

ARTISTS FOR
Climate
AWARENESS



Annual Report
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026

artistsforclimateawareness.org



Executive Report

From July 2025 through June 2026, Artists for Climate Awareness advanced its mission to connect communities with climate understanding through the arts. Over the course of the year, ACA delivered a balanced portfolio of exhibitions, workshops, youth programs, and interdisciplinary collaborations that broadened public engagement and strengthened regional partnerships.

ACA's programming reached audiences in Indiana and Michigan, with particular emphasis on accessible, hands-on climate education. Youth and families participated in creative activities ranging from climate comic book design, sand mandala creation, to recycled-instrument making and sustainable fashion workshops. Adult participants engaged in eco-printing, botanical dye instruction, and reflective climate-art journaling.

Earth Month served as a major focal point. The *Art as Inquiry* juried show, with its companion *Climate Co-Lab* exhibition, showcased climate-focused artwork from multiple states and was accompanied by original ecological music developed in partnership with the IU Jacobs School of Music. Between the two receptions, the attendance of 140 people demonstrated lively community participation and strong interest in climate-related cultural programming.

ACA also contributed to conservation efforts through collaboration with the *Saving the Hoosier* documentary project, hosting a benefit concert and film preview in support of protecting the Hoosier National Forest. 65 people attended the one-evening event, donating \$1300 toward the cause from that event alone. Additional community events—including a collaborative sand mandala at Bloomington's Earth Day Celebration and sustainable instrument-making at the Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar—reinforced ACA's commitment to accessible, family-friendly climate engagement.

Overall, FY 2025–26 was a year of organizational growth, expanded partnerships, and increased public participation. ACA's work continues to demonstrate the effectiveness of the arts as a pathway to climate awareness and community connection.

Artists for Climate Awareness Team:

Joe Lee, President

Carol Rhodes, Treasurer

Sara Steffey McQueen, Secretary

Zain Mackey, Board at Large, Finance Team

Fran Kremer, Board at Large, UASCA Liaison

With additional thanks to volunteers Lily Shan, Chandra Craig Rettinger, Karen Holtzclaw, Kathleen Brigidina, Jessica Kovan, Christine Missik, and many others



Activities and Events

Major Exhibitions & Performances

“Art as Inquiry – Juried Climate Art Exhibition” *April 2–29, 2026 – Pillar Arts Alliance Center, Bloomington, IN & Online* — ACA presented a multi-state juried exhibition featuring 2-D and 3-D climate-focused artwork from 25 members. The show served as the centerpiece of Earth Month, exploring how artistic practice can make climate research more accessible.

Brushes for a Better Planet “Climate Co-Lab” Project Exhibition *April 19–29, 2026 – Pillar Arts Alliance Center, Bloomington, IN* — Beginning April 19, six artworks from the *Brushes for a Better Planet* Climate Co-Lab were added to the “Art as Inquiry” show. Two public receptions (April 12 & 19) drew **140 attendees**, each event featuring the **“Nature Walk”** musical performance by IU Jacobs School of Music students.

“Nature Walk” – Music & Science Performance *April 12 & 19, 2026 – Bloomington, IN* — Composers with the IU Student Composers Association translated field observations of southern Indiana ecosystems into original musical works. The concerts accompanied the Art as Inquiry and Climate Co-Lab receptions, highlighting art–science collaboration.

“Saving the Hoosier”: Benefit Concert & Film Preview *March 29, 2026 – Bloomington, IN* — A fundraising concert supporting the documentary ***Saving the Hoosier*** brought together musicians, donors, and film narrator Hud Mellencamp. About **65 attendees** viewed preview scenes and contributed to the film’s completion, supporting ongoing efforts to protect the Hoosier National Forest.

“Human | Nature” Climate Art Exhibition Collaboration *July 11, 2026 – Louisville Visual Art* — Although just outside the fiscal year window, this major year-long collaboration with **Uniting Artists and Scientists for Climate Action (UASCA)** is relevant to ACA’s expanding regional partnerships. The event united artists, scientists, and climate organizations for a one-day art/science program and strengthened ACA’s Cincinnati, Chicago, and Louisville network, among others.

Community Events, Public & Youth Engagement

Earth Day Sand Mandala Community Art Project *April 18, 2026 – Switchyard Park, Bloomington, IN* — ACA led a hands-on, all-ages sand-mandala mural activity during Bloomington’s Earth Day Celebration. Guided by ACA artist-educator Sara Steffey McQueen, participants—including a Girl Scout troop—created a collaborative artwork connecting creativity with climate awareness.

Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar – Sustainable Instrument Making *April 4, 2026 – Bloomington, IN* — ACA helped children and families build musical instruments from recyclable materials during this multicultural arts festival, reinforcing sustainability through hands-on creativity.

IU Science Fest – Climate Comic Book Activity *November 4, 2025 – Indiana University Bloomington* — ACA led children in creating climate-themed comic books (“Milo the Penguin’s Big Melt” and “The Greenhouse Gang”), with cartooning by member Lily Shan. The event engaged youth in climate storytelling through art.

IU First Thursdays – Wearable Climate Art Activities *September–November 2025 – Indiana University Bloomington* — ACA facilitated climate-themed creative activities at IU’s monthly arts festival, including wearable art projects and collaborations with IU Net Impact and Brushes for a Better Planet.

Workshops & Hands-On Learning

Botanical Prints on Fabric Workshop May 9, 2026 – *Bloomington, IN* — Participants learned eco-printing techniques using natural pigments on silk. While their work processed, attendees viewed a screening of *Saving the Hoosier* and spoke with the film’s organizer about forest conservation.

Mandalas & Plant Inks Workshop October 11, 2025 – *Bloomington, IN* — Led by Sara Steffey McQueen, this workshop explored mandala symbolism and plant-based inks. Bridget O’Brien (IU) provided environmental education on natural pigment cultivation.

Hope & Healing: Climate Art Journaling October 18, 2025 – *Frankfort, MI* — Artist Jessica Kovan guided participants through reflective journaling and artmaking to process climate emotions and build resilience.

Trashion Refashion – Eco-Fashion for Kids July 9 & 16, 2026 – *Bloomington Creative Glass Center* — ACA member Chandra Craig Rettinger led youth in creating runway-ready fashion from recycled materials, teaching sustainability through creativity.

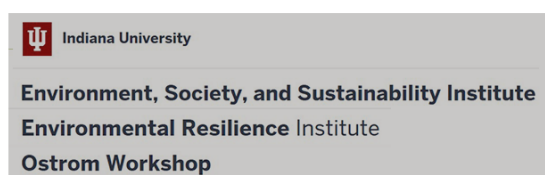
Summary of Impact (FY 2025–26)

Across the year, ACA delivered:

- **Multiple exhibitions** blending art and climate science (200-260 total participants)
- **Hands-on workshops** in eco-printing, journaling, mandalas, and sustainable fashion (total participants (70 total participants))
- **Youth programs** reaching children through comics, instrument-making, mandala-making, and creative climate education (500 total youth participants)
- **Earth Month programming** with strong attendance and interdisciplinary collaboration
- **Partnerships** with IU Jacobs School of Music, Pillar Arts Alliance Center, Lotus Blossoms, Louisville Visual Art, Art for Earth, and other organizations
- **Community engagement** through public art, festivals, and conservation-focused events

ACA’s work this year strengthened regional partnerships, expanded art-science programming, and deepened public engagement with climate issues through creativity.

With Thanks to Our Sponsors and Partners

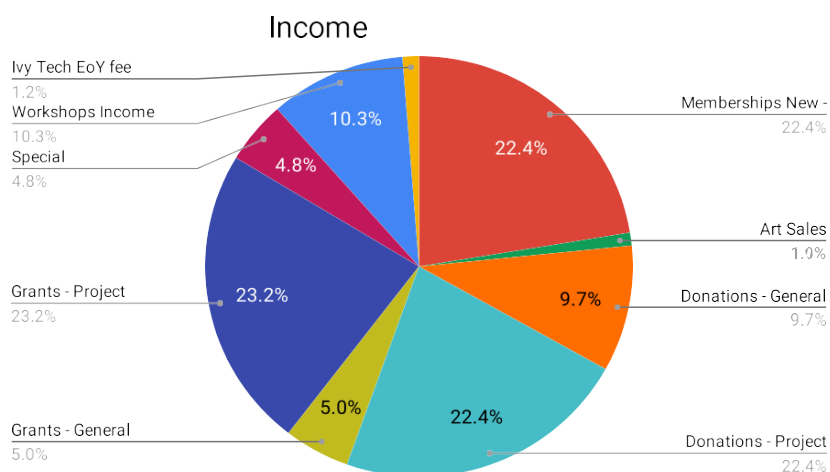


ACA Financials FY 2025-26 (July 1 to June 30)

Income

Memberships	\$2,255.00
Art Sales	\$100.00
Donations – General	\$976.00
Donations – Project	\$2,249.45
Grants – General	\$500.00
Grants – Project	\$2,333.35
Shows	\$0.00
Other	-\$5.00
Special — Event	
Ticket Sales and Show Fees	\$485.00
Workshops Income	\$1,035.00
PayPal Fees	\$0.00
Ivy Tech EoY fee	\$125.00

Total **\$10,053.80**



Expenditures

Office - Admin	\$130.57
Fees	\$45.00
Events - Facilitator	\$2,171.58
Events - Venue - Facilities	\$0.00
Events - Extras	\$0.00
Shows	\$1,280.00
Facilities - Other	\$0.00
Insurance	\$542.05
Printing	\$0.00
Technology	\$444.49
PayPal Fees	\$0.00
PayPal fees	\$73.91
Consulting	\$0.00
Advertising	\$0.00
Project-related Activities	\$1,100.06
Donations of Other 501(c)3	\$0.00
Ivy Tech EoY Admin Fee	\$125.00

Total **\$5,912.66**

