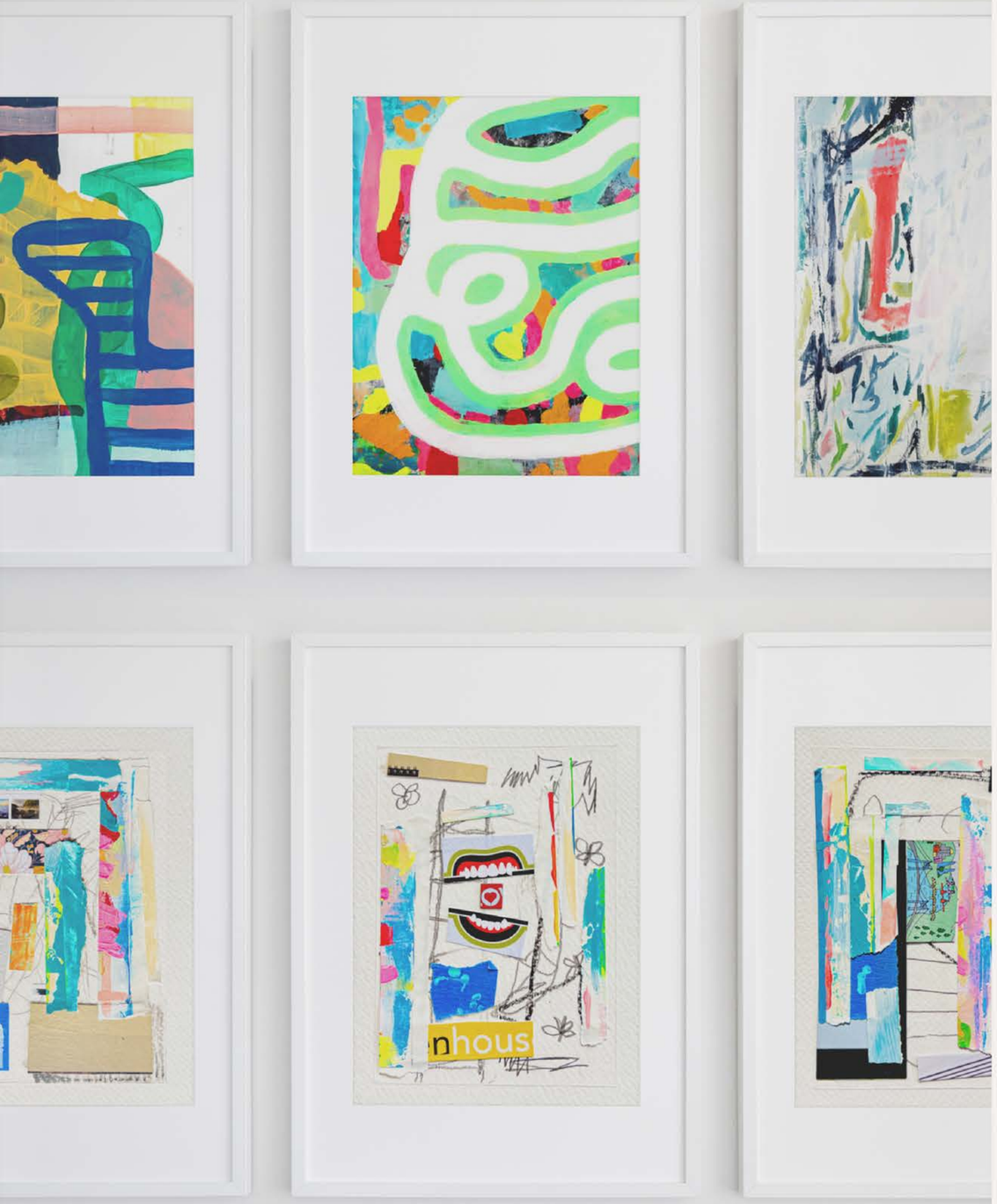
Youth Arts Initiative Program

Setting the Stage: Unpacking the Data on High-Quality Afterschool Arts Programs

Nov. 16, 2023



Overview of My Arts Programming Journey

2019 Started working with the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley as a Teaching Artist

2020 Director of Youth Arts Initiative Program

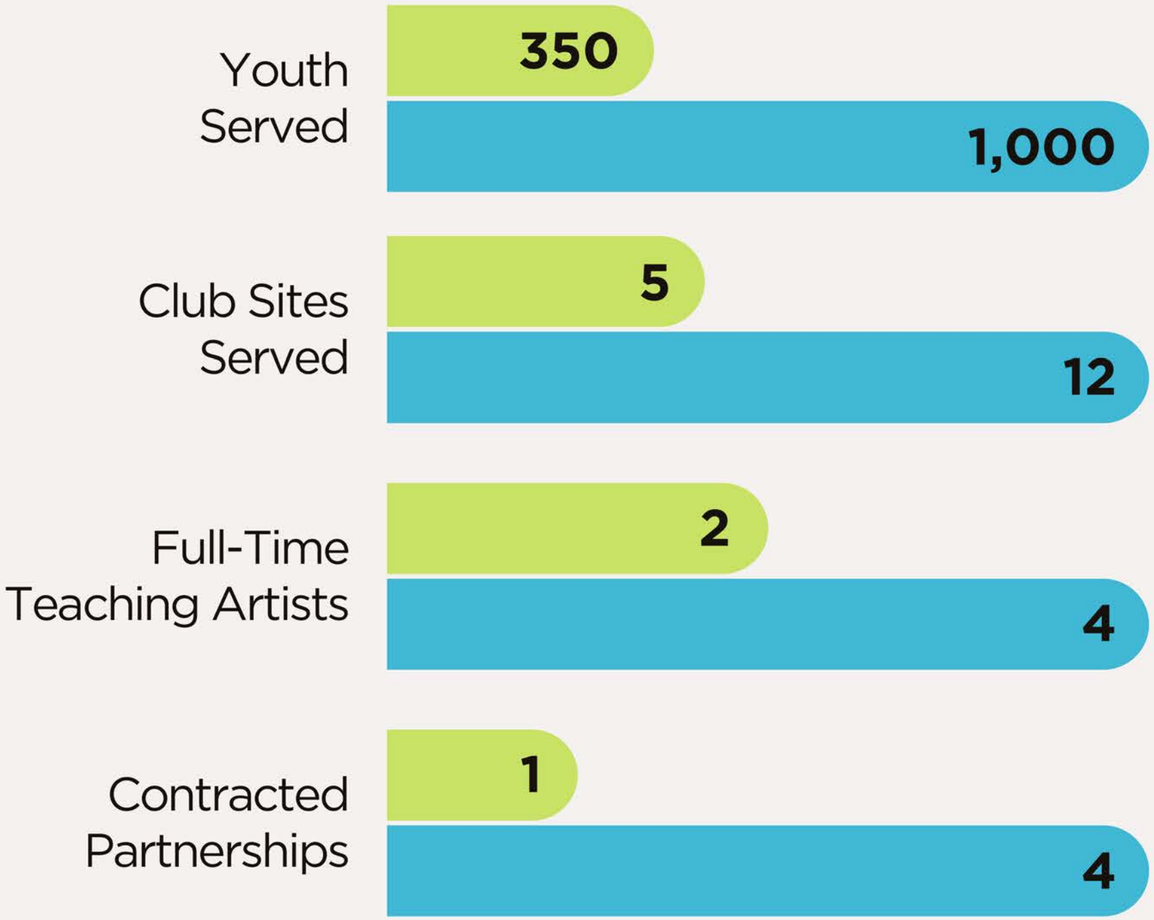
2022 Grant Writer & Visual Information Designer

Youth Arts Initiative Program

The Youth Arts Initiative (YAI) program, taught by professional teaching artists, provides K-12th grade youth with high-quality visual, applied, and performing arts programming where Club members engage in hands-on skill development using real tools and technology to support their growth as artists and individuals.

Youth Arts Initiative Program Growth

2019 2023



What did I need from my art program when I was a kid?

10 Principles for High-Quality Afterschool Arts Programs

Program Foundation & Core Values

Building a Team of Valued Full-Time Teaching Artists

01 Instructors are teaching artists valued with compensation for their expertise & investment in their professional development.

Gaining Support from Organization Leadership

02 Executive leaders publicly commit to high-quality arts programming & support it through sustained action.

Dedicated & Welcoming Safe Spaces

03 Arts programs take place in dedicated, inspiring, welcoming spaces & affirm the value of art & artists.

Program Ownership & Expectations

04 Programs have a culture of high expectations & respect for creative expression. They affirm youth participants as artists.

Showcases & Performances

05 Programs culminate in high-quality public events with real audiences.

Trust & Positive Relationships

06 Positive relationships with adult mentors & peers foster a sense of belonging & acceptance.

Youth Program Leadership

07 Youth participants actively shape programming & assume meaningful leadership roles.

Technology & High-Quality Supplies

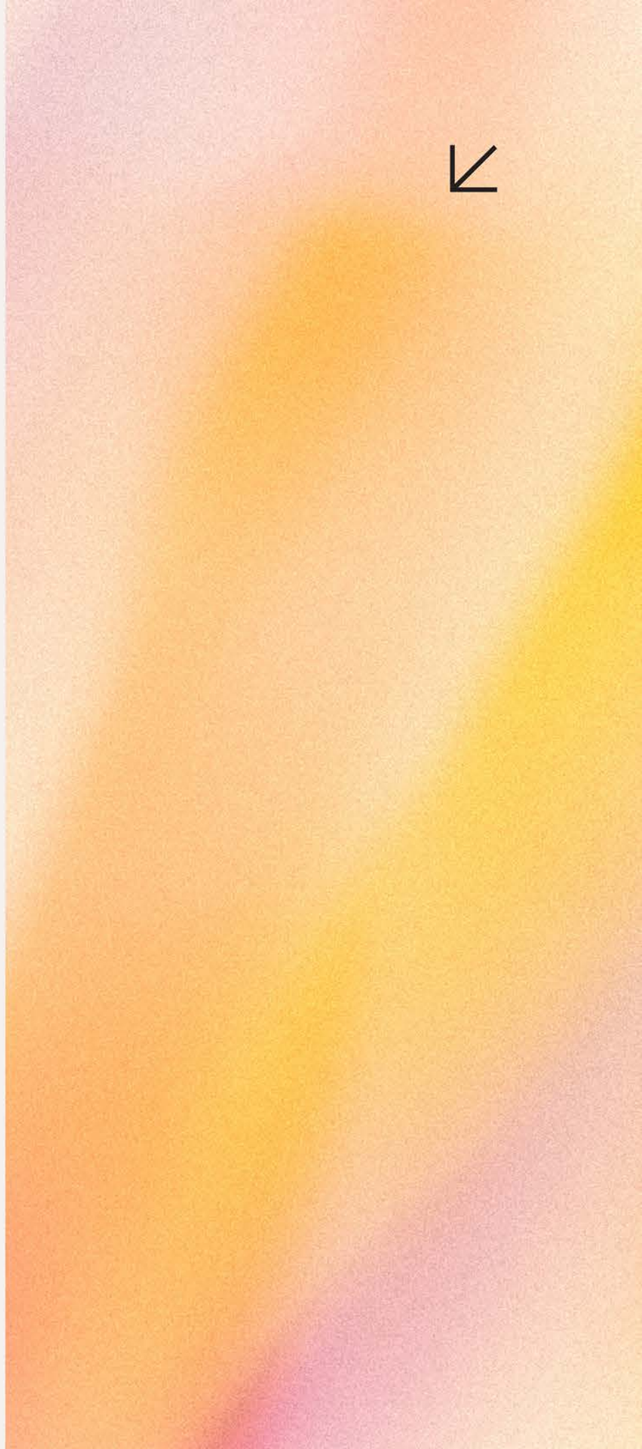
08 Programs focus on hands-on skill building. Programs use current equipment & technology.

Community Engagement & Support

09 Programs strategically engage key stakeholders to create a network of support for youth participants & programs.

Empowering & Encourgaing Learning Environments

10 Programs provide a physically & emotionally safe space for youth.

"I like YAI class because you get to be free with yourself."

- Kamaile, Age 9