

ArtsNest Foundation

Summary

Organization Overview

ArtsNest Foundation is a youth-led nonprofit that mobilizes creativity in support of healthcare. Founded by Bay Area high school students Alyssa Liu and Hailey Seto, ArtsNest was created around a simple gap: many young people want to contribute meaningfully to their communities, but opportunities to support healthcare can be limited by age, geography, cost, or specialized experience. Our work spans patient support, accessible arts education, widespread health education, youth leadership, and fundraising for healthcare resources: our mission is to build a network that connects communities to healthcare through art.

The Need

Traditional volunteer opportunities remain inaccessible to young, motivated volunteers. Age restrictions, geographic barriers, transportation, financial limitations, and specialized training requirements can prevent students from meaningfully engaging with healthcare and community service. At the same time, healthcare needs extend beyond clinical treatment. Patients can benefit from creativity and human connection. Communities face unequal access to educational and healthcare resources, while complex health information is not always communicated in engaging ways.

ArtsNest connects these needs by creating simple ways for young people to support patients in hospitals, improve healthcare access, and expand healthcare education.

Our Model

ArtsNest operates through several initiatives that allow volunteers to contribute at different levels of experience, location, and commitment.

1. Our creative patient support programs connect volunteer-made artwork with healthcare communities. Through our Card-Making Initiative, volunteers create artwork and messages for distribution in healthcare settings, while our in-person programming brings creative activities directly to pediatric inpatients in hospitals. To date, over 1,600+ unique cards have been designed and created by our volunteers, and delivered through our 20+ global chapter locations.



2. Our healthcare fundraising initiatives give young people another avenue for impact by allowing them to organize creative fundraisers supporting medical supply and healthcare needs.





3. Art lessons in children's hospitals. Arts and crafts for sensory experience and creative expression.
4. ArtsNest also provides free online art lessons for children, making creative education accessible regardless of a family's ability to pay or geographic location. Volunteer instructors gain teaching and leadership experience while students receive opportunities to learn and create.
5. Through our healthcare comics and writing initiatives with 30+ comic and blog publications in the past 3 months, youth artists and writers research and communicate topics involving medicine, psychology, wellness, art, and creativity. These programs give youth a platform to develop research and communication skills while making health related information more approachable. We aim to print and distribute these comics in public spaces to expand health education and address common healthcare misconceptions globally via our network of 20+ active ArtsNest chapters.
6. ArtsNest's chapter network allows young people to bring these opportunities into their own communities. Chapter Leaders organize local service, partnerships, fundraising, and other initiatives while remaining connected to the larger ArtsNest network.

Traction and Impact

ArtsNest has grown from a student-founded initiative into an international youth volunteer network. To date, ArtsNest has engaged more than **1,200 volunteers** across approximately **50 countries**, taught hundreds of students through free arts education by delivering **60+ hours of free art group lessons**, facilitated the creation and distribution of thousands of pieces of volunteer and student artwork, developed recurring arts programming for pediatric patients, and published a growing collection of youth-created healthcare, psychology, and arts content.

Our chapter and leadership network further allows young people to organize ArtsNest programming within their own communities, extending our reach beyond the California Bay Area. This growth demonstrates both the demand for accessible youth service opportunities and the potential for creativity as a low barrier mechanism for mobilizing passionate young people around healthcare and community needs.

Growth Strategy

ArtsNest has built the volunteer network and programming necessary to reach communities at scale. Our next stage of growth will focus on translating that network into deeper, more measurable healthcare impact. Additional funding would allow us to expand three core areas:

1. Patient Care Packages: ArtsNest plans to expand its card program beyond individual handmade cards by developing care packages tailored to the needs and policies of partner hospitals. Packages may combine volunteer-created cards with approved art materials, activities, and other requested items, allowing thousands of remote volunteers to contribute to more comprehensive patient support. Rather than using a standardized package for every facility, ArtsNest will coordinate with healthcare partners to determine what items are appropriate and most useful for their patients.

2. Accessible Health Education: ArtsNest has developed more than 30 youth-created healthcare comics addressing health topics and common misconceptions in an approachable visual format. With additional funding, selected comics will be professionally formatted and printed as educational brochures for distribution in accessible community spaces. ArtsNest's network of 20+ chapters can then coordinate local distribution through schools, community organizations, healthcare facilities, and other approved locations, transforming a digital publication initiative into a distributed health education program.
3. Healthcare Resource Support: ArtsNest will deepen relationships with underserved healthcare facilities by supporting needs identified directly by partner organizations. Rather than independently determining what facilities require, ArtsNest will work with healthcare partners to identify requested medical supplies, equipment, or other resources; raise or allocate funding toward those needs; and coordinate procurement and delivery. This creates a pathway for ArtsNest's youth-led fundraising network to address tangible healthcare resource gaps while ensuring donations are responsive to locally identified priorities.

Across these initiatives, our goal is to move from measuring primarily participation and outputs toward measuring community impact. Funding would allow ArtsNest to track patients and communities reached, educational materials distributed, healthcare partners served, and resources delivered. At the same time, we will continue strengthening the volunteer management, chapter leadership, quality-control, and partnership systems necessary to support responsible growth.

Long Term Goals

ArtsNest's long term vision is to build a global youth-led network that makes creative service an accessible and meaningful way for young people to strengthen healthcare communities. By connecting a distributed network of volunteers and chapters with hospitals, community organizations, and other healthcare partners, we aim to create an infrastructure through which young people can respond to real needs through education, creativity, fundraising, and direct service.

As ArtsNest grows, we envision chapters operating across communities worldwide while sharing the resources, programs, partnerships, and organizational support of a broader network. Successful initiatives developed in one community can be adapted and replicated by others, while local chapters retain the flexibility to respond to needs specific to the populations they serve.

Ultimately, our goal is not simply to increase the number of cards created, lessons taught, educational materials distributed, or supplies donated. We aim to demonstrate that, with the right infrastructure and opportunities, young people can become sustained contributors to healthcare and community well-being while developing into the next generation of service-oriented leaders.