



ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2026

July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

Arts of Life + Circle Contemporary

Arts of Life advances the creative arts community by providing artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities a collective space to expand their practice and strengthen their leadership.

CANDACE TURNER

The Art Studio, 2026

Acrylic and pen on paper
20 x 26 in.

A Letter from Denise Fisher, Arts of Life Co-Founder and Executive Director:

Aside from providing space for our artists to make incredible work, one of the most important ways you help our mission come to life is by supporting their careers. Fiscal Year 2026 marked monumental milestones for Arts of Life and our artists, highlighted by major museum exhibitions, solo debuts, and upcoming expansion plans.

In honor of our 25th Anniversary, we had the opportunity to exhibit our artists' and staff's work at the Design Museum of Chicago. Building on nine years of artists' success through Circle Contemporary and Art Fair participation, the Community on the Make exhibition marked a remarkable 25-year milestone for Arts of Life, celebrating our ongoing work to reimagine what community and collaboration can look like. Your belief in our artists helped make this possible, and your support continues to challenge the broader arts community to embrace greater inclusivity.

An individual milestone that we celebrated with our South Side artist, Marvin Young, was his first solo exhibition at the Intuit Art Museum. Marvin has been making work long before he joined Arts of Life, and we are both honored and proud to have supported his career and given him the spotlight he so richly deserved. Prior to the Intuit Art Museum exhibition Impressions of a City, Marvin was featured in Arts of Life's EXPO Art Fair booth and was invited to participate in the group show Spaces for People, Systems for Spaces at the vital Chicago Gallery Western Exhibitions.

These incredible milestones would not have been possible without the ongoing support of donors like you. We celebrate these with you, and I look forward to our ambitious Fiscal Year 2027, during which we are hard at work opening a new community program in Highland Park focused on ceramics. I hope you'll join me at the opening, where I can thank you in person for all you continue to do for this amazing community.

Warmly,

Denise Fisher



Arts of Life is a truly special place where each artist is encouraged to grow their practice and be a vital part of the community, both inside Arts of Life and within the greater arts community. That's why I have been an avid volunteer and supporter for over a decade.

Allison Wade, volunteer

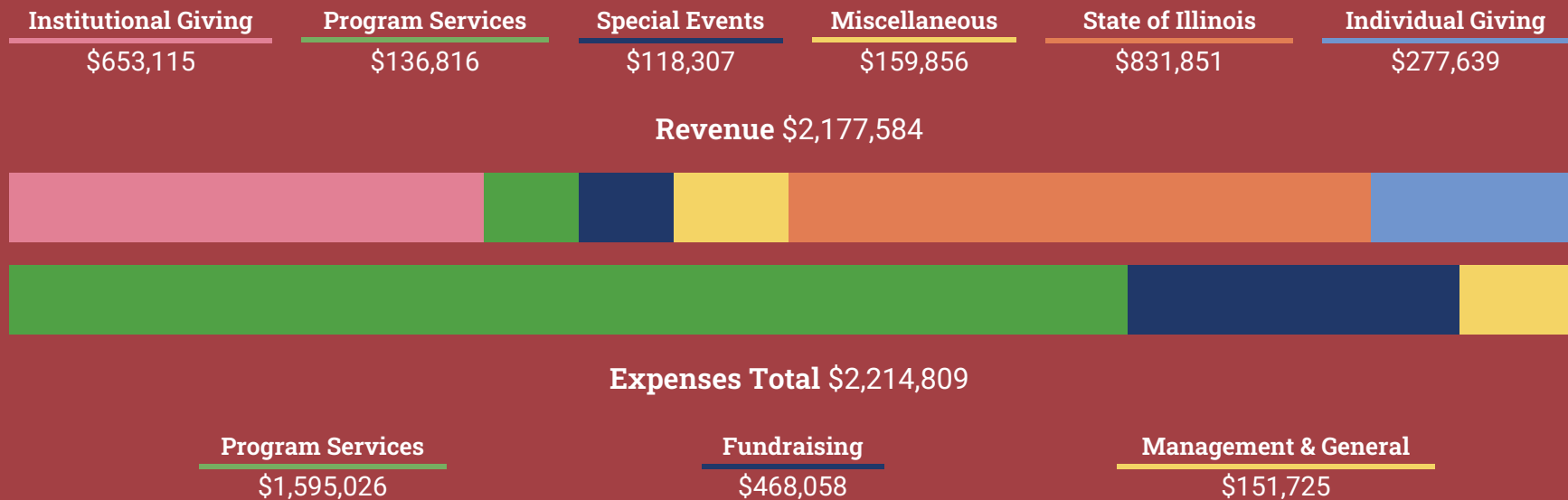
Arts of Life - Circle Contemporary

85 Artists Served ♦ **42,500+** Artist Program Hours ♦
348 artworks sold ♦ **151.6k** views on social media
♦ **3,545** volunteer hours ♦ **31** events & exhibitions

Including those hosted at

Design Museum of Chicago, Art on THE MART, Intuit Art Museum, Salt Shed, and Open Invitational SF

Unaudited FY25 financials



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