artistic discipline, and purposeful engagement with the world.

2025 Distinguished Alum Honoree Major Samantha Howard, PhD Class of 2007



Major Samantha Howard, PhD has built a distinguished career at the intersection of science and service. A 2007 graduate of Arizona School for the Arts, she now serves as a physicist in the United States Air Force, supporting the U.S. Space Force through her expertise in heliophysics and space weather.

Currently based at Space Operations Command, Major Howard helps ensure the accuracy of systems used to monitor and predict satellite behavior, particularly in response to atmospheric changes in low Earth orbit.

After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy, she earned advanced degrees in Applied Physics from the Air Force Institute of Technology and has since taught undergraduate physics at the Academy—an experience she considers among her most meaningful contributions. Major Howard credits ASA with shaping her identity as a scientist and a leader.

“ASA taught me that when presented with ‘either/or,’ you can say ‘yes, and...’ Both arts and academics, both scientist and military officer.”

She recalls the lasting influence of her ASA teachers, who instilled in her a love for learning and the discipline to pursue excellence. Major Howard shares, “ASA as a school taught me to confidently speak, clearly write, and encouraged my curiosity. ASA, as a community, taught me that I could be weird and nerdy and still be loved. Ballet taught me the value of sweat, discipline, and physical movement.”

Looking ahead, Major Howard hopes to contribute to advances in space weather forecasting—a complex and still-emerging field. In her personal time, she

aspires to visit every U.S. national park, complete the Ashtanga Primary Series, and knit a sweater—goals that reflect the same intellectual curiosity and dedication that define her professional life.

2025 Rising Star Alum Honoree Jonathan Salcedo Class of 2019



Trombonist and composer **Jonathan Salcedo** is earning national recognition for his artistry and versatility across genres and stages. A 2019 graduate, Jonathan will join the faculty of Vanderbilt University’s Blair School of Music in Fall 2025 as an Adjunct Professor of Jazz Trombone—just two years after completing his own undergraduate studies there.

Since graduating from ASA, he has built an impressive resume, performing with artists such as Hans Zimmer and Brett Eldredge, and earning accolades including the Yamaha Young Performing Artist Award (2023), Outstanding Trombone Soloist at the Jack Rudin Jazz Championship, and First Place in the American Trombone Workshop National Solo Competition. His work spans orchestral performances, film scores, studio sessions, and touring productions.

Deeply influenced by his Latin roots, Jonathan finds joy in the fast-paced world of recording and a special connection to salsa and Latin music. He credits ASA with laying the foundation for his success—particularly the mentorship of band faculty Derek Sanchez and Adam Roberts, who pushed him to grow as both a musician and a leader. As Jonathan shared,

“ASA always held a high standard for me, and all the students, and this constant reminder and support to always improve and keep growing led me to where I am today.”

Looking ahead, Jonathan is focused on expanding his work as a composer and breaking down traditional boundaries in music. One day, he hopes to score the very films he records for. Among the artists he aspires to collaborate with is Jacob Collier, whose innovative approach to sound and texture has inspired him since his ASA days.

**2025 Rising Star Alum Honoree
UPSAHL (Taylor Upsahl)
Class of 2017**



Since graduating from Arizona School for the Arts in 2017, **UPSAHL** has emerged as a fearless and original voice in the music industry. Blending pop, punk, and dance influences, her music defies easy categorization—bold, emotionally charged, and unmistakably her own. With a growing international fan base, she has toured extensively across the U.S., Europe, Australia, and New Zealand, earning praise not only for her dynamic performances but also for her songwriting, which includes collaborations with some of the industry’s biggest names.

After signing with Arista Records right out of high school, UPSAHL quickly found herself in the spotlight. Recently, she made the bold decision to scrap a completed album and part ways with her label—choosing instead to start fresh, guided by a renewed creative direction and commitment to authenticity.

In the studio, UPSAHL writes daily with a variety of producers and artists, drawing inspiration from everyday moments and spontaneous ideas. She also plays an active role in the visual storytelling behind her work, finding inspiration in film, photography, and fashion to shape the look and feel of her music videos and live performances.

UPSAHL credits ASA with fostering both her drive and creative spirit. Encouragement from teachers like Nadia Rioux, who helped her record her first songs, and Dana Bender, who inspired her as both a musician and mentor, played a

meaningful role in her early development as an artist.

“I was constantly surrounded by so many talented, hard-working people as a student at ASA, and that inspired me to work hard towards my own goals.”

UPSAHL continues to push the boundaries of her craft, writing daily, shaping the visual world around her music, and expanding her reach to new audiences worldwide. What drives her is the same thing it has always been: a commitment to doing it on her own terms.

Read our Alumni Honorees' full Q & A Interviews at goasa.org/alumni



Stay Connected, Stay Inspired
ASA alumni continue to shine in diverse fields — on stage, in classrooms, and in communities worldwide. They carry forward the creativity and leadership that define our school. We encourage all alumni to stay involved: share your story, mentor a student, attend a performance, or support our mission. Visit goasa.org/alumni or email alumni@goasa.org to reconnect and make an impact.



SHOWCASE 2025

LEGACY: A CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

MAY 29, 2025 | ORPHEUM THEATRE



In 1995, Arizona School for the Arts held its first classes in borrowed rooms at First Church UCC Phoenix, and in a modest building that no longer stands at 3rd Street and Willetta, serving 155 students in grades 7 through 10. Its first graduating class, in 1998, numbered just seven.

On May 29, 2025, ASA marked its thirtieth year with **Showcase 2025, Legacy: A Celebration of Excellence**, and presented as two spectacular performances in a single evening.

The evening placed the school's past and present side by side, beginning with the venue itself. **Showcase 2025** marked ASA's return to the **Historic Orpheum Theatre** for the first time since COVID, bringing students back to a stage where ASA performers had stood for years before. More than 550 student performers representing all seven performing arts disciplines, band, choir, dance, guitar, piano, strings, and theatre, performed before more than 1,900 attendees across both shows.

The evening honored the two leaders most notable for ASA's standard of academic excellence, informed by the performing arts. Dr. Mark Francis, ASA's founding leader and the architect of its hallmark model, received the Founder's Legacy Award. Leah Fregulia, who joined ASA as a founding faculty member in 1995 and went on to serve as Principal, then Head of School and CEO, received the inaugural Legacy Leadership Award on the eve of her retirement, alongside the announcement that the school's outdoor amphitheatre will be named the Leah Fregulia Amphitheatre. Under her leadership, ASA's campus grew into a three-building enclosed campus at 3rd Street and McDowell, serving students in grades 5 through 12 in the heart of downtown Phoenix.

The evening also recognized the **2025 Distinguished Alum Honoree**, Major Samantha Howard, PhD, Class of 2007, and **2025 Rising Star Alum Honorees**, Jonathan Salecdo, Class of 2019, and UPSAHL, Class of 2017, whose careers trace back to the same stages today's students now call their own.

Thirty years separate that first graduating class of seven from the hundreds of students who now cross ASA stages each year. Proceeds from Showcase support the performing arts programs that shape ASA students today and will carry the school into its next thirty years.

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The strength of our community lies in the generosity of those who believe in our mission. With heartfelt appreciation, we recognize the parents, grandparents, alumni, faculty, staff, and community champions whose contributions support our students and sustain our vision. Your support makes a lasting impact, shaping the future of young artists and scholars.

Together, this collective generosity sustains the heart of our school and affirms a powerful truth we hold dear: **the arts are not extra—they are essential.**

★ = Parent of Alum

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🎵 = Donors who contributed to the 2025-2026 school year during the 2024-2025 fiscal year. These gifts are not included in their cumulative **Circle of Giving** recognition for this Annual Report.

CIRCLES OF GIVING

With deep appreciation, we recognize all who give to ASA and especially honor our leadership donors in the Circles of Giving, who contribute **\$1,000 or more**. Every gift, at every level, drives our mission forward and inspires the next generation of creative thinkers and leaders.

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SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to ASA parent Gerard Watson, whose photos — featured throughout this report — capture the spirit of our students, campus, and performances. **Special thanks** as well to **ASA parents Michael Gray and David Daer** for individually contributing their photography talents at select events.

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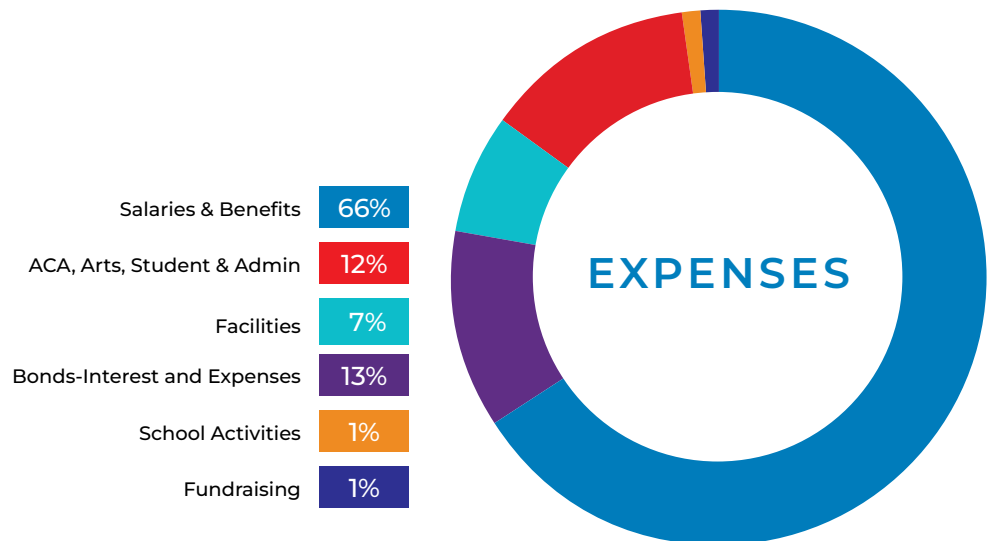
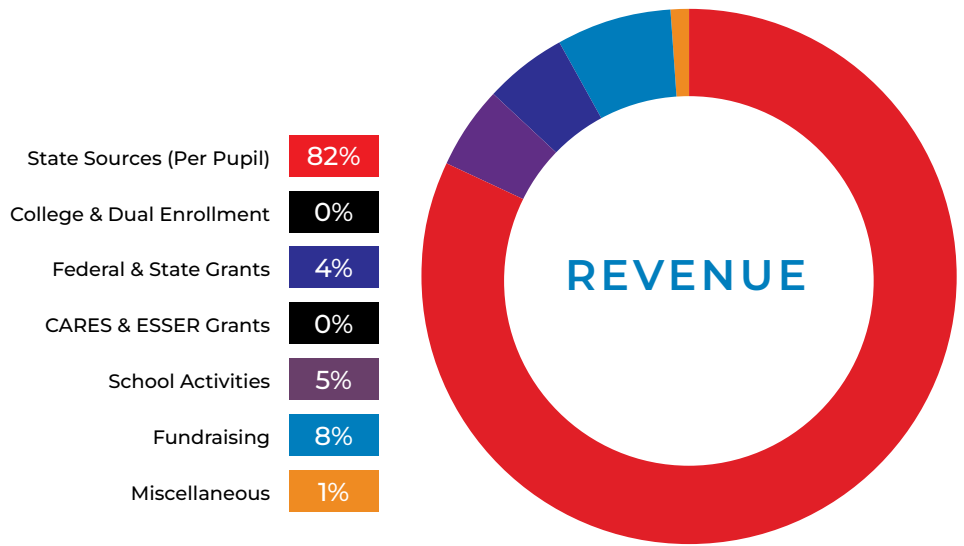




ARIZONA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS

FINANCIALS | 2024-2025

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position Year Ended June 30, 2025.



FINANCIALS | 2024-2025

Consolidated Statement of Activities Year Ended June 30, 2025

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:			
State aid	\$ 6,632,574	\$ 787,980	\$ 7,420,554
Grants	394,475		394,475
Tax credit contributions		131,628	131,628
Contributions - other	531,813		531,813
Student activities	486,926		486,926
Investment income, net	79,832		79,832
Miscellaneous revenues	32,229		32,229
Net assets released from restrictions	935,316	(935,316)	
Total revenue and support	9,093,165	(15,708)	9,077,457
EXPENSES:			
Salaries	4,715,244		4,715,244
Payroll taxes and benefits	1,302,390		1,302,390
Professional services	849,428		849,428
Instructional supplies	193,937		193,937
General supplies	132,002		132,002
Printing and postage	1,416		1,416
Equipment rental	40,945		40,945
Repairs and maintenance	88,280		88,280
Dues and fees	16,611		16,611
Insurance	54,013		54,013
Utilities	208,227		208,227
Student activities	154,344		154,344
Interest expense	684,412		684,412
Depreciation	424,723		424,723
Space rent	42,212		42,212
Amortization of deferred charges	23,465		23,465
Miscellaneous expense	36,219		36,219
Total expenses	8,967,868		8,967,868
Change in net assets	125,297	(15,708)	109,589
Net assets, beginning of year	1,050,515	42,140	1,092,655
Net assets, end of year	\$ 1,175,812	\$ 26,432	\$ 1,202,244

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position Year Ended June 30, 2025.

ASSETS

Current assets:

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 3,111,301
Restricted cash	24,311
Due from government	408,683
Prepaid interest	102,611
Prepaid expenses	9,271
Total current assets	3,656,177

Operating lease Right-of-use asset 484,295

Property and equipment, net:

Land and land improvements	5,251,672
Buildings and improvements	12,931,446
Site improvements	496,538
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment	1,927,480
Less accumulated depreciation	(6,384,308)
Total property and equipment, net	14,222,828

Total assets \$ 18,363,300

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities:

Accounts payable	\$ 72,011
Accrued payroll and related	422,554
Accrued interest	56,196
Operating lease liabilities, non current position	26,849
Unearned revenues	38,855
Long-term debt, current portion	567,306
Total liabilities	1,183,771

Operating lease liabilities, noncurrent portion	468,724
Long-term debt, net	15,508,561
Total liabilities	17,161,056

Net assets

Without donor restrictions	1,175,812
With donor restrictions	26,432
Total net assets	1,202,244

Total liabilities and net assets \$ 18,363,300

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!**



ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GIVE

**VOLUNTEER
YOUR TIME**



BOX TOPS



COMMUNITY GIVING

**EMPLOYER
MATCHING
GIFTS**



**PLANNED
LEGACY GIFTS**

**SPONSOR AND
SUPPORT EVENTS**

Arizona School for the Arts
SHOWCASE

ASA | Signature Series
PERFORMANCE EVENT



**STUDENT AND PARENT
ALUMNI GIVING**

**GIFTS OF
SECURITIES**



**DEDICATION
TRIBUTE GIFTS**



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ASA | Signature Series PERFORMANCE EVENT

2024-2025 SIGNATURE SERIES SEASON

ASA students take the stage more than 100 times a year — and with Signature Series and Showcase, the public is always invited. Every ticket purchased directly supports ASA's performing arts program. VISIT GOASA.ORG/BOXOFFICE FOR CURRENT SEASON PERFORMANCES

**SPRING
DANCE RECITAL**
April 22, 2025



CHORAL COLLAGE
December 17, 2024



**FALL
DANCE RECITAL**
November 19, 2024



MAINSTAGE MUSICAL: GYPSY
December 13 - 15, 2024



**MAINSTAGE PLAY:
A NIGHT OF
LOVE & BETRAYAL**
An Evening of
Short Plays
April 4 - 6, 2025



MASTERWORKS
February 11, 2025





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