



1221 Main Street Buffalo, New York 14209 • 716.259.1680

www.buffaloartstechcenter.org

2021

annual report



01 About BCAT

Through educational and career-centered opportunities, Buffalo Center for Arts & Technology (BCAT) provides youth and adult students with unique learning opportunities as they explore their creativity and build upon their passions. Based on a nationally recognized arts and training center (Manchester-Bidwell Corporation), BCAT creates an environment of hope, support and discovery as students enrich their lives through workforce development, arts and technology.

Whether involved in the Youth Arts Program (YAP) or Adult Workforce Training Program (AWP), participants set and reach new goals.

Mission

To provide opportunities for careers through the arts, technology and workforce development

Vision

- Improve high school graduation rates
- Develop family-sustainable wage earners
- Ensure access to safe environments to learn & prosper
- Contribute to economic and social growth



Letters from our CEO & Board Chair

Dear Friends of BCAT,

I think we can all agree that these last two years brought more unexpected trials and changes than any of us could have anticipated or been prepared to easily handle. BCAT is no exception.

As a team, we gathered our strength and determination and met the COVID-19 pandemic head on. Why? Because the adults and youth we serve deserve the best we can give them, especially when they are facing escalating challenges financially, emotionally, and socially.

BCAT closed its doors for less than 2 months in 2020. Our medical coding program went virtual within two weeks and with care and support, maintained 100% of our students through graduation. We stayed present for our youth and brought them back in-house in October 2020, responding to their need for safe social interactions and support from caring adults. We continued to move forward with doors and opportunities open.

I am honored to work with such a passionately, dedicated team and with the truly incredible youth and adults who walk through our doors.

I welcome you to review our first annual report and celebrate the accomplishments of our adults and youth as they persist and succeed.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gina Burkhardt".

Gina Burkhardt
President & CEO
BCAT



Dear Friends,

Despite the continuing challenges the second year of the pandemic posed, the BCAT team was relentless in supporting their students, adjusting programs, attracting increased funding and recognition and expanding their offerings. They committed to BCAT's mission of providing opportunities for careers in creative, supportive, and compassionate ways.

With a job placement rate of 70%, BCAT is helping to meet the increasing demand for healthcare workers, while graduates in turn earn family-sustaining wages.

Through an educational and emotionally supportive approach, high school students are encouraged to explore their creativity in a safe environment. Music production, digital arts, 3D printing and creative computer coding are just a few of BCAT's offerings that open avenues to college and careers for the youth. We are proud to share in 2021, ALL BCAT seniors graduated high school!

Despite these impressive results, BCAT is not slowing down. BCAT has expanded its adult workforce program offerings to 17 classes/year (compared to 2 classes/year when the organization was founded 8 years ago), expanded partnerships for enhanced training and increased job opportunities.

I invite you to learn more and support BCAT as it helps youth and adults define success on their terms, while giving back to our community by building a strong workforce.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert D. Gioia".

Robert D. Gioia
BCAT Board Chairman



02 Adult Workforce Program



Landscape
Maintenance
Technician



Medical
Billing &
Insurance
Upskill



Medical Coder
& Health
Information
Professionals



Pharmacy
Technician
(Entry Level)



Phlebotomy

With “Defining success on your terms” as the mantra for the Adult Workforce Program (AWP), BCAT instructors mentor and support adult students as they reinvent themselves and gain training to climb the ladder toward their goals.

In response to the current local market demands, BCAT students are enrolled in medical and landscape maintenance programs. Embedded within the program are opportunities to intern and gain field experience with partnering organizations including: Buffalo General Medical Center, Oishei Children’s Hospital, Wegmans, Landmark Health Systems, Roswell Park, Olmstead Parks Conservancy and more. These hands-on experiences are crucial to students, especially those enrolled in the medical programs. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to move through our community, the need for healthcare professionals is more important than ever and BCAT students are well prepared to answer the call.

In addition to gaining the necessary skills and knowledge to be successful in their fields, AWP students take advantage of professional development opportunities and gain a dedicated support system of BCAT staff to prepare them to successfully transition into the workforce and beyond.

The AWP Team

Darren Saxon
Associate Director

Elizabeth Swanson, CPT
Phlebotomy Instructor

Angela Johnson
AWP Admin. Assistant

Deborah Porter
Director & School
Administrator

Jeanne Jarka, CPC
Medical Coding
Instructor

Marie Bertola, RPH
Pharmacy
Technician Instructor



Adult Workforce Program Insights

Before graduation, many students are exposed to their field through valuable internship opportunities. These experiences provide pathways for BCAT students into the workforce after graduation.

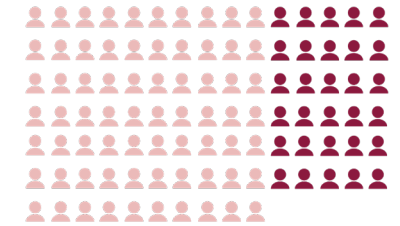
Number of BCAT Graduates from
2019-2021

80%
Graduation
Rate



BCAT has offered 16 classes with an average graduation rate of 80% ranging from 88% - 72%.

Employment rate among AWP
Graduates



70%
Employment*
Rate

*Employment rate reflects the number of AWP graduates that responded to survey post-graduation. 71% response rate.

AWP Student Spotlight: Teria Newell

Phlebotomy Program Graduate

In addition to receiving her Phlebotomy certification, Teria also received a Certificate of Appreciation for volunteering her time to help new phlebotomy students on their journey through the program.

Q: What was the most impactful thing you learned during your time in the program?

A: I learned to never give up no matter how hard the task may be. I also learned you can achieve anything as long as you set your mind to it. Because of that drive and motivation BCAT gave me, I was able to obtain a job as a Phlebotomist Technician at Kaleida where I work full time and CSL Plasma as a Phlebotomist part time. I am truly grateful!

Q: What made you want to come back to BCAT to help new students on their journey?

A: I absolutely LOVE phlebotomy. I was a great help to my classmates and knew I wanted to come back and help others. I wanted to help them do more than just pass the program and actually take that knowledge into the job field. I desire to teach the course myself one day.



03 Youth Arts & Technology Program



3D Printing



Digital Art



Creative Coding



Music Production



Mural Club

In a safe, nurturing and inspiring environment, BCAT's Youth Arts & Technology Program (YAP) team encourages creative expression, academic efficacy and social emotional development. Through youth-centered immersive classes, YAP students focus on the intersection of art, technology and social awareness.

Throughout the pandemic, BCAT remained open so students can have a safe, supportive environment to continue learning, socializing with their peers and making a positive impact on their community during a trying time.

In 2021, BCAT youth took on many special projects including: completing the "Mural of Hope" highlighting the importance of mental health (located on the Horizon Health Services building on Bailey Ave.) and creating awareness about the environment through artwork for the Art Heals Nature Initiative, a public exhibition encouraging resiliency during the pandemic.

As students continue their academic journey, BCAT educates students on entrepreneurship as the anticipation and excitement builds up for a future beyond high school. With their newly acquired skills, students build a portfolio to use as they explore the numerous pathways that await them.

The YAP Team

Kamalah Poles, EdD
Director

Kevin Kline
Instructional Coordinator

Caroline Lewis, MSW
Social Worker

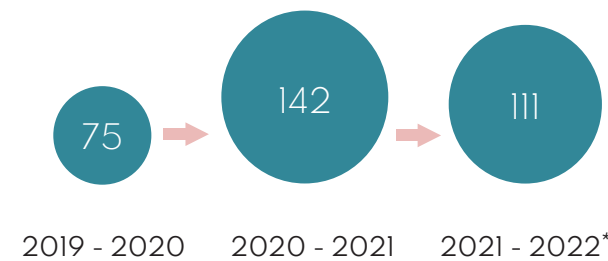
Matthew Bosque
College & Career Counselor



Youth Arts & Technology Program Insights

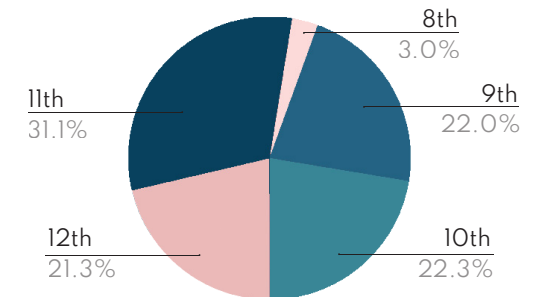
Throughout the pandemic, BCAT remained open to provide support & programs to over 300 students in grades 8th - 12th.

Number of Students Per Year



*Reflects half year of programming

Cumulative Students by Grade



YAP Student Spotlight: Kendric Warrick

Kendric is a student at Performing Arts High School. He is also enrolled in BCAT's Digital & Fine Arts program.

Q: What is your most memorable moment during your time at BCAT?

A: My most memorable experience as a BCAT student is connecting with everyone, making my first mural with other BCAT students, and having a good connection with the teacher.

Q: What is your favorite thing about the Digital & Fine Arts program at BCAT?

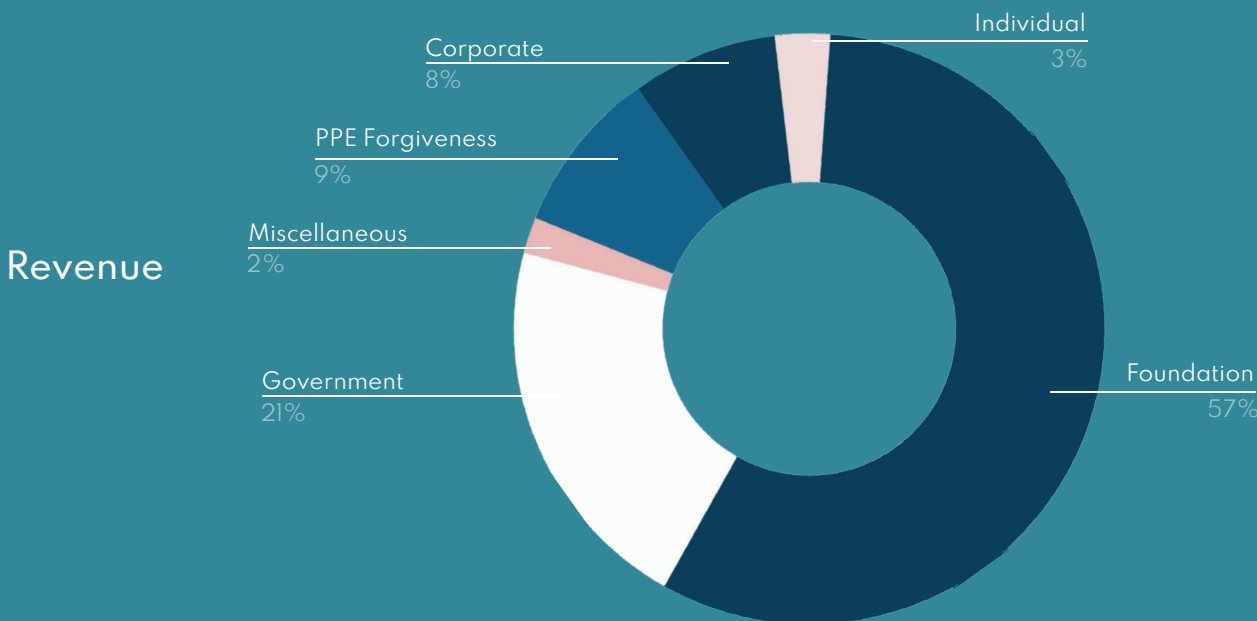
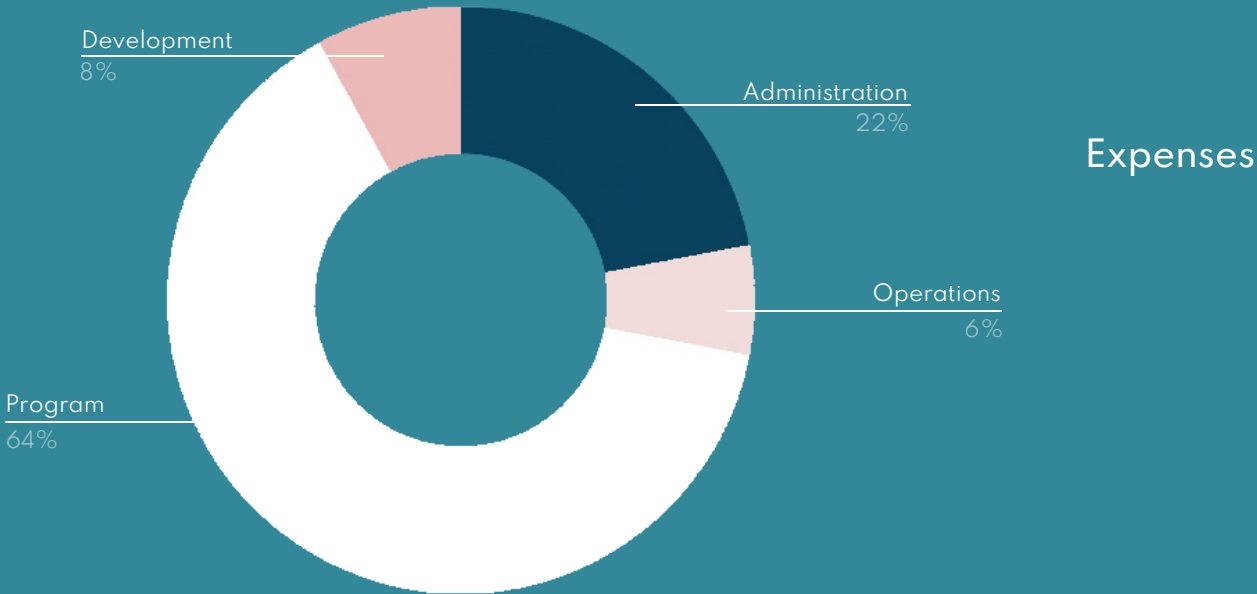
A: My favorite thing about the Youth Arts Program is that as a person you can express yourself through art and in any art form, I also like how the people that work at BCAT are very helpful and intuitive and they help with almost everything.



Use your phone camera to scan the QR code to hear a short message from Kendric about why students should come to BCAT.



04 Organization Overview



2021 Highlights



Neighborhood Champs

BCAT is named a 2021 Neighborhood Champion by Bank of America. This recognition included a \$50,000 grant and access to virtual leadership training by nonprofit experts.



Mural of Hope

YAP Students, Alanna M., Aluel A., Anthony A., Jada J., Clementine G., Daria Z., Kendric W. & Patricia D. complete the Mural of Hope to spread mental health awareness at Horizon Health Services' Bailey Ave. location.



Defining Success

AWP 2021 graduate Na'Chelle Price celebrates her completion of the Medical Billing & Insurance-Upskill program with AWP Director, Deborah Porter.



Art Heals Nature

BCAT guests enjoy the student art displayed in the "Art Heals Nature" collection - an exhibit encouraging resiliency in the midst of the pandemic.



A Glimpse into the Field

For a look into what their day-to-day responsibilities will consist of, Phlebotomy students took advantage of an opportunity to tour Sisters of Charity Hospital.

On the Horizon: A look into 2022

In the new year, BCAT's Youth Arts and Technology Program will be expanding their collaboration with the Buffalo Bills Social Justice Fund to bring an innovative workshop to youth.

BCAT's Adult Workforce Program will be collaborating with Tech Buffalo to provide IT courses to adults in the community.

05 Our Donors

We would like to thank all of our donors for their outstanding generosity in 2021! Because of their ongoing support and partnership, BCAT continues to live out its mission and provide opportunities to the adults and youth in the community.

Corporations

Bank of America Foundation
Buffalo Bills Foundation
Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus, Inc. (BNMC)
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Network for Good
Salesforce
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Wegmans

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Child and Family Services of Erie County
County of Erie-Department of Comptroller
Empire State Development (ESD)
Erie County
Erie County Industrial Development Agency
New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA)

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Communities of Giving Legacy Initiative (CGLI)
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East Hill Foundation
FeedMore WNY
HOPE Buffalo
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The John R. Oishei Foundation
The WNY Women’s Foundation Inc.
United Way of Buffalo and Erie County

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Elizabeth Eisenhauer, Director, Operations
Kamalah Poles, EdD, Director, Youth Arts & Technology
Deborah Porter, Director, Workforce Development
Judy Telaak, Director, Development

Adult Workforce

Deborah Porter, Director & School Administrator
Darren Saxon, Associate Director
Marie Bertola, RPH, Pharmacy Technician Instructor
Jeanne Jarka, CPC, Medical Coding Instructor
Elizabeth Swanson, CPT, Phlebotomy Instructor
Brittany Page, CPC, Medical Billing & Insurance Instructor

Youth Arts & Technology

Kamalah Poles, EdD, Director
Kevin Kline, Instructional Coordinator
Matthew Bosque, College & Career Counselor
Caroline Lewis, MSW, Social Worker

Teaching Artists

Kevin Kline, Digital Arts
Brandon Schlia, Music Production

Administration

Elizabeth Eisenhauer, Director, Operations
Tracy Graham, Bookkeeper
Phyllis Griggs, Receptionist

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Jennifer Wiedl, Grants Coordinator

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