



The Art Center engaged more than 77,000 people this past fiscal year!

OUR ONGOING IMPACT:

- The Art Center is open **7** days a week for free-admission exhibitions and class programs.
- We employ between **10-20** local artists as staff members and more than **50** as teaching artist contractors.



"It's a beautiful gift to offer creativity and connectivity free of charge and for all ages. Art transcends boundaries and expands the mind and heart. It is the source of a better human existence."

-community member

OUR FY 25-26 IMPACT:

Because of the support of the community members, donors, and funders through the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation, last year we were able to:

- Offer hundreds of hours of free artmaking opportunities at the Art Center through Family Days, Friday Night at the Art Center, and drop-in art workshops.
- Provide free-admission exhibitions to the community.
- Support free school tours, transportation, and artist-in-the-schools programs for vulnerable youth in Ravenswood City School District.
- Offer **40** free artmaking sessions to low-income seniors at Sheridan Apartments, Stevenson House, and Lytton Gardens.
- Sponsor scholarships for classes and camp programs for vulnerable youth and funded **25** Project Look tours for Title 1 schools along with transportation.
- Contribute **2** paid internships opportunities to special needs adults as part of a partnership with Ability Path.



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EXHIBITIONS

In 2026, the Art Center continued its year-long series, *Centering: Clay and Community*, that celebrated the Art Center's role in promoting ceramic art and education. Art Center exhibitions featured more than **80** artists in four exhibitions and related community programs. Our exhibitions drew **20,891** people to the Art Center.



FY26 Exhibitions:

- **Forming Function: Ceramics with a Purpose**
June 21-August 17, 2025
- **Pushing Boundaries: Ceramic Art and Identity**
September 13-December 7, 2025
- **Clay Sustains: Vessels of Change**
January 17-April 5, 2026
- **Youth Art and Creative Connections**
May 2-May 24, 2026



In conjunction with *Centering*, we offered monthly free drop-in air dry clay activities with exhibiting artists Timna Naim and Larisa Usich that inspired **186** people of all ages.

ADULT STUDIOS

Last year, the Adult Studio program offered **112** classes and workshops in ceramics, painting, jewelry, printmaking and more that engaged **1,268** people. Participants dropped in over **15,000** times to the studios for artmaking.



"I love PAAC and the ceramic studio is amazing! A fantastic, supportive creative community."

-student

TEEN PROGRAMS

The Art Center's Teen Leadership Program had **27** members last year who had **21** meetings and organized seven art workshops, five service opportunities, and one public teen event throughout the year and four teens who worked with us over the summer. We also had three teen ceramic apprentices who advanced their ceramic skills while supporting our clay programs and operations.



*"I really enjoyed my volunteering experience, and in fact would like to come back. I really loved getting to see how **all** the kids interacted with each other and their art work, and I found it fun to get to help them..."*

-teen volunteer

Teens were also involved assisting in our Kids and Teen art classes and camps and at events during the year. Teens, ages 12-18, donated over **3,784** hours and numbered between **200-300** (some teens volunteered multiple times during the year while others participated in only 1 event or session of classes).

KIDS AND TEENS STUDIO

The Art Center offered **202** classes, family workshops, and summer camps for **2,041** children, youth and teens in animation, ceramics, jewelry, mixed-media, painting, sculpture, drawing, and printmaking!



"So beautiful seeing our girl smile and crunch her way up the ceramic path to the art center, then leave class smiling and chatting about her work all evening. The art center is a place of joy in our home!"

-parent

SCHOOL AND TEACHER PROGRAMS

Last year the Art Center provided **159** Project Look school tours, offering close to **3,700** students with a lively, inquiry-based tour of our exhibitions with a related hands-on art project. Thanks to the support of the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation and community donors, the Art Center provided **25** scholarship tours and related transportation support for Title 1 schools in Ravenswood City School District and surrounding communities.



"I'm so grateful that we have the opportunity to bring our students here. They're exposed to the thought that goes into making art and the emotions associated with appreciating it."

-teacher

Creative Connections, (formerly Cultural Kaleidoscope) offered opportunities to learn science, social studies, and language arts through the visual arts for **10** classrooms and **250** students in Ravenswood City School District in East Palo Alto. This program is provided free to participating schools thanks to the support of the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation and community donors.

VOLUNTEERS AND INTERNS

More than **600** volunteers at the Art Center contributed **9,280** hours, which represents a value of more than **\$335,400**. Volunteers support our studios and classes, assist with our events and outreach programs, and provide Project Look decent tours. In the summer of 2026, we hired eight interns to support our summer camps, exhibitions, development, and social media and marketing activities.



"It was an enjoyable way to give back to the community while making art."

-volunteer

FAMILY PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH

In FY 25-26, the Art Center offered two free family days that attracted **616** participants. In addition, we provided artmaking activities to a variety of free community festivals, including Chili Cookoff, Earth Day, and May Fete that engaged hundreds of people.



"Great activities for the kids, friendly staff and good mood. My family greatly appreciate the activities and community that the Art Center brings to Palo Alto."



-family day participant

DONOR AND MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Art Center Foundation members and donors were treated to a diverse range of events and travel opportunities over the past year. Trips took members to Los Angeles, Seattle and Tacoma. We also hosted local *Year of Clay* day trips, visiting arts institutions, exhibiting artists, and home ceramic studios of potters who got their start at the Art Center.



THANK YOU DONORS AND MEMBERS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY IN FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

\$20,000+

John Antoun
Brigid Barton
Peggy and Yogen Dalal
Emily Benatar Foundation
Lennox Foundation
Palo Alto Community Fund
Skyline Foundation

\$10,000+

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\$5,000+

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*In-Kind gifts

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Su Chen Wu & Rong Heui Yang
Annelise Balentine
Brigid Barton
Jill Asher
Karen Kienzle
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Bill Sarnoff
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Denise Savoie

In Memory Of:

Lois Anderson
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Gary Snider
Mary Hom
Roxane Mehta
Carrie Abramovitz
Carolyn Tucher

\$250+

Elaine and Dudley Andersen
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Lisa Voge-Levin and Peter Levin
Gail Whelan
(Takako) Carol Witt and Bill Witt
Susan Wolf
Stanley Yarnell



You will remain in our hearts

The Art Center mourns the passing of Carolyn Tucher, a champion of art education who co-founded the Art Center's Creative Connections program (formerly Cultural Kaleidoscope). Carolyn was a passionate supporter of the Palo Alto Art Center and a dedicated community leader and volunteer. We will miss her boundless energy, her ongoing curiosity, and deep commitment to community service.