

SEEING
ART

MAKING
ART

BUILDING
COMMUNITY



Palo Alto Art Center and Foundation

Annual Report:
Fiscal Year 2023-2024



Thanks to the support of our members, donors, and community, in fiscal year 2023-24 the Palo Alto Art Center and Foundation expanded partnerships, programming, staffing and hours! We fostered new and stronger partnerships around our Year of Food initiative with Arte Américas in Fresno, Neighbors Abroad to celebrate our sister cities, and Ada's Cafe, in addition to more than 30 other partners in our community. We offered more programming wherever possible to meet community demand; we continued work to expand our staffing and extend our hours! **The Art Center is now open seven days a week!**

We appreciate the support of our entire community who make all of our programs possible, including the work of all of the Art Center and Foundation staff and volunteers who provide so many meaningful programs and events for our community.

"It was a great way to expose our students to art and at the same time have the chance to be an artist themselves. Thank you so much for the wonderful experience that sparked creativity and curiosity!"



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SEEING ART



"I feel so connected to the art, thank you for displaying a part of our culture and heritage."

"I LOVE EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS EXHIBIT."

"I feel a sense of identity and pride."

"Bravo. Very well curated and interesting."



"Every year project look is the best field trip we go on. I especially love how patient, understanding and generous the docents are with my young students. I've been bringing my class 2 times a year for almost 20 years and have no plans to stop!"



Food for Thought!

"The appreciation, love, and cultural history that goes into making every dish."

Art Center exhibitions over the past year celebrated the power of food to connect us to culture, community, and each other! These exhibitions and related programming engaged more than **21,600 people**. The Palo Alto Art Center Foundation supports more than half of the costs of these exhibitions, including guest curatorial costs, artist honoraria, fine art shipping expenses, and materials.

2023-2024 Exhibitions

Earth—June 24-August 19, 2023

Boom Oaxaca—September 16-December 10, 2023

In Feast or Famine—January 20-April 7, 2024

Cultural Kaleidoscope and Youth Art—April 27-May 19, 2024

What's Cookin'?: Art About Food, Culture and Community
—June 22-August 18, 2024

Revolution is a Dinner Party: An Installation by Martha Sakellariou
—June 22-August 18, 2024



Project Look

3,730 students, teachers, and chaperones participated in **131 Project Look tours** this school year. Thanks to the generosity of the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation, **22 scholarship tours** were provided, with bussing to East Palo Alto schools, allowing the participation of more than **500 students**. Students spent time viewing art in the Art Center's galleries with a trained docent, and participated in a hands-on artmaking activity that emphasized the theme of the exhibition. The Foundation supports staffing, materials, and scholarships to this beloved community program.



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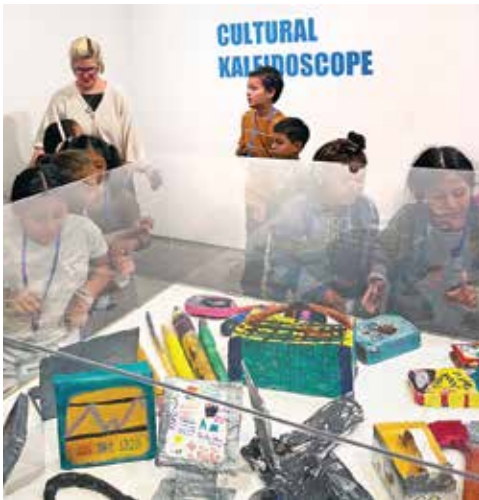


"I think it was a positive experience for all of my students. The pride they took in seeing their artwork on display was life-changing."

"I think all of my students grew in confidence as artists. I loved how they were able to grow their learning of content throughout the project. It started with reading and research, then drawing/sketching and finally the clay creations. This was followed up by the creative box habitats and then finally putting the learnings together in writing. Students that struggle with academics excelled and really became more confident as they felt pride in their artworks and then saw it on public display."

Cultural Kaleidoscope

Cultural Kaleidoscope, our artists-in-the-schools program, was offered in **34 Palo Alto and East Palo Alto classrooms** to **816** students, fostering learning through the arts. Students explored animals in the tundra to the habitats of insects to California history and geography, connecting to cultural studies and language arts standards. Teaching artists meet ten times with each participating classroom. The Foundation provides significant support to this program, funding staffing costs, teaching artists, teacher stipends, transportation and materials.



Cultural Kaleidoscope is now Creative Connections!

We are excited to announce that we have changed the name of our artists-in-the-schools program from **Cultural Kaleidoscope to Creative Connections**. This change reinforces the impact of this historic program in promoting learning through the arts and the recent publication of our arts integration curriculum.



"Our daughter has attended Art Center classes at the Palo Alto Art Center for the past 8 years... These classes have enabled her to grow her confidence in art, explore new opportunities to express herself, and create lasting relationships with instructors and friends."

"Our teen daughter has basically grown up in the ceramics studio and some of the teachers that taught her when she was 5, are still her teachers and amongst her favorite people in the world, almost 10 years later..."i>

Kids and Teens Studios

We engaged **2,305 students** in after-school and weekend classes throughout the school year and in eight weeks of summer camps. Students ranged in age from 3-18 years old. Classes included drawing, painting, comics, ceramics, fashion design, jewelry, fiber arts, and more.

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“Every class at the Art Center is an inspiration to artistic senses and makes me so happy!!!”

“Wonderful community resource for those who love to view and make art. Incredible gallery collections which are beautifully displayed. Well-equipped studios for many types of art. Excellent classes”

“I love to work in the studio. Great facility for independent workers. We have a great community with very helpful artist that always will be there for you.”

“This class is a great experience and the piece I made will be something me and my family will always treasure.”



“The PAAC’s art workshops offer our residents a delightful avenue to explore their creativity and express themselves through the world of art...”

With clear guidance and a welcoming ambiance, the classes offer an enchanting voyage through diverse mediums, techniques, and perspectives.



Adult Studios

Adult classes welcomed **1,397 students** in classes and workshops exploring ceramics, jewelry, painting, drawing, printmaking, fiber arts and floral design. The drop-in programs engaged our community in an estimated **15,000 unique artmaking experiences** that included figure drawing and painting, collage, ceramics, jewelry, and printmaking. In collaboration with the Foundation, the Studios held another successful Holiday Sale, with a special members breakfast and early-bird shop. We earned **\$34,295 in sales!**

In FY24 the Foundation and Studios hosted three Visiting Artists Workshops:

- Ceramic artist Kala Stein taught a *Mold-Making for Ceramics workshop*, a unique opportunity for our community to learn to work with plaster.
- Renowned painter Melinda Cootsona returned to teach *Diving Deeper into your Work*, an advanced-level workshop to our painting community.
- International ceramic artist Sally Walk came from Melbourne, Australia to delight our ceramics studio participants with her *Sculptural Forms* workshop.



Family Days and Outreach

Family Days in the Fall and Winter engaged **602 participants** in activities and performances connected to the exhibitions *Boom Oaxaca* and *In Feast or Famine*.

360 seniors from two low-income housing communities participated in **18 art workshops** offered free-of-charge thanks to the Art Center Foundation. Projects included oil pastels, watercolor, card making, and more.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

"My favorite memory was handing back the campers' projects at the end of the week because it was good to see them so happy about the results."

"Working with Project Look classes offers moments of self-less connection with the kids. Moments of seeing them make connections... development in action."

*"Thank you for having this group. I didn't have time to take art classes in school, so this was my favorite activity during high school."
(ACTL senior)*

Volunteers and Interns

Volunteers at the Art Center help to build community by supporting all of our programs for the public! In FY24, approximately **400 active volunteers** contributed more than **10,000 hours** to the Art Center, a value of more than **\$320,000!**

The Art Center's summer intern program continues to provide meaningful work experience in the arts for diverse teens from around the country. Undergraduate interns and graduate fellows were from University of San Francisco, Museum Studies Masters Program; UC Riverside, USC, American University, Washington D.C., University of Washington, Syracuse, Barnard, and University of Miami.



Teen Programs

We continue to provide creative opportunities for teens through expanded teen classroom assistants and a larger, more involved Art Center Teen Leadership (ACTL) group. In the past year, **ACTL had 29 members**. Participants were primarily from the Palo Alto schools, with two teens from San Jose, one from Redwood City, and several from Mountain View/Los Altos. Teens attended artist talks and workshops, made holiday cards for Avenidas clients, organized and held a Teen Event with **75 teens** in attendance, and exhibited their art at the Art Center.

Foundation Travel Programs

The Art Center Foundation hosted engaging travel experiences to diverse destinations this past year! A joint trip to Miami for the Art Basel fair with the ICA San Jose, a week-long trip to Oaxaca, Mexico were the highlights. In addition, we hosted day-long excursions to Marin County and San Jose—learning from artists, seeing new exhibitions, and exploring private collections along the way!

Top of page left:
Summer 2024 intern and fellow cohorts, L to R:
Isis Gomez, *Education Fellow*; Kyle Reyes, *Studio Art Intern*; Vivian Torres, *Exhibitions Fellow*; Talia Grossman, *Volunteer Intern*; Renee Vetter, Madeleine Collart, Aaron Kim, Dora Pang, *Studio Art Interns*; not pictured: Brandon Perez, *Social Media and Marketing Intern*.



Thank you donors and members for your generosity in fiscal year 2023-2 024

\$20,000+

Anonymous
California Arts Council
Chan Zuckerberg Initiative
Creative Work Fund
Emily Benatar Foundation
Pamela and David Hornik
Institute of Museum and
Library Services
Palo Alto Community Fund
Bill Reller and Ms. Kris Klint
Skyline Foundation
The David & Lucile Packard
Foundation
Valley Health Foundation

\$10,000+

Brigid Barton
California Office of the Small
Business Advocate
Nancy Mueller
Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund
Susan Rosenberg

\$5,000+

Acton Family Giving
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Iris and Hal Korol
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Patty Mcguigan
Marcia Pugsley and Kent Mather
Susie Richardson and Hal Luft
Dorothy Saxe
Judith Stewart
Jason Stork
Karen Valladao*
Mara and Rick Wallace

* In-Kind gifts

In Honor of:

Annelise Balentine
Denise Savoie and Darrel Duffie
Iris Korol
Jill Asher
Karen Kienzle
Karen Kienzle and Karen Kwan
Marcia Pugsley
Mary Lorey
Megan O'Reilly-Lewis
Melissa Baten Caswell
Peter Lipman

\$2,500+

Stephanie Anderson
Peggy and Yogen Dalal
Loren and Mike Gordon
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Jack and Mary Ellen Morton
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Jane Rytina and Jonathan Chadwick
Denise Savoie and J. Darrell Duffie
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The Morrison & Foerster Foundation
Julie Veitch
Radhika Vullikanti and Bipul Sinha

\$1,250+

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Collette and Peter Rothschild
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Jason and Nerija Titus
Lisa Van Dusen and John Kelley
Mark Weiss and Terry Acebo-Davis
Jane Woodward
Daxue (Dacia) Xu
Heidi Chun-Hui Yang
Linjie Zhang

In Memory Of:

Adele Seltzer
Al & Lois Santos
Gary Snider
Lewis Silvers
Lois Gelston Anderson
Marianne Geier
Mary Hom
Paula Kirkeby
Peter Nosler
Roxane Mehta

\$750+

Melissa and Steve Balentine
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\$500+

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\$250+

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Karen and Bruce Rohde
Kathryn Schmidt
Roland Stevens
Cameron and Einar Sunde
The Foster Museum
Morgann Trumbull
Carolyn Tucher
Gail Whelan
Sheila Wolfson



Roxane Mehta, 2014

You will remain in our hearts

The Art Center community mourns the loss of community volunteer, arts supporter and former Palo Alto Art Center Foundation board member Roxane Mehta. Roxane was a dedicated board member at the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation for two terms from 2009-2015 and in the past decade was an active member of the Art Center Foundation's Emeritus Council. Many will remember what a wonderfully bright presence she was—her warm smile would frequently light up the Art Center. She was a generous supporter of the Art Center, particularly our programs for children.