



# 2024 IMPACT REPORT

Our Mission in Action

## OUR MISSION

Sitar Arts Center **engages DC youth**, from early childhood to young adulthood, in **building a creative community** of learning and belonging that **removes financial and cultural barriers** to arts education and career training

At Sitar Arts Center, we believe that **access to high-quality arts education and career training is essential for every young person's growth, success, and well-being**. The arts empower self-expression, connection, and opportunity, yet socioeconomic barriers often limit access. In Washington, DC, where such inequities persist, the **need for accessible, transformative arts experiences is greater than ever**.

Sitar's holistic approach to creative youth development ensures students—80% of whom come from households at 60% or less of the area median family income—participate in high-quality arts education year-round. Our programs **foster a sense of belonging and equip young people with the skills, confidence, and networks to pursue their dreams**. By removing financial barriers, Sitar creates a space where all young people, regardless of background, can explore their creativity, develop their talents, and achieve their full potential.

DO YOU LIKE  
COMING HERE?



3.8 out of 4  
AVERAGE  
STUDENT RATING

## ENGAGING DC YOUTH

Every moment at Sitar is an investment in a young person's future. From artistic exploration in the arts to real-world job experience through workforce development programs, Sitar equips DC youth with the skills and experiences needed to succeed.

**368** | youth, **ages 0-24**, enrolled in Early Childhood Arts and Arts Afterschool programs.

**143** | youth, **ages 6-14**, enrolled in Camp Sitar.

**88** | teens and young adults, **ages 14-22**, participated in Sitar's Emerging Arts Leaders and Bloomberg Arts Internship programs.

**12** | apprentices, **ages 18-24**, participated in ArtsAdvance: Career Studios.



**40,000**

Estimated collective youth learning hours

**275**

Max school year learning hours per youth

**260**

Max summer learning hours per youth

### Our Student Body

**Ward 1** | 40%

**Ward 2** | 5%

**Ward 3** | 8%

**Ward 4** | 22%

**Ward 5** | 12%

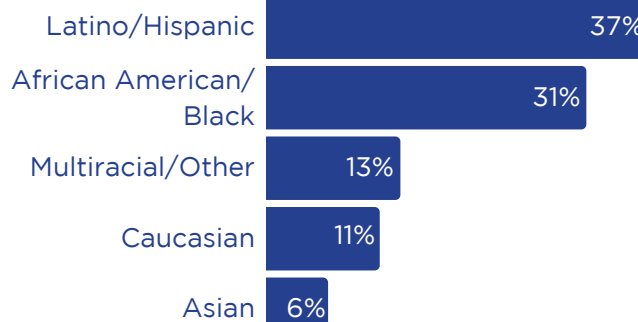
**Ward 6** | 3%

**Ward 7** | 6%

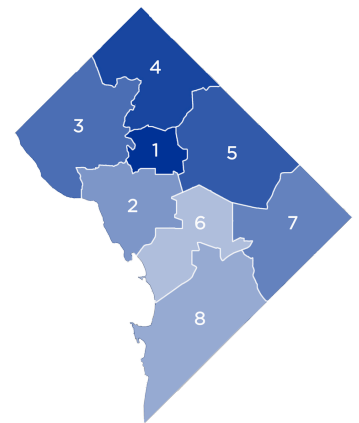
**Ward 8** | 4%

**80%**

of youth are from households at 60% or less of the area median family income.



2% no response



“Taking classes at Sitar has given me an **opportunity to explore different areas of the arts that I would not have had a chance to at school.** The drive to explore new things has influenced me to pick the major I am studying today.”

— Sitar Alum

## BUILDING A CREATIVE COMMUNITY

Realizing Sitar's vision of a city where all young people experience transformative moments through the arts requires a community committed to creating opportunities for DC youth to explore their creativity, build confidence, and shape their future.

In 2024, 190 volunteers, seasonal faculty, and program assistants helped us bring our mission to life.



80

Volunteer  
teaching artists



56

Volunteer  
leadership



8,400

Total volunteer hours,  
a contribution of over  
\$427,300  
worth of service.



54

Seasonal faculty and  
program assistants

### Fostering Belonging

Everyone deserves a welcoming space where they feel they belong. At Sitar, meaningful relationships among our students, faculty, and staff create a vital support system, helping students feel valued, heard, and celebrated.

Youth report high levels of trust and connection:

**3.3 out of 4:** Average student rating for having an **adult** at Sitar who is **interested in their thoughts**.

**3.5 out of 4:** Average student rating for having an **adult** at Sitar **they can turn to when upset**.

**3.6 out of 4:** Average student rating for having an **adult** at Sitar **who helps them solve problems**.

**3.6 out of 4:** Average student rating for having an **adult** at Sitar **who listens to and respects them**.

### Lasting Connections

Year after year, **families return to Sitar**, knowing it provides a **safe and welcoming space** where young people can grow, learn, and thrive.

**3 out of 5**

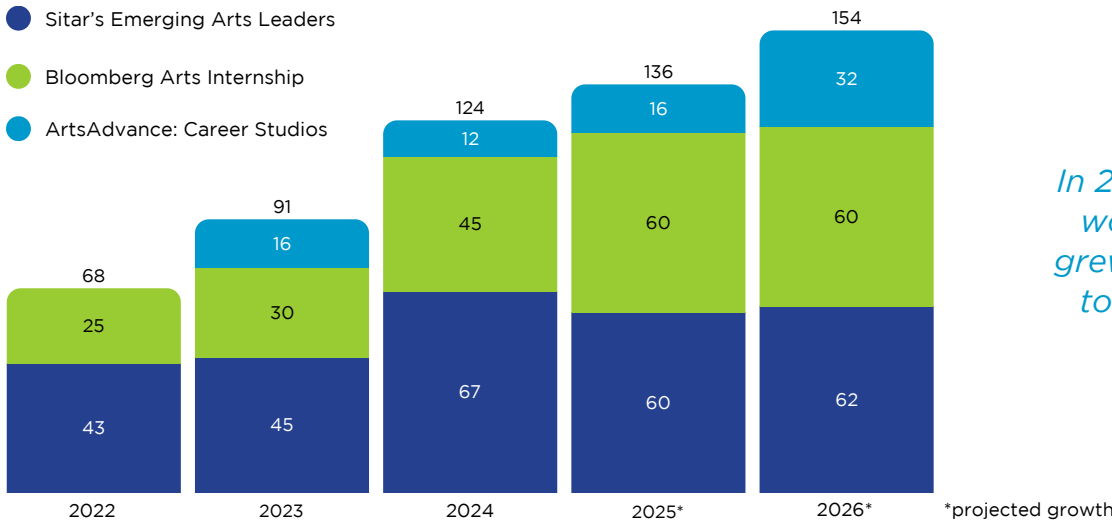
students from 2023  
enrolled in 2024  
programming



## DEVELOPING TOMORROW'S CREATIVE WORKFORCE TODAY

Sitar's creative workforce, professional development, and continuing education programs bridge the gap between education and the workforce, equipping teens and young adults with valuable experience and skills—free from the financial barriers that limit access to professional growth.

**\$396,100**  
earned by teens and young adults in Sitar's workforce development programs.



*In 2024, Sitar's creative workforce programs grew by 36% compared to the previous year.*

**"I feel like I found a whole new love for a career ... I feel like I could start coaching elementary school or middle school. Its even made me want to possibly change my major when I go to college to education or early childhood learning. So [my worksite] has inspired me a lot to figure out what I want to do for a career."**

— 2024 Sitar Bloomberg Arts Intern



By the end of their 2024 apprenticeships and summer internships, teens and young adults gained valuable skills, leading to:

**73%**

of Sitar's Emerging Arts Leaders rated their workforce skills as "very good" or "excellent."

**61%**

of Bloomberg Arts interns demonstrated college-level essay writing skills.

**100%**

of ArtsAdvance graduates earned professional certification in Adobe Photoshop.