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SUSTAIN THE ARTS

The mission of the Aiken Center for the Arts (ACA) is to **inspire and educate**. We believe that every individual—regardless of age, ability, or financial means—deserves the chance to learn, create, and connect through the arts. Providing inclusive arts education and ensuring equitable access remains our highest priority. As a supporter of the arts, your contribution to our **Sustain the Arts Campaign** will help ACA expand arts education and access through programs that are free or significantly reduced in cost for participants who need it most.

Aiken Center for the Arts offers a wide range of visual and performing arts programs, from traditional classes and exhibitions to **tailored learning experiences designed to meet the diverse needs of our community**. These programs open doors for children, adults, seniors, individuals with special needs, and underserved groups who may otherwise lack access to cultural and creative opportunities.

ACA's impact has been recognized statewide: in 2023 we received the **Governor's Award for Arts Organization** for building an inclusive arts community, and the **Secretary of State's Angel Award** for exemplary financial stewardship and community benefit. Together we can extend that impact even further—connecting more students, families, and community members with transformative arts education.

Each year, ACA programs touch lives across the lifespan:

- **Beginning Strings & Aiken Youth Orchestra** provide a no-cost pathway for children and adults with no prior experience to learn, grow, and perform.
- **Creativity Out Loud** engages students after school with art-infused learning that fosters creativity, collaboration, and confidence.
- **Joy in the Journey** empowers individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia to express themselves through guided artmaking, building dignity and connection.
- **Special Needs Arts Programs** offer music and art experiences for children and adults with cognitive or physical challenges.
- **School Residencies** connect 4th and 8th grade Aiken County students with professional artists and authors, weaving together African American history, culture, and creativity in unforgettable hands-on learning.

These initiatives—and many more—are offered at no cost to participants because of the belief that arts education should never depend on a family's ability to pay. In addition, ACA provides scholarships for any child or adult who demonstrates need, ensuring access to fee-based classes and programs.

ACA serves more than 50,000 visitors annually, and we continue to expand into new schools, and community assisted living facilities. An investment in our **Sustain the Arts Campaign** helps fund program development, teaching artist engagement, outreach in public schools, and the evaluation needed to ensure high quality and impact.

Thank you for supporting education, equity, and community well-being—and together, we ensure that the arts remain a source of learning, inspiration, and connection for everyone in Aiken County and beyond.

Gratefully,

Caroline Gwinn
Executive Director



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TRACY SECONI
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
CHARLOTTE FUSSELL
ARTS ADMINISTRATOR &
COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER
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Sustain the Arts



Invest in the long-term sustainability
of our community arts center.

Please put your tax-deductible gift to work to keep
the Aiken Center for the Arts strong for everyone.

Any amount is appreciated.

Scan the QR code to donate online.



AIKEN CENTER *for the* **ARTS**

