

2023-24 IMPACT REPORT

GROW & FLOURISH



Growing and Flourishing Through

Connection

Dear Open Space Friends,

I'm so honored to share our FY 2023-24 Impact Report with you. This year has been all about deepening the relationships we cherish and creating new ones that expand our community even further.

We're proud to have partnered with 7 new organizations, including the James River Association, Friends of Jefferson Park, and Peter Paul RVA. We also brought our programs to 3 new Richmond Public Schools (RPS) while continuing our work with 5 of our long-standing partners therein.

There were so many standout moments during the year! One highlight was the nature-inspired mural at Jefferson Park, created by MLK, Jr. Middle School

students under the guidance of our amazing teaching artist, Austin "Auz" Miles. We were also thrilled to showcase student work from our ceramics program at the Open Space Ceramics exhibit at 43rd Street Studios during the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) Conference in March.

All of this is possible because of generous supporters like you who share our passion for inspiring young people and connecting them with the natural world through creativity. Thanks to your support, we served over 500 RPS students across 21 programs last year, all at no cost to their families.

I can't thank you enough for being a part of this journey with us. Your belief in what we do makes a world of difference.

With deep gratitude,



Blythe King
Founder + Director





2023-24 Program Reach



21 Programs
Offered



8 Schools
Assisted



510 Children
Served

Our 2023-24 Objectives

1



Expand Program Reach

We aimed to deliver Open Space programs to more students through more schools.

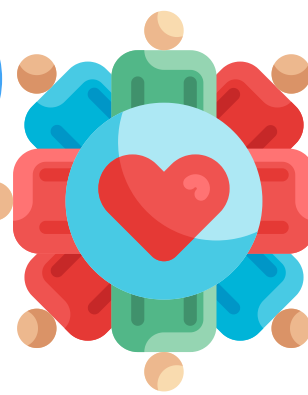
2



Increase Unrestricted Funds

We set out to boost one-time and recurring donations to add flexibility.

3



Improve Community Engagement

We planned to strengthen connections with new and existing community partners.



2023-24 Fiscal Year

Distribution of Funds Raised

Total Funds Raised:

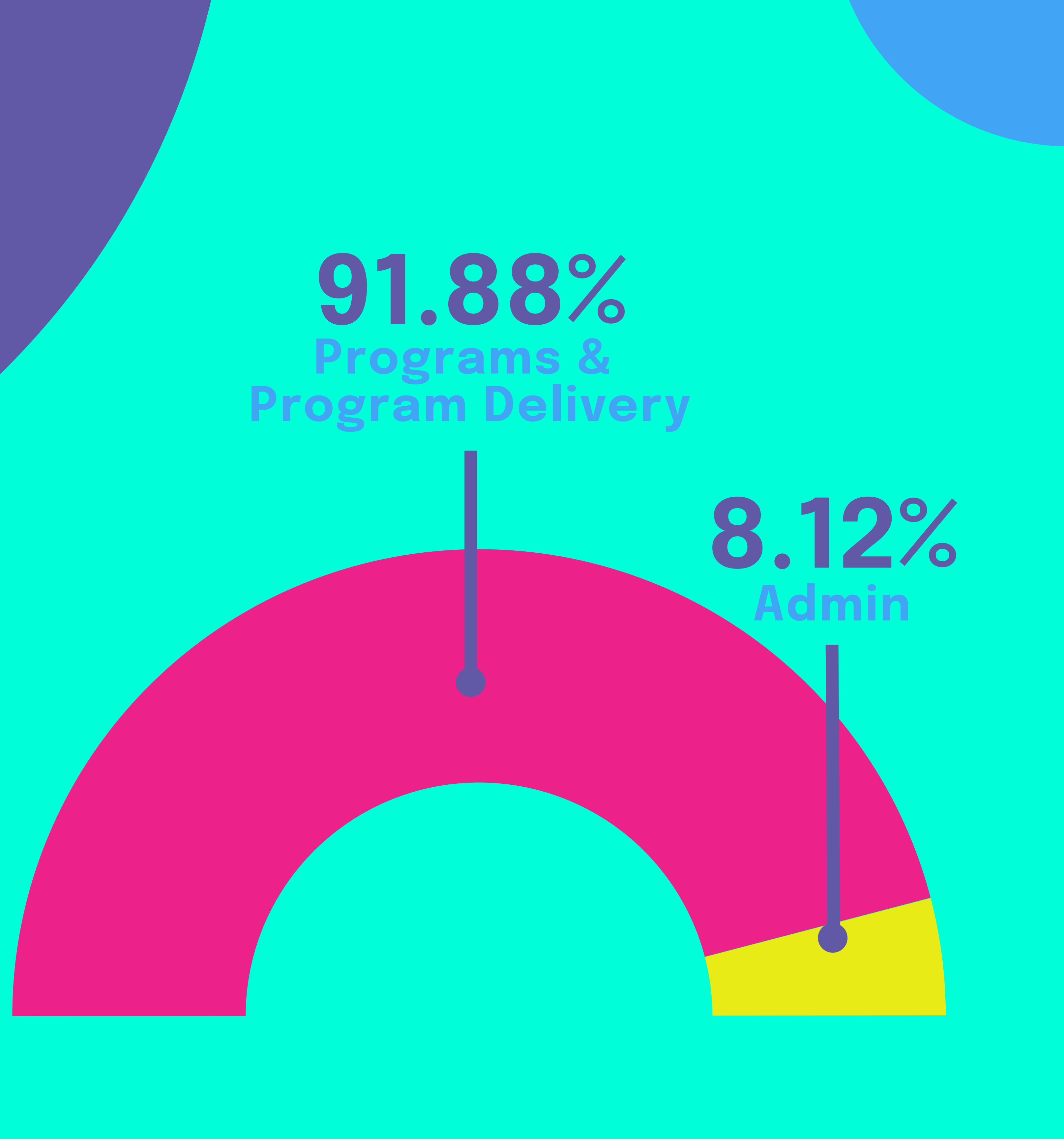
\$70,954

Cost of Programs & Program Delivery:

\$65,194

Administrative & Fundraisings Costs:

\$5,760



Grants Awarded

\$20,000	TCF Community Impact Grant
\$2,500	VCA Operating Support for Small Organizations
\$5,803	NextUp RVA
\$5,000	The Herndon Foundation
\$9,740	VOF Get Outdoors Fund
\$5,000	Bryan and Kathryn Harvey Family Memorial Endowment
\$10,000	Richmond Outdoor and Prosperity Fund
\$1,500	Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond
\$3,000 (x2)	VCA Artists in Education Grant



Program Spotlight

Give + Take: Nature-Based Art

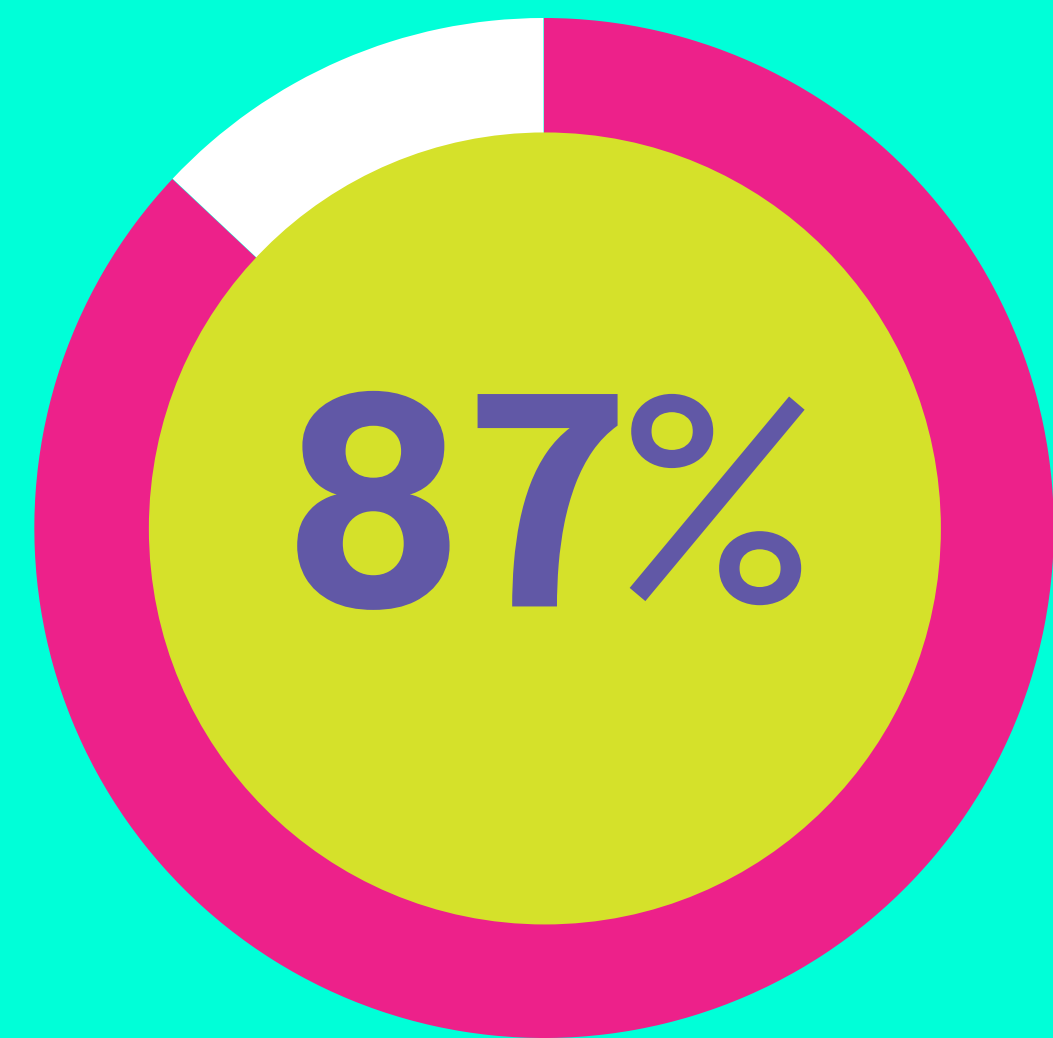
GIVE+TAKE: NATURE-BASED ART introduces students to ways they can create art using natural materials. Students gather these resources, including plant-based pigments, clay, leaves, and more, from local green spaces like Fonticello Food Forest or on school grounds. By doing so, they learn about the art-making process, deepen their connection to the environment, and develop a sense of responsibility for nature. Each project is an exploration of the relationship between human creativity and the natural world.

The program consists of weekly sessions that are led by professional teaching artists. Every session is structured to be hands-on, immersive and experiential. The program also provides opportunities for students to learn from each other and develop their social-emotional skills.

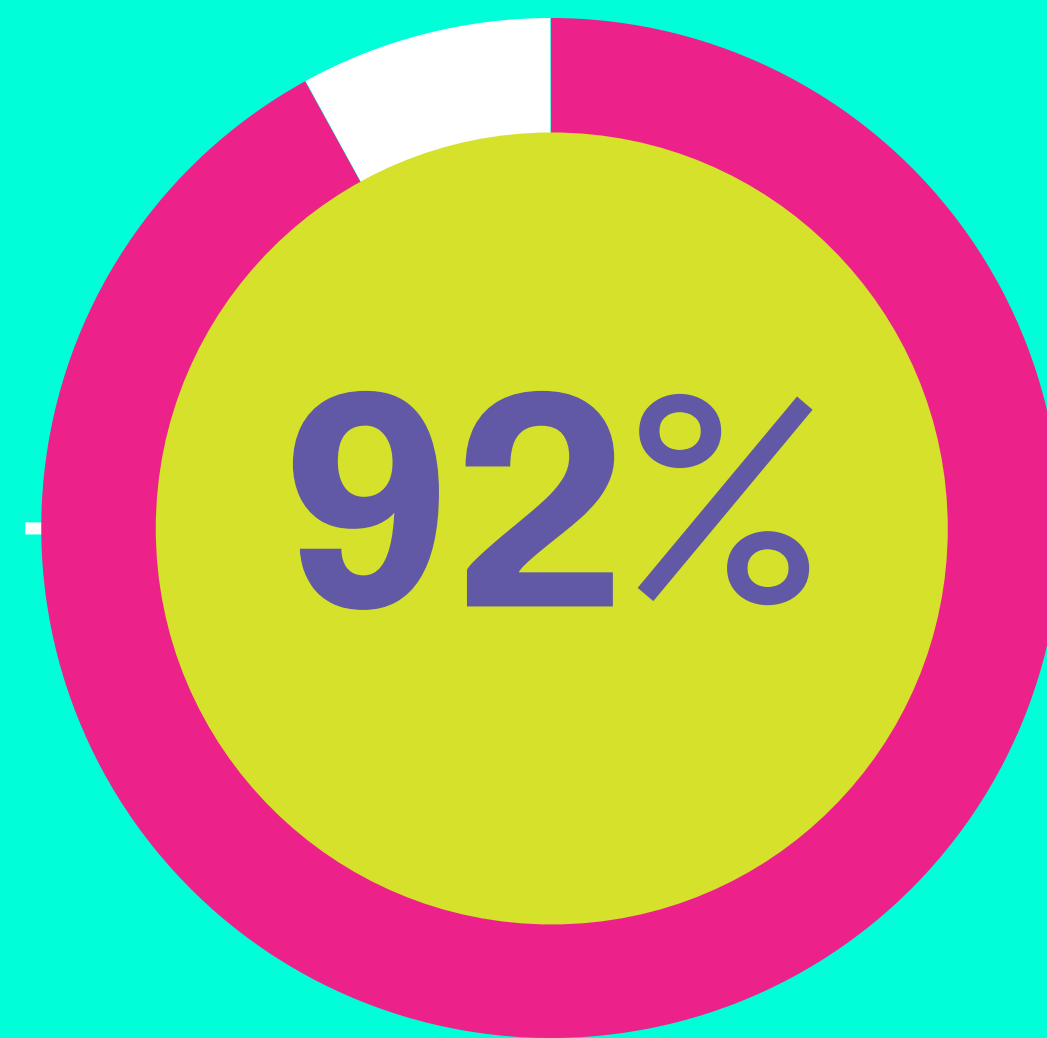


2023-24 Student Feedback and

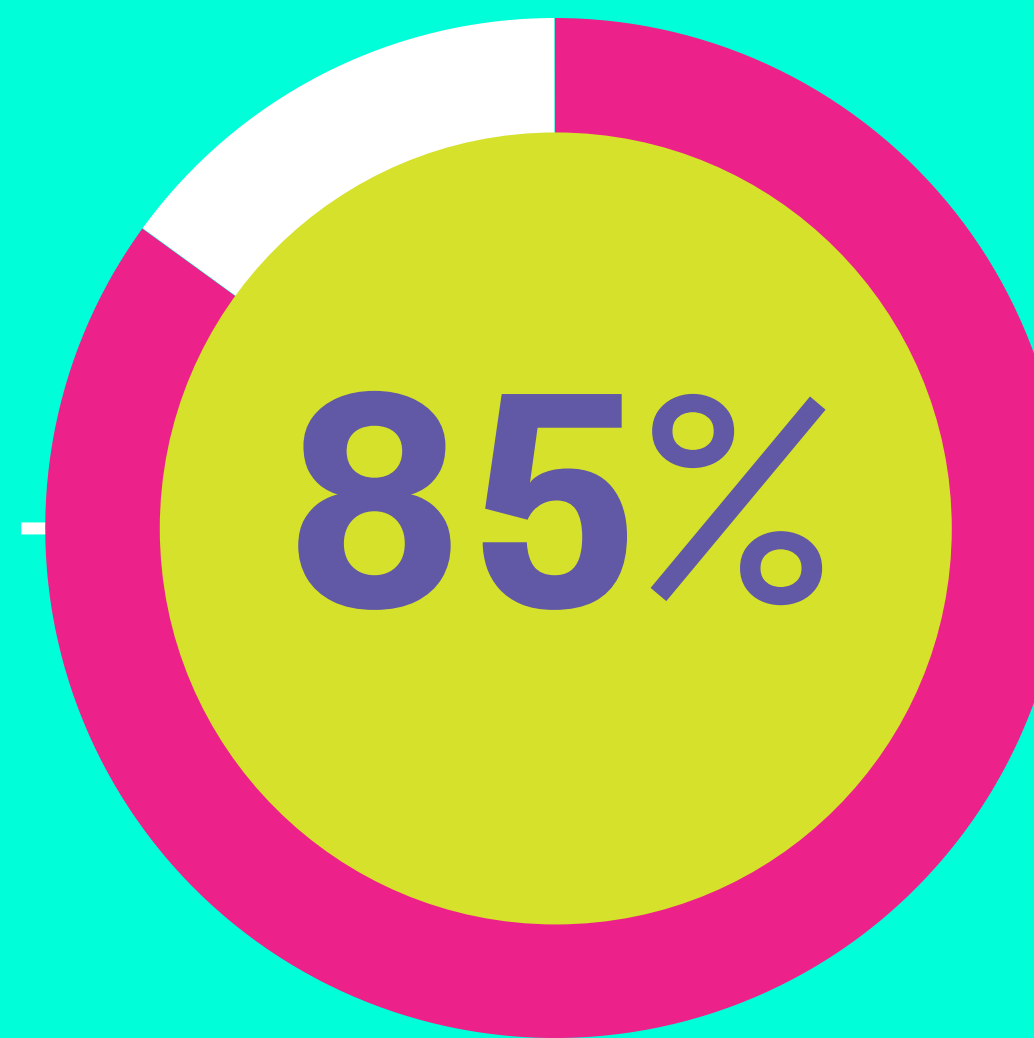
Personal Growth



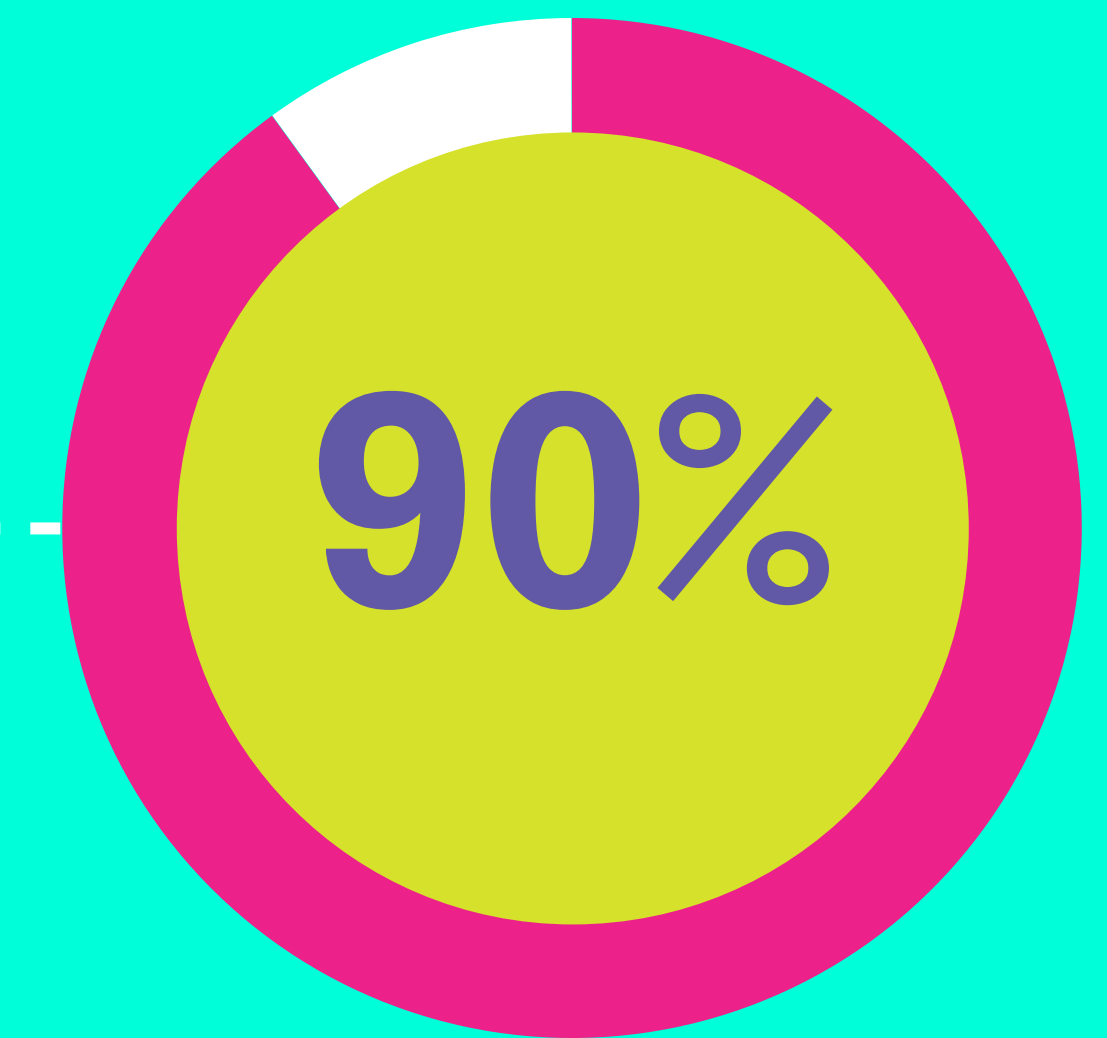
of students felt more confident after their Open Space class



felt inspired to take better care of the earth after their Open Space class



of young people felt their Open Space class increased their interest in art and nature



said that they learned or tried something new in their Open Space class

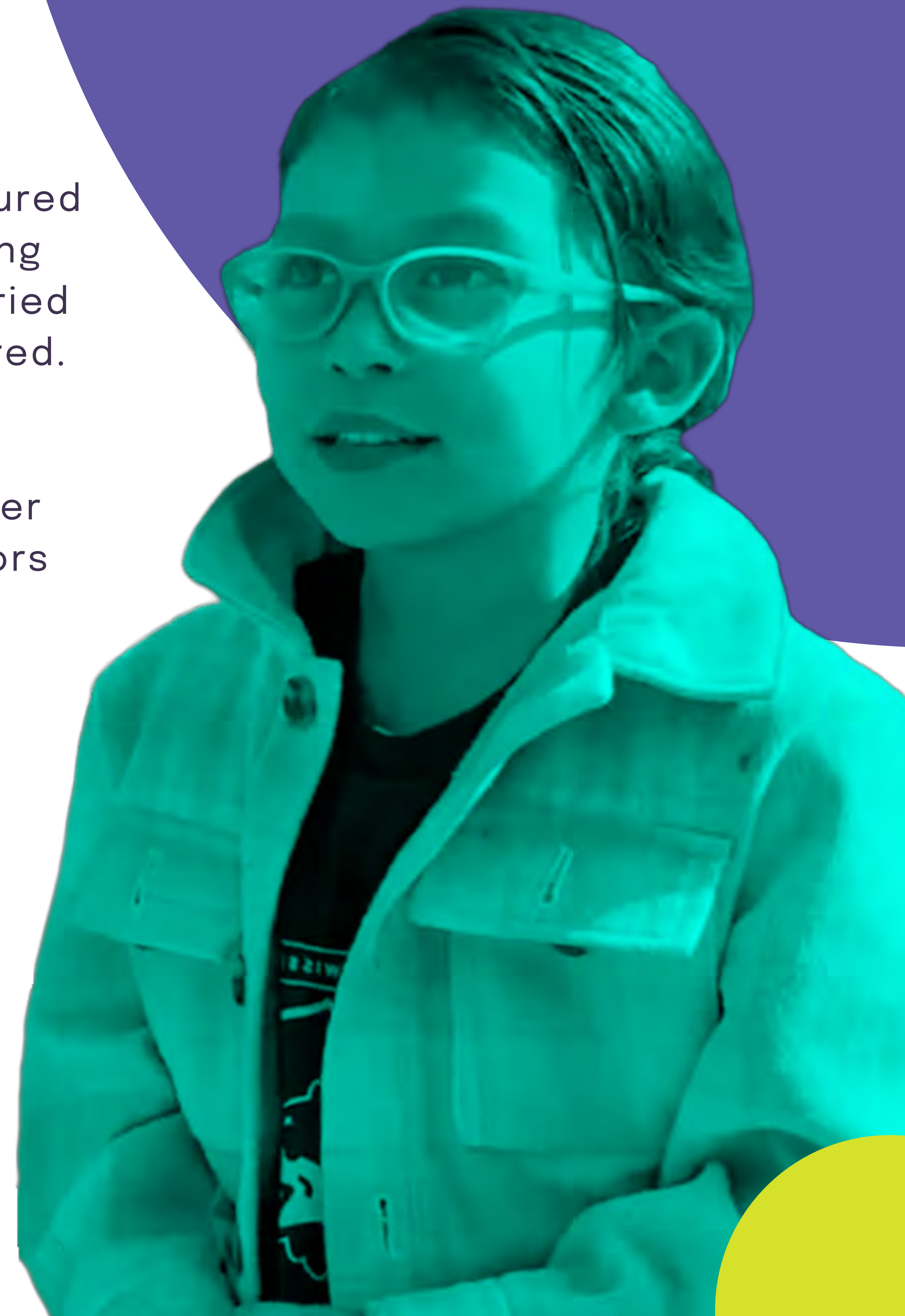
Meet Evani

For Angelina and her daughter Evani, finding the right program that nurtured creativity and fit into their busy schedule was a challenge. “Before joining Open Space, we struggled to find a program that fit Evani’s needs. I worried she’d miss out on opportunities to explore her creativity,” Angelina shared.

That all changed when they discovered Open Space Education. Through hands-on projects and outdoor experiences, Evani not only embraced her artistic side but also began to see the world differently. Working outdoors made her think differently about the materials around her and showed her that art can be created from anything, anywhere.

Evani’s confidence and creativity flourished as she engaged in Open Space programs. “She frequently talks about the projects she worked on and how much fun she had. These experiences have given her confidence in her artistic and creative potential,” Angelina shared proudly.

For Evani, Open Space Education has been more than just an afterschool program—it’s been a place to grow, create, and discover. For Angelina, it’s been a valuable resource. “I’m incredibly grateful for the positive impact Open Space has had on Evani!”





Our Community Partners

Open Space Programs thrive with the partnership of generous businesses and organizations in our community. Special thanks to these 2023-24 stars:

- Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond
- Friends of Jefferson Park
- City of Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation
- Grow RVA
- James River Association
- Peter Paul RVA
- 43rd Street Studios
- VCU ArtEd
- Truetimber Arborists/Camp Truetimber

With Warmest Gratitude

Special thanks to these major donors from 2023-24 who generously contributed to Open Space programs and helped us reach and nurture more students!



Lauren and Nate Mathews



Linda Tamellini



Ashby RVA



Church Hill Association



The Market at 25th



Connect With Open Space

Keep in touch on social media and learn about new projects and programs as they're announced. To make a donation to support our mission, please visit our website. Thank you!

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