



Where Creativity Inspires Community

## River Tree Arts Annual Report 2023

In the past the Annual Report has been a slide show presented at a Board Meeting and then posted on the Website. This year we opted to do a different version of the Annual Report and email it to our Membership and post it on our website.

2023 was an interesting year, the Pandemic was finally over and like everyone else River Tree was dealing with trying to get back to normal or to the new normal and the much higher costs of virtually everything.

Our amazing faculty and staff were able to continue to deliver high quality teaching and respond to requests for new and different programming. River Tree received feedback that our community wanted more adult classes and classes offered after the work day. River Tree managed to double the number of classes offered specifically to adults and added classes both in the morning and the evenings.

Our overall number of students is almost back to pre Covid numbers with over 700 students served. We are most proud of the increase in adult programming with a total of 250 adult students.

Our Dance Programs added an adult Dance and Movement class that ran several times this year and will continue going forward. We are also very proud of our Dance Competitive program and the successful participation again this year.

Ceramics classes increased and several more sections were run as a result of enhanced interest. This growth caused River Tree to evaluate existing equipment and to put in place a request for new equipment that will move forward with our grant applications.

Music increased in enrollment and offered a successful Holiday Recital that will now be offered every year.

Art offered a new program for the artists in our community. An open studio was created that permitted artists to attend and bring samples of their art work and discuss art, creating art, pricing art and selling art. These group events became very popular and will continue going forward.

We are very grateful for our amazing faculty, for their high standards and their willingness to try new things.

Partnerships have become increasingly important and River Tree is proud of our commitment to our community and our partnerships. York County Community College successfully hosted our Dance recital and fundraiser before the Dance Competitions. Our Dance Families loved the venue and the college's art students are looking forward to their art show at River Tree this next year.

The Nonantum continues to be a much respected partner and the classes we offer at their location during Prelude and tourist season continue to sell out.

Graves Library joined with River Tree this year to offer a series of Art Talks, held at Graves and featuring artists from River Tree. Both organizations were thrilled with the positive response and these events will continue.

Art also featured several very successful art shows this year. The Micro Galleries have seen a wonderful response from local artists and a ceramic show offered this year was very popular. The Highlights Show held this spring drew a larger than normal attendance and resulted in more artists than usual selling their art work.

We are very proud of both the high quality of the classes offered by River Tree and the response from our community.

The building continues to be a focus of our attention. Repair to the entrance to the lower level art and sewing room were achieved and addressed the issues of safety and security. This was funded by a grant and greatly improved both the access and the looks of the entrance.

Finances continue to be of major importance for River Tree and our new Treasurer has worked hard to summarize past funding data and help River Tree set goals for the future. Our gross revenue was an increase of 10% over last year at \$375,000. This is the result of Programming being up 11% over last year and several successful grants from The Onion Foundation, the Virginia Hodgkins Somers Foundation, the Gordon Family Foundation, Tommy McNamara Charitable Foundation, David A. Dionne Charitable Trust, Wyatt Frost Memorial Foundation, patron scholarship contributions, Ellie Dow Sanderson Scholarships, and contributions from members and community friends.

Like most of the country, River Tree is dealing with the high cost of everything after the pandemic and has conservatively increased our tuition while maintaining our commitment to our membership for a discount of tuition for classes.

We finish this year with an increase in Membership, with an increase in Adult course offerings, with a total number of students served that is almost back to pre Covid levels and with gratitude for the support we received through grants and contributions.

Would you like to help River Tree Arts grow?

Being a Member helps us and if you can, consider the Patron Level of membership.

Tell your friends and neighbors about your family's experience with River Tree.

Include River Tree Arts in your end-of-year giving plan.

Consider trying a new class.

Maybe you are looking for a place to do some volunteer work? Even a few hours a week would benefit River Tree and would be fun!

If you have some ideas for new classes, please share that with us.

And of course, continue being a Member.

We are especially grateful for the continued support of our Members and our community.

*Paula*

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