

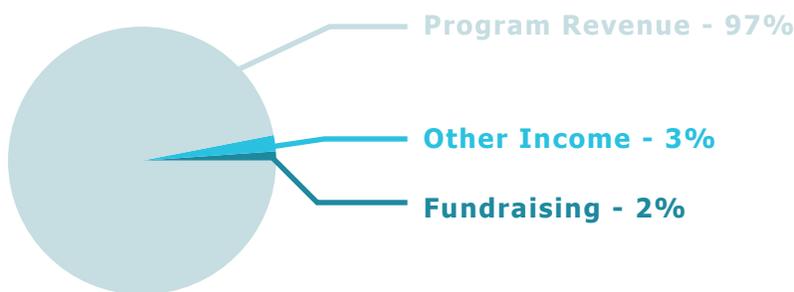
# DEAR PSA COMMUNITY,

My first year as Executive Director of Preschool of the Arts was an exciting whirlwind! I'm grateful for the warm welcome I received from families, staff and board. Much of my most important work took place behind the scenes as I updated administrative systems and completed the reaccreditation process. The most visible milestones during my first year included the creation of two new full-time pedagogista positions to provide support and supervision for teachers, the creation of reflective practice cohorts that support teachers' professional development, and the restructuring of our health care benefits to provide savings to both employees and the school. Throughout my work representing PSA in the broader Madison community, we have forged new connections via the UW-Madison network of early childhood programs. I've also enjoyed my role as chair of *The Wonder of Learning* steering committee, raising the profile of PSA at the state and national level. Back at PSA, one of my favorite activities is my Tuesday afternoon story time in the piazza, reading Owl Babies and other favorite picture books to the children. I look forward to many more happy milestones at PSA in the years to come.

Sincerely,  
Ann Gadzikowski

## FINANCIALS 2017-18

### income



### NEW AIR CONDITIONERS

Earlier this year, Preschool of the Arts realized that all 11 of our air conditioning units needed to be replaced - yikes! Kristin, our Environment and Facilities Manager, worked with MGE and took advantage of their Shared Savings program. Shared Savings is a loan program to finance energy-saving and money-saving improvements to businesses. MGE pays for the upfront costs, and PSA uses the cost savings generated by the reduced energy consumption to repay the loan. With our brand new air conditioners, we can adjust the building's thermostats by computer, equipping us with the information and technology we need to get staff and students ready for class.

### expenses



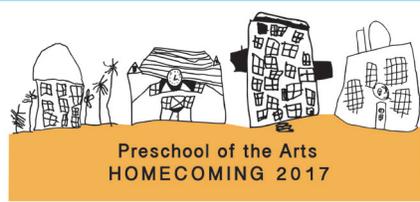
# WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP TO

Highlights from the 2017-18 School Year



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Over the summer of 2018, PSA collaborated with Reach Dance Head Start to pilot a "Clay and Play" arts program in two K Camp classrooms. The four-week program was developed and led by PSA staff members Kelly Blondin, Mollie Stetzer, and Ann Gadzikowski. PSA plans to expand these types of outreach partnerships in the future and help open doors to quality early learning opportunities for all children in our community.



## HOMECOMING

In October 2017, PSA hosted our first ever Homecoming. Both current families and alumni were invited to come back to PSA, to revisit the school and to reconnect with this special place. We were blown away by the attendance - approximately 500 people attended! It was wonderful to start the school year with a warm, family-filled event - and Homecoming is already a new PSA tradition.



## NEW WATER WALLS

Water play is an important part of every summer at PSA. Thanks to funds raised at our gala, and the generous work of one of our parents, Jim Damewood, each of our playgrounds has a new custom made water wall. Based on how the children interact with the water walls, Jim has been able to adjust them - truly a child-led project. Thank you to all who donated to our gala, and a special thanks to Jim Damewood!

# WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

Goals for the 2018-19 School Year

## THE WONDER OF LEARNING EXHIBITION

Preschool of the Arts is the lead host of the exhibit *The Wonder of Learning: The Hundred Languages of Children* from the schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy. PSA has been building a coalition of local partners for more than four years as we prepare for the January 2019 opening in two Capitol Square locations - the Youth Services room on the lower level of the Central Library and the Playhouse Gallery of the Overture Center. The exhibit will be open and free to the public through May 2019. *The Wonder of Learning* will inspire parents, educators and other advocates for children to better understand the powerful learning that occurs in the early childhood years and the many ways that children use many "languages," such as art, music, and play to explore and make meaning of their world. The exhibit will also shine a light on Preschool of the Arts and elevate our profile as a model early childhood program in Madison and beyond.

## GROWING OUR TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND

PSA continues to build our tuition assistance fund. This year, we received a large grant from the Ruth and Hal Lauenders Charitable trust. We will continue to pursue funding to make our program accessible to as many families as possible.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

Your support enables us to continue our mission to create opportunities for more families in their quest for outstanding early childhood education. Because Preschool of the Arts is a 501(c)(3) organization, your gift is tax deductible as allowed by law. To donate online, visit our website at [www.preschoolofthearts.com/donate-to-psa/](http://www.preschoolofthearts.com/donate-to-psa/) or contact [info@preschoolofthearts.com](mailto:info@preschoolofthearts.com).