

# GLASSROOTS

*Forging lives through fire and glass*

*Dear Glassroots Friends,*

**This past year has truly been one for the history books.** Stories about Covid and closures, digital-learning and community-building, and the power of art to heal.

**Of course, Covid affected us.** In this Annual Report you will see our students who persevered to create mosaics at home and, by summer, back in our studios. For most of the year, our friends and students could not come to our studios. We transformed our school programs to online field trips and art classes. We developed a new curriculum for online learning, and for the first time, we broadcast our Worker Space lecture series to thousands across the country.

**Over the course of the year we were slowly able to bring artists and students back into the studios.** By the summer we were excited to open the doors for camp groups to create animals and astronauts out of glass, as well as for our three-month Fellowship program, a group of 10 young emerging artists from Newark, to explore glass and craft.

**We missed seeing you.** Yet 2020-21 was truly a year of celebration for us. Our Twentieth Anniversary Year. We launched with our online Gala in the fall and concluded with our first back-in-person Community BBQ by summer. In between, we celebrated every month with panels, parties and art-making.

**We would be remiss if we didn't express our gratitude to Barbara Heisler** who retired after nearly 10 years as Executive Director and CEO. Her vision and unwavering belief that glass arts can empower and transform the youth and the community will continue to guide us in our new home in the Newark Arts Commons.

**We are thrilled** to be penning our inaugural Annual Report letter together. We look forward to our 21st year and beyond.

*Carol Losos*

Carol Losos  
Executive Director

*Roger C. Tucker III*

Roger C. Tucker III  
Board President



*Annual Report 2021*

## By the Numbers

**64,758**

total reach

**2,458**

attended  
WorkerSpace  
Lecture Series

**515**

participants in  
"You Design It,  
We Make It"  
project

**3,972**

onsite instruction  
hours

**6,244**

participated in  
20th Anniversary  
events

**50%**

of people served were  
youth/young adults;  
50% were adults

**4,728**

viewed our  
Black History  
Month Posts

**1,422**

onsite visits



## Residencies

Teaching-artists Kate Dowd and Amira Rogers stood proudly in front of the completed mosaic triptych at 13th Avenue Elementary School. Three groups of students participated in this after-school residency, sponsored by Rutgers' Promise Youth University. Together with lead instructor Amira, students designed and created this mural featuring the 13th Avenue mascot and school colors of black and gold. As this residency was disrupted in spring 2020, GlassRoots' teachers finished and grouted the piece as a gift to the students and school.

## Youth Entrepreneurial Spirit Program (YES!)



The conclusion of GlassRoots' after-school Youth Entrepreneurial Spirit program was also disrupted by the Covid public health crisis which forced the remainder of the program, and our year-end competition, to be conducted via Zoom and Instagram. GlassRoots' teaching-artists made final products in our studios at the direction of the students. Pictured here is the winning product by Amayah Stevens — a customizable mosaic tray, produced under her business, "Mantra Glass."

# Highlights



## Summer Camp

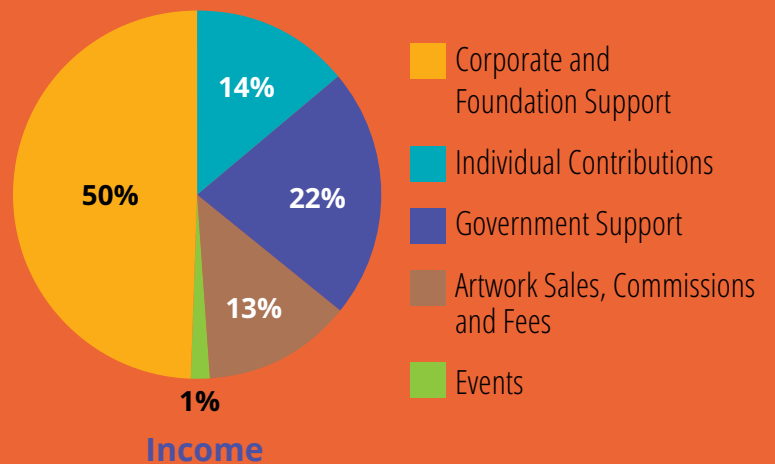
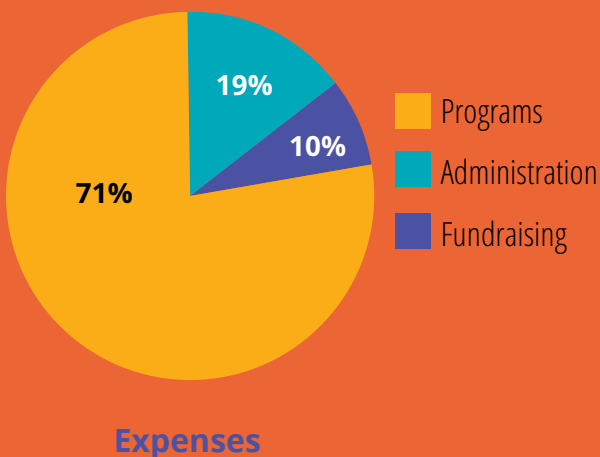
Campers in our 2021 summer program were masked and socially distanced while they worked in the hot shop, flame and flat shops, but were fully engaged with their projects and instructors! Parents were impressed and appreciative of GlassRoots' ability to create a safe but creative environment, which allowed students' imaginations to flourish.

## Fellowship

Ten young, emerging artists from Newark participated in the inaugural 2021 GlassRoots-Peters Valley Fellowship. This full-scholarship, intensive, craft-training program was designed to start participants on their creative path, enable them to explore the arts in depth, and to expand their visions of future possibilities. This joint venture between GlassRoots and the renowned Peters Valley School of Craft was made possible by the generous support of the Nicholson Foundation.



## Expenses & Income



# Our Fabulous Donors

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