

Flying Cloud Institute | Where Science Meets Art

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



THE MISSION OF FLYING CLOUD INSTITUTE
IS TO INSPIRE YOUNG PEOPLE AND
EDUCATORS THROUGH DYNAMIC
SCIENCE AND ART EXPERIENCES
THAT IGNITE CREATIVITY.

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Flying Cloud Institute | Where Science Meets Art

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Some days it felt like Flying Cloud Institute had been preparing for the education crisis of 2020-21 for the last 35 years! We leveraged the trust of our funders, families, and community partners into proactive, positive solutions to our community's most dire needs. Both online and in-person, educators offered a creative, caring, holistic alternative to help our most vulnerable youth make it through this year safely. Outdoors from July 2020 to August 2021, our educators did it all with the same high standards for authentic science, engineering, and art that the Flying Cloud name has been known for since its founding by Jane and Larry Burke.

In a year of isolation, we have never been so connected to our beloved Berkshire learning community. So here's to all of you who were part of that success. Thank you.


MARIA RUNDLE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2020 Timeline

"From the beginning, Flying Cloud was part of the conversation of how can we best support families. They were an integral part of every single school day, from the opening of school until we came back until complete in-person school, and even at that time, then they pivoted to help us offer afterschool."
Charles Miller, Southern Berkshire Regional School District principal

In March of 2020, Flying Cloud Institute (FCI) was working in 11 different schools throughout Berkshire county.

March - June: FCI educators host the first virtual Girls Science Club. Online meetings continue through the end of the school year with weekly check-ins and hands-on science explorations. From the safety of their own homes, students explored geology, astrophysics, and more.

S•M•Art at Home Live launches, bringing free, live art and science lessons to families: music and science programs, weekly science meet-ups, and art projects open to all.

June 22nd: FCI offers a free day program for youth to practice new COVID protocols and to build a series of contactless hand-washing stations. It goes well and we feel ready to launch in-person programs!

July 13th: The New Adventures Science and Art summer program begins and runs for five weeks at Flying Cloud Farm in New Marlborough and at April Hill in Egremont. Incredible care is taken to keep children, staff, and families safe from COVID transmission and the summer programs are a big success.

July 27th: FCI partners with the Wade Institute to offer teachers from around the country a week of online professional development, sharing our expertise in hands-on learning strategies.

August 3rd: FCI celebrates the 20th year of the Young Women in Science program with a free week of outdoor science explorations for youth ages 9-19. We host four generations of scientists and engineers!

September - April: Community Learning in the Berkshires (CLuB) launches with partners Berkshire South Regional Community Center, Flying Deer Nature Center, Greenagers, and Volunteers in Medicine. We **establish 10 learning hubs for full-day, fully outdoors, five days a week enrichment and remote learning.** CLuB supports the children of healthcare providers, essential workers, educators, and immigrant families who don't have anywhere to go when school is remote. CLuB is free to families who qualify for free/ reduced lunch. **Over 125 children receive science and art enrichment from our FCI teachers, as well as dance, outdoor exploration, literacy skill-building, and so much more.** We serve hot meals daily and send home meals and boxes of fresh food.

October - December: FCI continues to offer virtual science programs to Pittsfield students through the Young Women in Science program.

Who is Flying Cloud Institute?



America and Naomi Lopez
CLuB Family & Girls Science Club
Member

"For me, CLuB was very helpful and gave an opportunity for kids to be creative, to be outdoors, and it helped not just me but so many working mothers and kids. It opened the door for kids to explore many ways to learn. **If there was a school like that, Naomi would be more than happy to go!** CLuB helped many children discover a new way of learning and for the first time exposed them to being close to nature and being creative.

Every day Naomi would show me something-- she knew how to make a book with birch bark and now she is always telling me, 'I'm going to do a project!'

Thank you for including the voice of a mother who was helped by this program. Many of us appreciate this so much."



Jules Janssen
FCI Alum
Musician & Music Performance
Technology Specialist

"FCI was a time where my creative energies were given a chance to be explored and to flourish. **I truly discovered a part of myself there that has been a defining factor in my life to this day.**

The drumming workshop during my camp experience ignited my love of drums and since then drumming has become my deepest passion and creative outlet, which has led me to play over 1,000 live shows all over the USA and beyond.

I am also now a Music Performance Technology Specialist helping some of the biggest artists in the world develop their best live shows and embrace their creativity in a similar way to myself as a kid at FCI."



Syndey Ruggiero
FCI Alum
College student at the University
of Georgia, majoring in
Microbiology & Public Health

"As a kid, I attended the Flying Cloud Girls Science Club and later became a mentor for the same program in high school. Memories from that after-school program hold a special place with me because they began to foster in me a love for all things science.

I remember writing in our first lab books and being so excited to share what I'd learned with my parents.

Then as I moved on to high school, it was the greatest experience when I got to play the role of one of the mentors I used to look up to. I realized that a lot more was being taught at Girls Science Clubs than the fascinating science topics.

Lessons on independence, confidence, leadership, and the power of being a woman scientist were all being instilled in any girl who came through this program. I am forever grateful for the experiences I had with Girls Science Club as I continue to pursue a career based on my love for science."





Emily Paltz

Volunteer & graduate student at the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Science (DAES) at the University at Albany

"I love volunteering with Flying Cloud because they encourage us to allow students to take the lead when conducting experiments! In my experience, classes often lead students to the answer by the most direct route and explain everything rather than allowing students to come to their own conclusions. This is truly unfortunate! It keeps students from seeing and experiencing the messiness of science. **Rarely does science follow a linear path. Many failures generally occur before one has success. While this process can be frustrating, there is also so much that is learned by it!"**



THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers are the heart of Flying Cloud Institute's success. For over 30 years, we have brought in a diverse group of real scientists and artists to work with our kids. These volunteers inspire our kids to see themselves as scientists and artists.

Female STEM professionals are a special part of Flying Cloud Institute's multi-generational Young Women in Science (YWIS) program. Research shows that having role models and mentors inoculates girls against gender bias in STEM subjects. Younger girls need positive STEM exposure early on in order to persevere and single-gender settings support their curiosity and initiative. Layered mentoring experiences increase STEM aspirations and self-esteem in girls.

**Are you interested in volunteering?
There are lots of different ways to help!**
Email Amy Truax, at atruax@flyingcloudinstitute.org

What is Flying Cloud Institute?

"What I liked about Flying Cloud was how much I got to learn and how much time I got to spend outside. One of the things we learned about was animals and how they use their bodies to help them survive. And our second was things to help the environment stay healthy."

-Phoebe, 6

S•M•Art Schools

Where Science Meets Art

FCI educators, artists, scientists, and engineers bring multi-week residencies into public schools, offering student-led projects and showcases of learning for the community. FCI also offers direct professional development for educators through workshops, courses, conferences, and embedded PD with S•M•Art School educators.

S•M•Art Studio

Making a Difference Through Making

Studio programs bring learning out of the classroom and into Berkshire county's wood shops, fields, laboratories, and art studios. By engaging in after-school and vacation programs like MakerSpace and S•M•Art Summer, children engage in hands-on learning experiences, solve problems, and unleash their creativity as they tinker, engineer, and build together.

Young Women in Science

Closing the gender gap in STEM

YWIS programs are designed to provide opportunities for girls to broaden their knowledge and interest in STEM through challenging, hands-on, collaborative laboratory experiences in a variety of disciplines. Women STEM professionals volunteer to lead sessions, and young women in high school and middle school mentor girls in elementary school. YWIS helps young women develop their STEM identity and change the way they think of science and engineering.





S•M•Art Studio

- MakerSpace
- Summer Camps
- 3D Printing and Robotics
- Vacation and half-day programs



YOUNG WOMEN IN SCIENCE

- Girls Science Clubs
- STEM Summer Intensives
- Girls Robotics
- High School Youth Mentoring



S•M•Art School

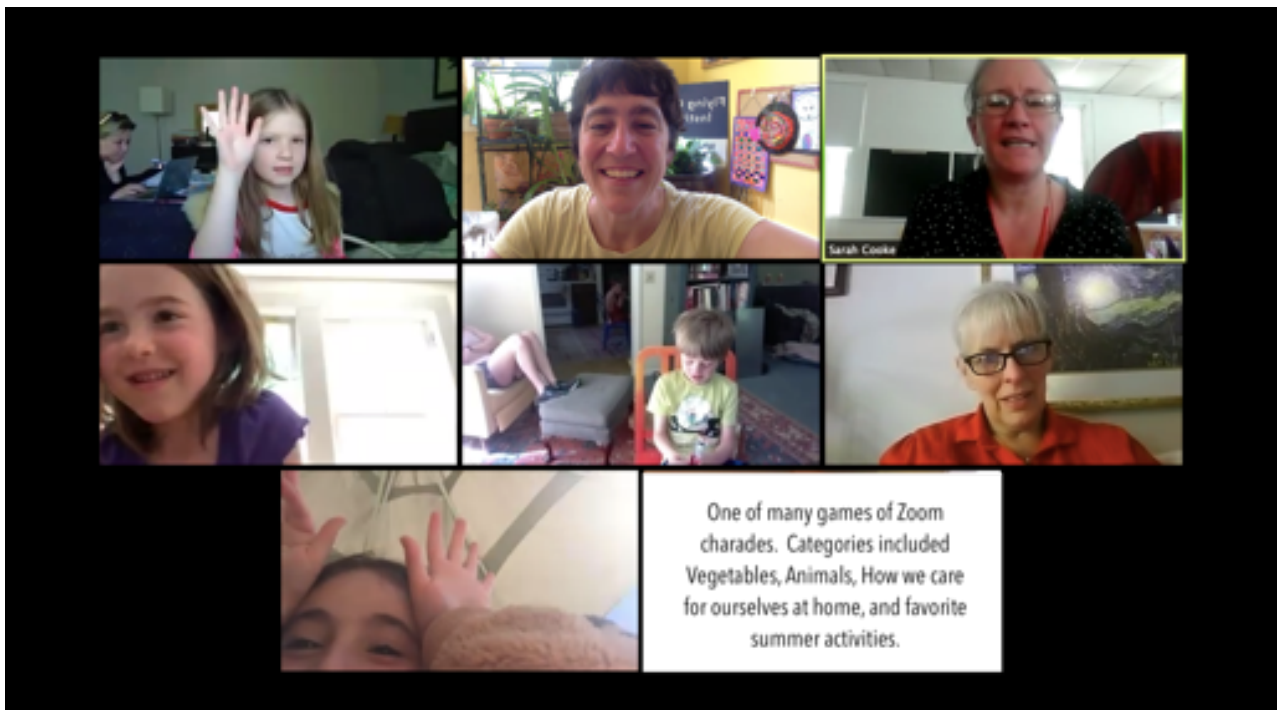
- In-School Residencies
- Professional Development for teachers
- Educator Conferences

S•M•ART:
WHERE SCIENCE
MEETS ART

Where is Flying Cloud Institute?

Find us in school classrooms,
workshops, MakerSpaces, fields,
art studios... and zoom!

Southern Berkshire Regional
School District
Berkshire Hills Regional School District
Lee Elementary School
Muddy Brook Elementary School
Morningside Community School
Conte Community School
Crosby Elementary
Reid Middle School
SOAR Program in Salisbury, CT
Richmond School
Flying Cloud Farm in New
Marlborough
Greenager's April Hill campus
Berkshire South Regional
Community Center



Financials

REVENUE

TUITION & PROGRAM INCOME

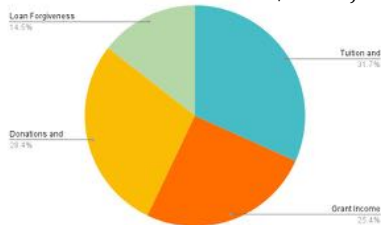
\$122,781

GRANT INCOME \$98,313

DONATIONS AND GIFTS \$110,028

LOAN FORGIVENESS \$56,100

TOTAL REVENUE \$387,222



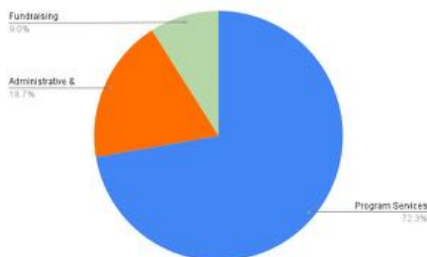
EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES \$215,975

ADMINISTRATIVE & GENERAL \$55,955

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES \$26,865

TOTAL EXPENSES \$298,795



CHANGE IN NET ASSETS \$88,427

NET ASSET, BEGINNING \$215,639

NET ASSET, ENDING \$304,066

Ways YOU Can Help

- Make a Donation Today
- Gift of stock
- Become a business partner & sponsor
- Employer Match - Ask your employer if they have a matching gift policy and double or triple your impact.
- Make a gift in your will for future generations
- If you are 70 1/2 years or older, give a tax-free gift from your IRA

QUESTIONS? Contact Amy Truax at atruax@flyingcloudinstitute.org

The above information is for informational purposes only. Please contact your financial adviser to learn about ways to give, which also help you.



Brian Mikesell

Artist, Librarian, and 2020 FCI Boardmember

"Flying Cloud Institute makes a difference in the life of every child in every one of its programs. Whether kindling a passion for art and science or bringing fresh, effective teaching modalities to the area's classrooms, Flying Cloud is an investment that reaps generational rewards. And they bring joy to everything they do! *That's why I make a monthly donation to sustain Flying Cloud Institute. Please join me in reaching even more kids, innovating both inside and outside the classroom, making learning fun.* It can happen if we all commit to young people's education with our hearts and minds and wallets."



THANK YOU FOR GIVING CHILDREN HANDS-ON CREATIVE LEARNING

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020

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Domaney's Liquors and Fine Wines
The Eagle and Janet's Funds of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation
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If you discover an error, please accept our apologies and email Amy Truax at atruax@flyingcloudinstitute.org

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www.flyingcloudinstitute.org



Student artwork created in a Flying Cloud Insittute class led by artist Anna O'Donnell.