



architecture foundation of oregon

2023 Impact Report



Architects in Schools at Rock Creek Elementary

REFRESH at the Portland Building

Sharon Alitema at 2023 Honored Citizen

To the AFO community,

I have now had the enormous pleasure of leading AFO for a full year, during which I met many of our community members, strategized with our board, and supported our staff in the execution of our impactful programs. The year has been a journey into the past, an exploration of the present, and an envisioning of the future.

In reflecting on the past year and compiling this Impact Report, I realized how much internal work AFO underwent amidst our many external programs. I am excited to share with you how we broadened our understanding of our community and examined the ways that we can welcome more individuals into that community.

I was particularly struck by three areas of impact: **internal advancements in equity and inclusion**, our **return from the pandemic**, and, most importantly, **the people that we welcomed and celebrated**. The following pages illustrate those areas in more detail.

I hope you enjoy reflecting on the past year and envisioning the opportunities ahead. Thank you for your support, your embrace of our evolution, and your trust as we try new things. We will only be as great as our community impact, and you're a part of that community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Erica Rife".

Erica Rife, Executive Director

Returning from COVID

Pre-pandemic attendance at **Honored Citizen** and **Community Events**

Pre-pandemic participation by teachers and volunteers in our **Architects in Schools** program

Involvement in city and state-wide conversations about the post-pandemic future, and what role the AEC community plays in that future

Celebrating People

Honored Hermann Colas, Jr., founder of Colas Construction and community leader, as our first contractor and first Black **Honored Citizen**

Granted **Scholarships** to four students in Oregon: Aracely Barajas-Silva, Nancy Pelayo-Colores, Nanette Beyale, and Athena Rilatos

Distributed \$53,000 in **Fellowships** to Jonathan Bolch, Kayin Talton Davis, Cleo Davis, and Diana Moosman

Heard from the individuals behind the scenes at the Portland Building renovation project during our summer **REFRESH** celebration

Recognized Kim Knowles, Associate Director of **Architects in Schools**, for 20 years of leading the program

Advancing Equity & Inclusion

Recognized Juneteenth as a staff holiday and day of reflection, during which we examined our understanding of the holiday, what it means to our community, and how we can better support communities of color in our work

Examined and adjusted our fundraising and development processes by initiating a year-long training inspired by **Community-Centric Fundraising** principles

Hosted **Trauma-Informed Workshops** for our staff, volunteers, board, and community, led by Dr. Renee Mitchell

Expanded access to **Architects in Schools** by conducting outreach to rural and Title I schools statewide



“Receiving the Honored Citizen Award was a tremendous highlight! To be with my dearest family, COLAS team, and 500+ esteemed colleagues, my heart was so full. Beautiful sentiments throughout the night, including a new scholarship in my honor, I will forever cherish this unforgettable evening.”

- Hermann Colas, Jr.
2023 Honored Citizen



“When I introduce myself to students and explain what an architect does, I show some of our projects in their area. Hands shoot up into the air to tell me all about their experiences with our projects. They ask if I know family members that are in the building community - contractors, electricians, plumbers, etc. When I do share a mutual connection, we are forever bonded.”

- Britni Jessup, Principal & Interiors Director at Rowell Brokaw



Architects in Schools

- 4,500 Students served across Oregon
- 35% Students served at Title I schools
- 185 Volunteer professionals, including architects, landscape & interior architects, urban designers, engineers, contractors, architecture students, and more
- 3,200 Volunteer hours
- 820 Students served in our virtual Architects in Schools Summer Camps since 2020
- \$9K Distributed from our Architects in Schools Supply Fund ensuring all students can fully participate in our school year program and summer camp regardless of access to materials
- 13 Oregon counties served

Scholarships

- 5 Scholarship funds established
- \$33K Awarded in total to seven Oregon architecture and art students
- 37 Students supported since 1998

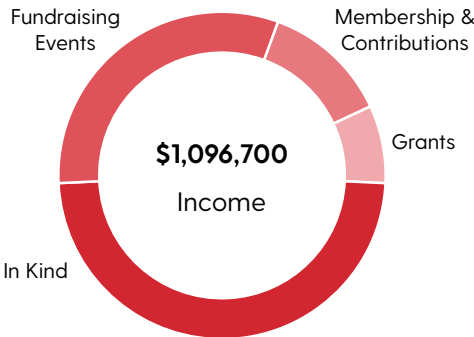
Fellowships

- \$53K Awarded in total to four design and building professionals
- 26 Design and building professionals supported since 2001

Honored Citizen

- 30 Year anniversary of citizens and organizations honored since 1993
- 550 Attendees celebrated our 2023 honoree, Hermann Colas, Jr.
- \$155K Raised for AFO

Summarized Income



Looking Ahead

Embarking on a community-informed strategic plan

Establishing **Formation: The Design Mentorship Collaborative** for BIPOC design students and professionals

Instituting the **Hermann Colas, Jr. Legacy Scholarship**

Launching the **Champions of Design Access** major giving program



Board Members

27

Architecture & Design
Community
Construction
Development
Engineering
Finance

Board Members & Officers

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Treasurer
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Norm Faris
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Grayson Hart
Robert Hoang
Britni Jessup
Jerrod Kowalewski
Andrew Lasse
Emily Matis
Nate McCoy

Michael Millender
Lisa Petterson
Debbie Rogers
Crystal Sanderson
Justin Stranzl
Kristina Thomsen
Quang Truong
Dan Van Calcar
Gauri Vengurlekar
Mauricio Villarreal
Kyle Warren

Corporate Members

66

Individual Members

200

Annual Volunteers

300

Volunteer Hours

4,450

Inaugural Champions of Design Access

Brooks Gunsul
Ron & Nancy Gronowski
Jane Jarrett & David McCarthy
Phil & Julie Beyl
Carol Mayer-Reed & Michael Reed
Josh Richards
John Medvec
Janice Westcott
Amy Winterowd
Amanda & Rod Ashley

Top Individual Contributors

David Adams	Norm Faris	Crystal Sanderson
Brian Annand	Robert Harris	Jeramie Shane
Braulio Baptista	Grayson Hart	Justin Stranzl
John Borrelli	Robert Hoang	Peter van der Meulen
Darin Buscaglia	Joe Hughes	Jaymie Van Orden
Pete Caputo	Laura Jensen	Kaitlin Walker
Nancy Cheng	Scott Mears	Alice Wiewel
Han-Mei Chiang	Solvei Neiger	
Donald Corner	Lisa Petterson	
Abby Dacey	Brian Phair	
Timothy Eddy	Karina Ruiz	

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Granting Organizations

Juan Young Trust
Marie Lamfrom Foundation
MDU Resources Foundation
MJ Murdock Charitable Trust
Oregon Arts Commission
Oregon Cultural Trust
Pinkerton Charitable Fund

Partner Members

Autodesk
Carleton Hart Architecture
Geffen Mesher
KPFF
Lease Crutcher Lewis
Skanska
Soderstrom Architects
ZGF Architects

Principal Members

DJC Oregon
Edlen & Co.
Interface Engineering
LEVER Architecture
Turner Construction Co.