



we are
chaw

capitol hill
arts
workshop 

annual report • fiscal year 2015

"CHAW enriches the lives of everyone involved with it through the arts, building bonds between people from all across the spectrum of humanity with laughter, paintbrushes, music notes, and dance. CHAW is a wonderful place that everyone should experience, for it would bring new joy into their lives as it has into mine."
- Summer Teen Intern

quotes from CHAW class evaluations



"Ellen really owned the idea of being a REAL artist. She saw herself in a new, exciting light, and it was amazing to see. She also learned a lot and benefitted from self expression too."



"Since college I have forgotten how to include creativity in daily life and lost appreciation for all of the opportunities in creating stories, I got some of that back in my class."

a snapshot of FY15

I am pleased to offer a snapshot of the achievements and impact of CHAW in our fiscal year 2015.

At CHAW we think a lot about community and a lot about art. The two are vitally connected.

CHAW offers many levels of arts experiences in the Capitol Hill neighborhood and the surrounding areas. This year we completed public installations such as the whimsical alphabet street markers and a mural created by and for the homeless. Our classes transformed youth and adults from art viewers to art participants.

Creating art challenges us to explore and expose aspects of our inner selves. This takes a special sort of courage. We provide a supportive community to learn, participate, create, and celebrate through art.

We are so grateful for the support we receive from our community, students, artists, and donors. I want to especially highlight the long-term support of Circle of Muse members, who commit to donating to CHAW over a several year interval. Their multi-year pledges allow us to think bigger and make it possible for us to plan for the future. Two of our major highlights this year were a Music Residency at the KIPP Northeast Charter School and a spring break Mural Camp with high schoolers currently living at the DC General Homeless Shelter. We know that these are the kinds of projects that make a real impact in our community, and our goal is to make these more than one-time events. And they can be: with longer-term support, we can think longer-term, too.

We've done the same thing with our

programming internally. This year, we talked to many parents and stakeholders and created the New Youth Arts Program (YAP), to more fully encompass our function as a space to cultivate Creativity, Confidence, and Community through the arts. Thanks to our dedicated staff and board, this program change has resulted in exceeding our registration goals: bringing more art to more people in our community. With your support, we have been able to continue to offer our robust tuition assistance and transportation plans, which allow us to reach students who might not otherwise be able to access the arts.

You are an important part of this CHAWsome community. Thank you.

Jill
Jill Strachan
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"My daughter's growing focus and pride in her dance abilities. It has given her so much poise!"

we are chaw

CHAW is over 20,000 Capitol Hill residents and visitors who experience art through our installations, gallery events and public performances.

CHAW is the youths and adults who challenge themselves to create and express themselves through classes and workshops.

CHAW is professional artists who support the creative growth of our students.

We are the celebrations, festivals and public displays of creativity, confidence and community through art.

Through classes, performances, and exhibitions in visual and performing arts, CHAW brings together diverse segments of the population to connect through the transformative power of creativity.

"The camaraderie that the program managed to foster in a group of children that were only together 45 minutes a week."

"I liked getting feedback on the pictures I took for the homework assignment. It really helped push me to get better!"

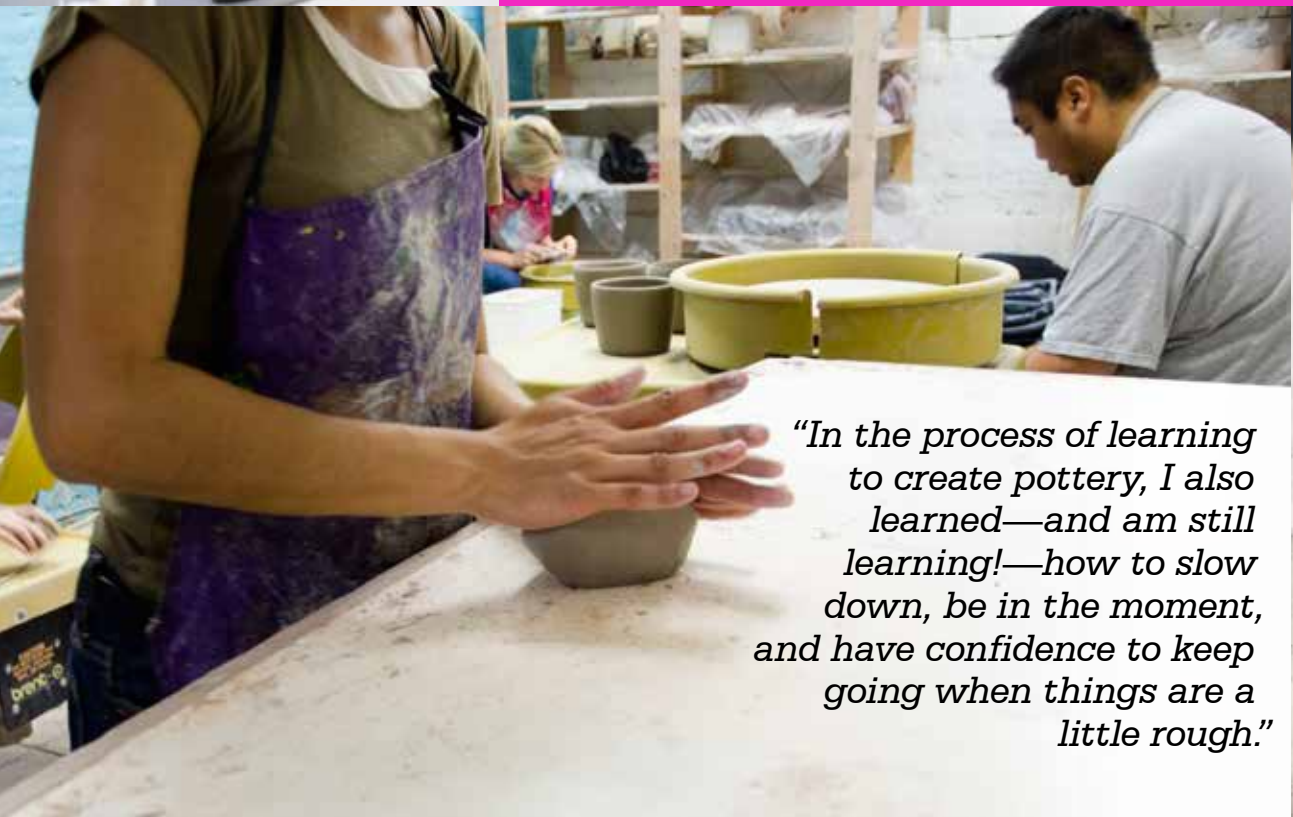
"We are always surprised how CHAW keeps getting better and better. Every one of your teachers has great enthusiasm, patience, and love for the children and their parents. It is a very warm and welcoming environment for all."





"The class taught my son to go out of his comfort zone."

"I just keep signing up. I signed up at first after searching for a drawing class, but now I don't think I would want to go anywhere else to take a drawing class. I enjoy taking them at CHAW; it's so welcoming and people are there to have fun and enjoy being creative or learning a new skill."



"In the process of learning to create pottery, I also learned—and am still learning!—how to slow down, be in the moment, and have confidence to keep going when things are a little rough."

"My child has blossomed in Miss Heidi's ballet classes, both in a ballet performance sense and in a personal confidence sense."



chaw at home

During FY15

- The CHAW Youth Arts Program (YAP) offered **192** after-school classes attended by over **900** children.
- **277** children attended **21** arts-oriented summer camps
- **400** adults attended over **121** classes
- Over **300** events including drawing workshops, exhibits, and theatrical performances.
- Over **2000** community members visit every month.
- Our theater hosted **10** productions, including **3** by Taffety Punk Theatre Company, our theater-in-residence.
- The CHAW Gallery hosted **4** juried exhibits and **3** solo shows by the Capitol Hill Art League; and **4** exhibits featuring work by CHAW adult students and teaching artists.
- We extended studio and performance space to 16 private and public arts groups for their events.

Taking a class at CHAW transforms the student from an art-observer to an art-creator. Instruction in visual arts, music, dance, theater, and creative writing is a core function of CHAW. Our workshop facility includes a dance studio—which doubles as a recital hall—paint studio, black box theater, art gallery, complete ceramics/pottery studio, a photography darkroom (the only "open" darkroom in D.C.), private music instruction studios, and business offices.

"I am impressed that such young kids were exposed to complex musical rhythms and melodies. Most music classes for little ones keep it simple, but I think it was great for my son to be exposed to things like 5/4 time!"

chaw beyond the walls

"Location and schedule are important, but on the Hill there are a lot of options. The feel of the community at CHAW is what keeps us coming back."

"I was surprised to learn that such a great resource as CHAW was in that location—I had no idea it was there!"

CHAW at School

This year CHAW launched a music residency program at the KIPP Northeast Academy. Professional musicians instructed students in musical performance, technique and instrument maintenance. Students rehearsed and performed in ensemble groups and as a full orchestra.

CHAW in the Community

CHAW and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities sponsored the mural project at the DC General Homeless Shelter. The project challenged homeless youth to create and share images portraying their dreams and aspirations. The mural was executed under the supervision of CHAW teaching artist Kate DeCiccio.

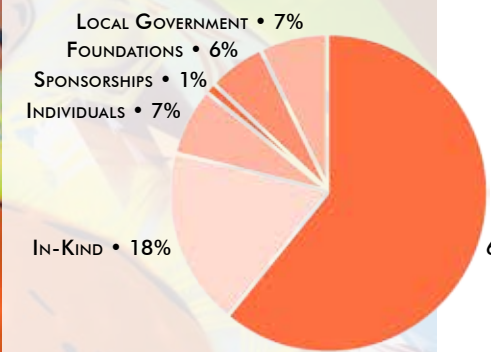
We completed the installation of the Capitol Hill Alphabet Animal Art Project, supported by the DC Department of Transportation. Ten animal sculptures produced by local artists now animate street signs in our neighborhood.

And we are always looking for more to do. CHAW is continually evolving to meet the needs of the community.

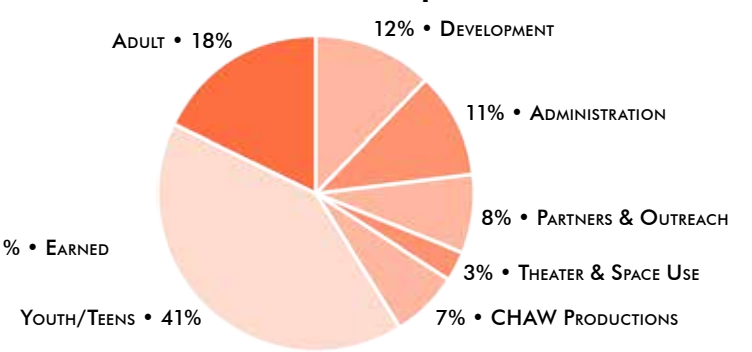


chaw financials

Sources of Income



Distribution of Expenses



Statement of Financial Activities*

	Actuals as of 8/31/15	Approved FY15 Budget
Revenue		
Total Earned	713,322	737,368
Total Contributed	656,905	574,600
Total Revenue	1,370,227	1,311,968
Expenses		
Program Expenses		
Art Instruction	810,385	818,519
Community Programs	214,197	207,345
Total Program Expenses	1,024,582	1,025,864
Support Expenses		
Administrative	152,690	134,968
Development	157,109	149,440
Total Support Expenses	309,800	284,408
Total Expenses	1,334,382	1,310,272
Net Unrestricted Income	35,846	1,696
Restricted Activity		
Temporarily Restricted Contributions	182,289	10,000
Releases to Unrestricted	-206,154	-10,000
Net Restricted Activity	-23,865	0
Total Net Income	11,981	1,696

*unaudited

CHAW THANKS our donors

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Special thanks to the Circle of Muses, who donate not just once a year, but pledge over three years to sustain the CHAW we know and love.

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 Frank S. Albinder
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 In Memory of Helen W. Carey
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Government and Private Foundation Awards Received in FY15

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 Brother Help Thyself
 Capitol Hill Community Foundation
 DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities
 Louise P. Zanar Fund
 Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation
 Nationals Dream Foundation
 Share Fund
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CHAW THANKS our donors

Every effort has been made to compile an accurate list of CHAW's donors. If your generosity has been omitted, please contact Lindsey S. Walter at lwalter@chaw.org so we may correct our records. Thank you!

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all of whom can't be listed here, but who are
fundamental to our CHAW family.

