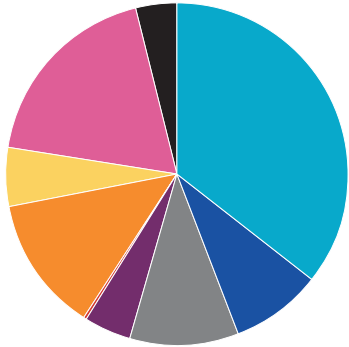


2025 COMMUNITY SURVEY



What is your relationship to VisArts?

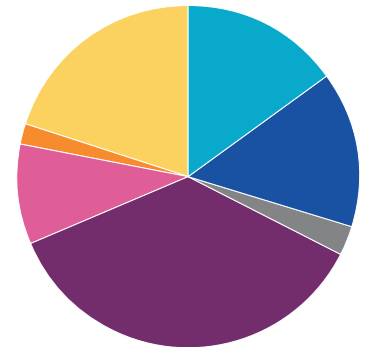
Answered: 307 / Skipped: 3

- Student (48.2%)
- Employee (11.4%)
- Artist (14.0%)
- Volunteer (5.9%)
- Board Member (0.7%)
- Friend or Family Member of a Student/Volunteer/Employee/Artist (17.3%)
- Financial Supporter (7.5%)
- Community Member (24.8%)
- None of the Above (5.2%)

How did you first hear about VisArts?

Answered: 306 / Skipped: 4

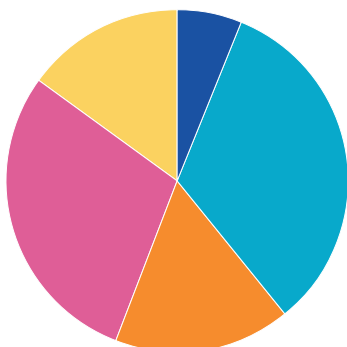
- Website (15.0%)
- Search Engine (14.7%)
- Social Media (2.9%)
- Word of Mouth (36%)
- Free Community Event (9.5%)
- Private Event Invitation (2.0%)
- None of the Above (19.9%)

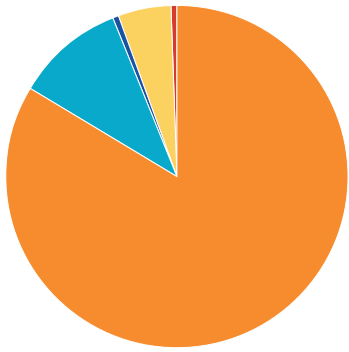


How often have you engaged with VisArts in the past year, either physically (onsite) or virtually (online)?

Answered: 305 / Skipped: 5

- Daily (6.2%)
- Weekly (33.1%)
- Monthly (16.7%)
- Seasonally (29.2%)
- Once (14.8%)





How do you gender identify?

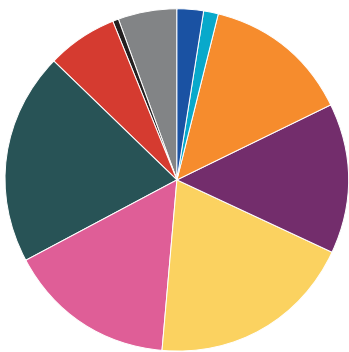
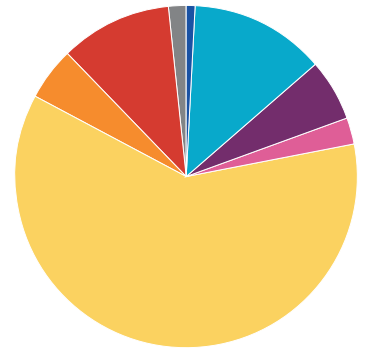
Answered: 306 / Skipped: 4

- Woman (83.7%)
- Man (10.5%)
- Non-binary (0.3%)
- I prefer not to answer (5.2%)
- None of the above (0.3%)

Which race/ethnicity best describes you?

Answered: 305 / Skipped: 5

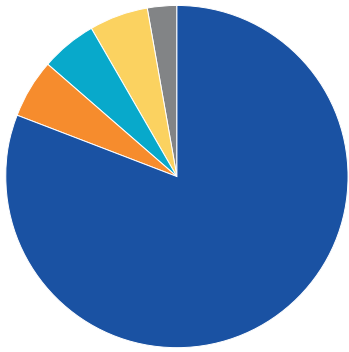
- American Indian or Alaskan Native or Indigenous or First Nations (0%)
- Arab or Middle Eastern (1.0%)
- Asian/Pacific Islander (12.8%)
- Black or African American (5.9%)
- Hispanic or Latina/Latino/Latinx (2.3%)
- White/Caucasian or European American (61%)
- Multiple Race/Ethnicity (4.9%)
- I Prefer Not to Say (10.5%)
- None of the above (1.6%)



What is your age?

Answered: 303 / Skipped: 7

- Under 18 (2.6%)
- 18-24 (1.3%)
- 25-34 (13.9%)
- 35-44 (14.2%)
- 45-54 (19.5%)
- 55-64 (15.8%)
- 65-74 (20.1%)
- 75-84 (6.6%)
- 85-94 (0.7%)
- 95+ (0%)
- I Prefer Not to Say (5.3%)



Where do you currently live?

Answered: 305 / Skipped: 5

- Montgomery County, Maryland (81%)
- Maryland, Outside of Montgomery County (5.6%)
- Virginia (5.3%)
- Washington, DC (5.6%)
- Other (2.6%)

Do you identify as a person with a disability?

Answered: 301 / Skipped: 9

- No (83.7%)
- Yes (9.6%)
- I Prefer Not to Say (6.6%)

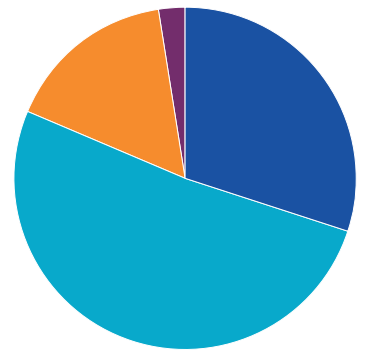


Accessibility means how easy it is for people of all abilities to find, understand, navigate, and take part in programs - physically, digitally, and socially.

How accessible do you find VisArts?

Answered: 303 / Skipped: 7

- Extremely Accessible (30.2%)
- Accessible (51.5%)
- Neutral (16.1%)
- Not so Accessible (2.3%)
- Not at All Accessible (0%)



Parking and Physical Environment (7 responses)

Users noted difficulties with parking, long walking distances, and physical discomfort due to furniture or crowded hallways. *"Parking is far away and it's hard to carry projects and supplies from there."*

Accessibility and Inclusion (5 responses)

Comments focused on accommodating neurodiverse children, physical accessibility for seniors, and general navigation challenges within the building. While some praised inclusive practices, others noted gaps in support and clarity. *"I have a high-functioning autistic child, and it's been great to bring him to classes where parents are allowed."*

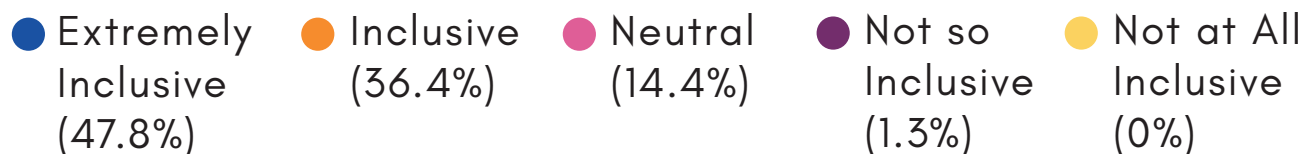
Website and Online Experience (5 responses)

Comments revealed frustration with the website's usability, especially when searching for classes or navigating the calendar. The online interface was described as clunky and inefficient. *"The changes to the website have been difficult to navigate ... The website sometimes can be clunky, especially the calendar."*

Inclusivity is the practice or policy of including people who have historically been excluded due to race, gender, sexuality, age, income, or ability.

How inclusive do you find VisArts?

Answered: 305 / Skipped: 5



Concerns About Inclusivity and Representation (5 responses)

Several comments reflect a desire for broader inclusion across neurodiverse needs, racial representation, and political viewpoints. Some respondents felt the organization could better reflect the diversity of its surrounding community. *"There is some diversity, but not as much as would be expected from an area such as Montgomery County."*

Barriers to Access and Participation (4 responses)

Feedback about high prices, inconvenient class times, physical accessibility challenges, and general uncertainty from new or uninformed participants. *"Prices are very high for classes. Times are not always good when they are offered."*

Please tell us about your experience within the VisArts community.

Answered: 305 / Skipped: 5

● Strongly Agree ● Agree ● Neutral ● Disagree ● Strongly Disagree



I feel welcome when I participate in VisArts programs.



I feel positive about my interactions with other participants.



I feel supported by VisArts faculty.



I feel supported by VisArts program staff (registrars/coordinators).



I feel supported by VisArts leadership (CEO/Board of Directors).

Limited Interaction or Involvement (15 responses)

Many respondents indicated they had not yet participated in programs, classes, or leadership interactions, making it difficult for them to provide feedback. This theme reflects a general lack of engagement or awareness. *"I cannot comment on leadership, as I have never interacted with them."*

Staff and Faculty Experiences (12 responses)

Feedback on staff and faculty ranged from highly positive to deeply critical. Some praised instructors and support, while others described rudeness, cliques, or judgmental behavior from peers. *"I have experienced unkind judgement from other students not in my classes but during open studio. This does not negatively reflect on the faculty or on the institution but rather on those specific individuals."*

Leadership and Organizational Culture (9 responses)

Several comments addressed perceptions of leadership, including trust, support, and visibility. While some praised specific leaders, others felt disconnected or questioned the institution's priorities. *"I feel like I directly see VisArts teachers and staff but not CEO/board so I feel like I don't have a strong impression of them."*

Program and Facility Feedback (7 responses)

This theme includes logistical concerns such as locating finished pottery, shelf access, and assistance on the first day of classes. These operational issues impacted user experience. *"Finished, glazed pieces hard to locate."*

Mission and Artistic Direction (5 responses)

A few respondents commented on the organization's focus on social issues in its programming, expressing discomfort or a desire for more neutral, creativity-centered themes. *"All the shows have a theme that has to be about a problem. Can't the studio just be about creating art?"*

Transformation can be the confidence to try something new, a sense of belonging, a skill that opened a door, or a moment that left a lasting mark. How do you feel about the statement: "I believe VisArts has transformed me or someone I love."

Answered: 301 / Skipped: 9

● Strongly Agree (25.9%) ● Agree (38.5%) ● Neutral (30.2%) ● Disagree (4.3%) ● Strongly Disagree (1.0%)

Personal Growth and Artistic Development (10 responses)

Many respondents shared how VisArts positively impacted their creativity, confidence, and emotional well-being. Some described transformative experiences, new friendships, and even career shifts sparked by their involvement. *"VisArts has changed my life for the better! I have a new career in the arts as an art instructor, and I owe it all to VisArts and to Emily Fucello."*

Limited or No Experience with VisArts (6 responses)

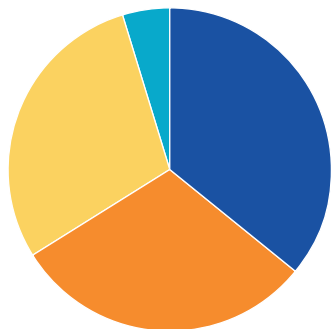
Several individuals noted they had not yet taken classes or had minimal exposure to VisArts, making it difficult to provide detailed feedback. Others expressed interest in learning more or getting involved. *"I feel I would like to get to know more about VisArts."*

Mixed Feedback on Instruction and Programming (5 responses)

This theme includes both praise and criticism of VisArts' classes and instructors. While some appreciated the opportunity to explore new art forms, others felt the teaching quality varied or didn't meet expectations. *"I have always loved art & appreciated the talent and creativity that goes into it. I have never felt particularly 'gifted or talented.' Taking some of Nan's glass classes has changed that. Thank you (her)."*

How has VisArts impacted you or someone you know?

Answered: 212 / Skipped: 98



- Personal Growth + Creativity (22.6%)
- Educational Impact (18.9%)
- Community + Social Connection (18.4%)
- Emotional + Mental Wellbeing (2.8%)

Personal Growth and Creativity (48 responses)

Participants shared how VisArts helped them discover new talents, build confidence, and pursue creative passions. *"VisArts has been instrumental in my own growth, as well as many, many, other friends, family, staff, and community. Without VisArts, a great number of people would be less well off."*

Educational Impact (40 responses)

Many respondents highlighted the value of VisArts' classes, workshops, and learning opportunities. *"It is really great to see that you offer accessible art classes. I have told some of my graduating high school students' parents about your program."*

Community and Social Connection (39 responses)

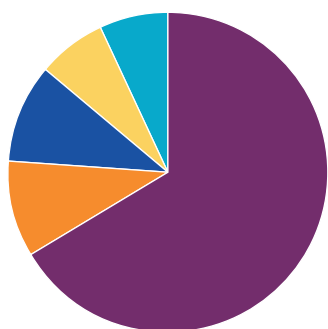
VisArts was described as a place that fosters friendships, family bonding, and a sense of belonging. *"I feel like VisArts gave me a community, and I always feel warmly welcomed when I come here."*

Emotional and Mental Wellbeing (6 responses)

A few respondents noted how engaging in art at VisArts brought joy, healing, and emotional support. *"I am more willing to try to express myself in different (non-verbal) ways."*

If there is one aspect of VisArts you could improve, what would it be?

Answered: 200 / Skipped: 110



- Class Availability + Scheduling (43.5%)
- Facilities + Supplies (6.5%)
- Communication + Website (6.5%)
- Staff + Community Engagement (4.5%)
- Cost + Accessibility (4.5%)

Class Availability and Scheduling (87 responses)

Many respondents expressed interest in more flexible, varied, and accessible class options, including workshops, weekend classes, and shorter sessions. *"Interested in classes but have not participated because the programs offered are too expensive and/or are offered over multiple days and cannot attend all days. Would be nice to have more 1/2 and 1 day options."*

Facilities and Supplies (13 responses)

Respondents mentioned issues with physical space, equipment, and cleanliness. *"Improved seating ... Better climate control ... It is often too cold in Ceramics 1."*

Communication and Website (13 responses)

Feedback included difficulties with navigating the website, unclear directions, and a desire for better communication. *"It wasn't the easiest to find. Better directions would help ... Several guests had trouble finding the upstairs ballroom for our event."*

Cost and Accessibility (9 responses)

Concerns were raised about affordability, financial aid, and inclusivity for lower-income participants. *"Less expensive classes. Disappointed to see the already expensive classes get bumped up even more."*

Staff and Community Engagement (9 responses)

Comments focused on the behavior of staff, community-building efforts, and the need for more inclusive and engaging programming. *"Staff should communicate when changes are both being considered and when they are made - not surprise decisions."*

