



ANNUAL REPORT

2024-2025



Joanna St. Angelo
Executive Director

YOUR STANDING OVATION

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Sammons Center,

I am overcome with gratitude and joy as I reflect on the 2024-2025 fiscal year, marking the Sammons Center's 37th year of serving Dallas's vibrant performing arts community.

Whether this past year marked your first concert at the Sammons Center or you made a transformational gift in support of our mission, your participation helped to grow the arts. Every donation, membership, and ticket purchased ensures that people of all ages and backgrounds can access art and culture close to home.

This report highlights the artists and organizations we serve, the milestones we've reached, and the collective impact of the Sammons Center community over the past year. These achievements are a testament to our unwavering commitment to fostering the arts and to the passionate supporters like you who make our continued success possible.

With sincere gratitude,

Photography Contributors: Keren Escobar, Bart Marantz, & Liane Swanson
Annual Report Content & Design Contributors: Claire Mock & Rader-Philips Design

STAFF LIST

Joanna St. Angelo, Executive Director*
Michael Cook, Assistant Director
Claire Mock, Director of Advancement
Patricia Stewart-Gordon, Director of Finance
Arlington Jones, Artistic Director of Sammons Jazz
Rebecca Cordes, Artistic Director of Sammons Cabaret
Dr. Keron Jackson, Director of Special Projects
Karisa Coe, Institutional Giving Manager
Marica Cruz, Marketing Manager
Tasha Morris, Office Assistant
Andrew Kochie, Event Coordinator
Jamie Torres, Building Supervisor
Ruben Rojas, Assistant Building Coordinator
Charles Ragsdale, Assistant Building & Event Coordinator

**Position Endowed by Sammons Enterprises*

2024-2025

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ABOUT US

GROWING THE ARTS ONE PERFORMANCE AT A TIME

Since 1988, the **Sammons Center for the Arts** has served as the backbone of the North Texas performing arts community. Housed in the historic Turtle Creek Pump Station, we provide space and resources for 18 diverse incubator residents—including ALAANA, LGBTQ+, youth-focused, and women-led organizations—dedicated to enriching lives through performance.

Our impact and influence extends far beyond our walls; we illuminate over 80 additional artists and groups through our **Virtual Office** and **Art-Works** programs. We also enhance the city's cultural landscape by producing two signature series: **Sammons Jazz** and **Sammons Cabaret**. The Sammons Center celebrates the depth and brilliance of the Dallas arts community by nurturing a vibrant greenhouse of innovation, ensuring that creativity is not only sustained but also remains diverse and accessible for our entire region.



FISCAL YEAR 2024-25 IMPACT REPORT

COMMUNITY IMPACT

18

RESIDENT
ARTS
ORGANIZATIONS



100+

ARTISTS & ARTS
GROUPS SERVED
ANNUALLY



\$15,000

SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDED
TO ONE POST-GRADUATE
UNT JAZZ STUDIES STUDENT



37

VIRTUAL
OFFICE
USERS



\$90,148

ANNUAL ARTISTS'
COMPENSATION
PAID



1,540

CONCERT
TICKETS
SOLD



\$44,765

NET RAISED FROM
JAZZ BRUNCH
FUNDRAISER



1,239

LOCAL PERFORMING
ARTS EVENTS
PROMOTED



PROGRAMMATIC IMPACT

20,000

ANNUAL
WEBSITE
VIEWS



1,300

WEEKLY VISITORS
INCLUDING
400+ YOUTH



1,800

D'JAM
JAZZ STROLL
ATTENDEES



AUDIENCE & REACH





SAMMONS JAZZ

Arlington Jones, Steinway Artist, directed the FY24-25 **Sammons Jazz** season celebrated the vibrant elegance of the Dallas jazz scene. Across eight unforgettable nights, we curated a diverse tapestry of sound—from the Latin rhythms of the **Buenos Dias Social Club** to the powerhouse vocals of **Whitney James** and **Mahogany TheArtist**. The season culminated in a soulful finale with **Arlington Jones & The Soul Chamber Band**, marking another year of Sammons Jazz as the city's premier home for world-class artistry.



SAMMONS CABARET

Under the artistic direction of **Rebecca Cordes**, the FY24-25 Sammons Cabaret season continued its tradition of intimate, extraordinary storytelling. We are deeply grateful to **Astrid Merriman** for her generous continued sponsorship and unwavering passion for the performing arts.

This season's highlights included five signature showcases featuring solo artists **Rosana Eckert**, **Peter DiCesare**, **Sheran Goodspeed Keyton**, **WT Greer**, and one dynamic trio — consisting of **Jodi Crawford Wright**, **Andrea Fernandez Tom**, and **Andy Zapata**. Our reach extended further through two *Cabaret and Cabernet Fête* performances and our holiday concert, *Making Spirits Bright*, featuring guest artists such as **Chris Cree**, **Julia Carter**, and **Keron Jackson**, celebrating the incredible depth of our local cabaret community.





ART-WORKS

PROGRAM EXPANDS FALL 2025

Launched in 2016, **Art-Works** supports individual artists and arts groups as they grow and adapt to North Texas's evolving arts landscape. The program offers free online resources and training opportunities.

New this year, made possible by the **Moody Foundation** and the **Theodore and Beulah Beasley Foundation**, the Sammons Center will provide incubator residents and virtual office partners access to the Foundation Directory Online, a useful grant research tool that helps identify new funding opportunities.

With expanded support, Art-Works will also offer more free or low-cost training opportunities to strengthen the arts community with workshops beginning Fall 2025.



BECKLES ANNIVERSARY

In **May 2025**, **Beckles Dancing Company (BDC)** celebrated its 30th anniversary, cementing the organization's continued presence in and profound impact on Dallas's performing arts community. As a cornerstone of the local dance scene, BDC provides a unique creative platform that balances **technical precision with soulful expression**. Under the artistic direction of **Loris Anthony Beckles**, the company remains dedicated to ensuring accessibility through dance education and outreach, fostering an environment where movement serves as a powerful tool for community connection and inspiration.





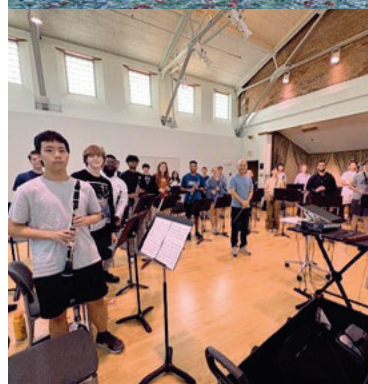
KING CREATIVE ARTS EXPRESSIONS

King Creative Arts Expressions (KCAE) works to ensure that the arts are accessible avenues for **healing, connection, and cultural enrichment** for Dallas residents, with a focus on individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). KCAE supports residents from youth to seniors through inclusive, music-based programs that promote health, intercultural connection, and social-emotional well-being.

In 2025, KCAE, in partnership with the City of Dallas Office of Arts & Culture, successfully relaunched programming for people with IDD. This effort resulted in a sold-out sensory-friendly performance at the Forest Park Branch library. Both the support received for the performance and the demand for tickets underscore the city's need for inclusive arts and cultural opportunities that eliminate financial barriers to access, proving how important organizations like KCAE are to the success of the local arts ecosystem in Dallas.

GREATER DALLAS YOUTH ORCHESTRA

The **Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra (GDYO)** serves nearly **500 young musicians** annually, providing an unparalleled educational experience that extends far beyond the classroom. GDYO's mission contributes to the vitality of Dallas's thriving arts ecosystem. The organization serves as a vital pipeline for the future of the performing arts in North Texas by bridging the gap between student ambition and professional mastery. Their work not only develops talented musicians but also cultivates the next generation of performing arts enthusiasts and advocates. The caliber of GDYO's training was recently showcased on a **global stage**; in **July 2025**, the **GDYO Clarinet Choir** performed at the International **Clarinet Association's Annual Convention** in Fort Worth, Texas.



2025 D'JAM JAZZ STROLL & JAZZ LEGEND AWARDS

The **2025 D'JAM Jazz Stroll** transformed the Dallas Arts District into a premier hub for jazz, showcasing the city's finest vocalists and instrumentalists, temporarily turning Flora Street into Dallas's own "Jazz Alley". This free, family-friendly event invited the community to experience 12 live performances within 10 of Dallas's most prestigious cultural spaces, creating an accessible and immersive celebration of our local musical heritage.

The afternoon's centerpiece was the presentation of the **2025 Jazz Legend Awards**, honoring four individuals whose dedication has shaped the Dallas cultural landscape through jazz music. By celebrating these honorees alongside the day's performances, the event bridged the gap between the genre's storied legacy and its vibrant future.

2025 D'JAM JAZZ LEGEND HONOREES

Lynn Seaton | Jazz Artist

Duane Durrett | Jazz Educator

Mary d'Etienne | Jazz Supporter

Garry Williams | Jazz Innovator



2025 D'JAM SPONSORS

MOODY FUND FOR
THE ARTS

TA
CA

DALLAS
ARTS
DISTRICT
FOUNDATION

HOUSING PUBLIC
IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
DALLAS
DRIVING TOURISM
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City of Dallas

Arts & Culture





A MILESTONE MORNING

HEADLINE PERFORMANCE BY SCOTT TIXIER

The Sammons Center hosted its first-annual **Artfully, Sammons Jazz Brunch**, expanding our jazz programming and celebrating a shared vision for the future. It was an exceptional morning featuring supporting performances by **Rebecca Cordes**, **Keron Jackson**, **Jocelyn Turner**, and the **Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra**, capped by a headlining performance from internationally acclaimed jazz violinist **Scott Tixier**. The event set an elegant, high-energy tone for the Center's next chapter.

LAUNCHING THE \$1M CAMPAIGN

The brunch served as a high-energy launchpad for our ambitious **\$1 million fundraising campaign**, ignited by over \$250,000 in challenge grants that immediately double the impact of every gift across our core mission areas:

- **Capital Upgrades:** Modernizing our historic performance halls.
- **Artist Equity:** Ensuring a permanent fund for competitive artist pay across Sammons Center concert series.
- **Education:** Creating a full-year scholarship for a UNT post-graduate student to be distributed annually.
- **Sustainability:** Providing the operational foundation to support Dallas artists for years to come.

By blending philanthropy with the power of live jazz, the brunch reinforced our commitment to the artists, arts organizations, and audiences who make the North Texas cultural ecosystem thrive.

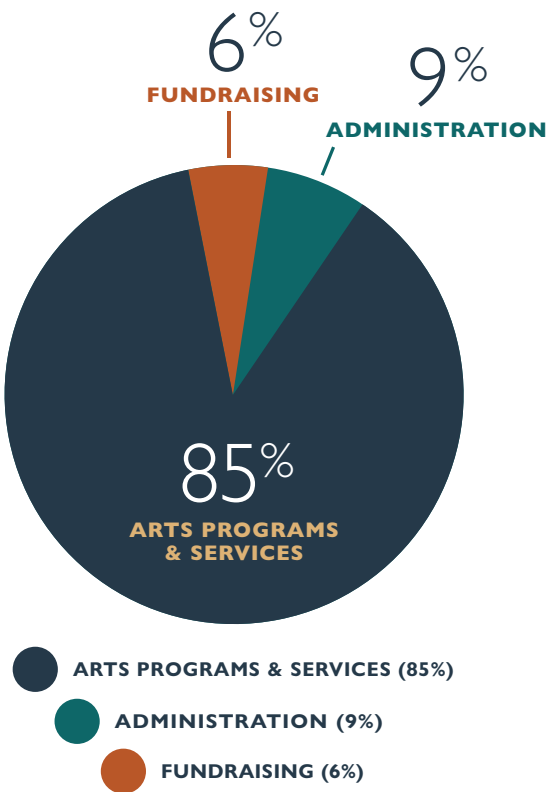


SAMMONS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

2024-25 PRELIMINARY AUDITED FINANCIALS

GRANTS & CONTRIBUTIONS	\$369,600	OPERATING REVENUE
ARTS PROGRAMS & SERVICES	\$249,000	
INVESTMENT & OTHER INCOME	\$23,300	
OPERATION SUPPORT FROM ENDOWMENT	\$571,700	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$1,213,600	

ARTS PROGRAMS & SERVICES	\$1,035,400	EXPENSES
FUNDRAISING	\$75,200	
ADMINISTRATION	\$103,000	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,213,600	



VOLUNTEER

We are grateful for the dedicated volunteers who support the Sammons Center’s operations, including concerts, special events, and committee service and board membership. Please call (214) 520-7788 or email info@sammonsartcenter.org if you are interested in volunteering.

MEMBERSHIP

Sammons Center members are a key reason for the success of our annual concert series, Sammons Jazz and Sammons Cabaret. As a “thank you” for our members’ support, the Center offers benefits such as discounted tickets and reserved seating. Memberships help sustain our music series and support the local performing arts community. See the Sammons Center website for more information or to become a member today.

SUPPORT

With over 58% of our operating budget provided by grants and contributions, community support is the backbone of our success. We are deeply grateful to the individuals, foundations, and agencies that empower us to sustain the local performing arts community. To help us grow, we invite you to consider a one-time or recurring contribution, stock transfer, or planned gift. Your generosity, whether through monetary gifts or in-kind donations, ensures the Sammons Center remains a vibrant home for Dallas artists.

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE



The Sammons Center is among the **top 25%** of organizations that received the highest possible 4-star rating for its commitment to financial health and transparency, as recognized by **Charity Navigator** and **Candid**.

SAMMONS CENTER PARTNERS



ASTRID MERRIMAN



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Jeanne & Tom Tunks
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Peggy & Peter Walker
Judy Watson
Mac Welch
Jane Wetzel
Patricia Wheeler
Kim & Brian Williams
Mark Williamson & Neil Schlager
Doug Wilson
Gina Wolk

IN MEMORIAM

Pauline Graivier passed away
on July 24, 2025

Stan Levenson passed away
on August 27, 2025

Linda Petty passed away
on February 23, 2025

Norma Stone passed away
on June 17, 2025

*Denotes multiple people

STAY CONNECTED

SammonsCenterForTheArts



@Sammons_Center



SammonsCenterForTheArts



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www.SammonsArtCenter.org
or scanning the QR code



Buy tickets for the upcoming
season at bit.ly/scaconcerts
or scan the QR code!



OUR MISSION

We grow the arts by providing
a welcoming home for artists and
arts groups to innovate, collaborate,
and thrive, enriching the lives of
people of all ages and
backgrounds.



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