



escuela
del sol
montessori

2024-2025
community
report



It's our nature
to nurture.





letter from the executive director

Dear Escuela del Sol Montessori + Harwood Art Center Community,

As we reflect on this past year and share some of our highlights and accomplishments, it is clear that it was particularly meaningful for our organization. This report shares highlights of our progress – program growth, new initiatives, and the joyful learning that defines our classrooms, our programs, our galleries, and our community.

This past year also marked the completion of our re-accreditation process with the American Montessori Society (AMS), after two years of intensive self-study and days-long visit from a panel of Montessori experts. This process was an opportunity to reflect deeply on our practices and ensure that we continue to offer the highest quality Montessori education, an accolade reflected in our also being selected as Best Montessori School in Albuquerque for the second year in a row.

At the same time, we are looking forward. With the selection of Tanesia Hale-Jones as Head of School, we are entering a new chapter of leadership that strengthens our long-held vision of separating the roles of Executive Director and Head of School—positioning Escuela + Harwood for long-term sustainability and growth. Among many other projects, Harwood staff have engaged a broad network of community partners towards the culmination of community centered public artworks in Mesa Verde Park. (See more in Update from Harwood, p8)

As we look ahead, we have much to celebrate. We have been awarded a Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources grant for our project, *Escuela del Sol Montessori + Harwood Art Center / 7th & Mountain: Exploring 100 Years of Learning through History, Art, and Civic Engagement*. This collaborative effort between Escuela, Harwood, and community partners will allow our students to engage with the layered history of our campus, connect it to broader educational contexts, and share their discoveries through public exhibitions with local artists, culminating in a celebration in spring 2026.

None of this would be possible without the people who make our community so vibrant. I want to express deep gratitude to our gifted and wise educators, as well as the new and passionate young guides joining our classrooms this year. Thank you to the staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our school running smoothly, to our families and volunteers—including Sol Mates—who give so generously of their time and energy, and to our Board of Trustees, who provide steadfast leadership and vision.

Together, we are building something truly special: a community rooted in Montessori principles, strengthened through the arts, and dedicated to lifelong learning.

With gratitude and excitement,

Kate Chavez

Kate Chavez, Executive Director
Escuela del Sol Montessori + Harwood Art Center

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As we look forward to our next phase of strategic development, the Board of Trustees is partnering with LEH Consulting Group to further develop our business model to ensure long-term organizational sustainability and success.

Head of School

After restructuring Escuela's organizational framework to separate the Executive Director and Head of School roles, we embarked on a nationwide search to find the right person to fill the role. We were excited to find that the best candidate was



Escuela's own Montessori Guide, Tanesia R. Hale-Jones. Tanesia spent the spring of 2025 working with Interim Head of School Dana McCabe on a smooth transition as well as meeting with staff to set goals for the coming year. Tanesia is excited to take the helm and start sharing more about Escuela with our community.

Pause and Reflect

In an effort to improve how Harwood serves the Albuquerque arts community, the staff embarked on a reflective process to examine each of their programs. Art + Sol was paused for the year, while Artist Trading Cards were revived with over 200 artists participating. Harwood also introduced The Shop, which features and sells rotating work by Harwood studio artists.

Successful Re-Accreditation

In the fall, a site visit team for the American Montessori Society (AMS) visited campus to get a firsthand look at how we practice Montessori. They met with guides, students and staff, completing their visit with a report sharing ways in which we excel and ways in which we can improve. The site team followed up their visit with a comprehensive report. In the spring, we were awarded our official reaccreditation.



Harwood Girls Final Reunion

Many of the Harwood Girls revisited their time at the boarding school during this year's reunion, which included a private reception and a brunch hosted by Escuela + Harwood. Over the decades, reunions that brought the Girls together to reminisce and reflect. The Harwood Girls have continued to have reunions since the school closed nearly 50 years ago. The remaining Harwood Girls have decided that 2025 will be the final reunion.

Escuela has a history of excellence that it is continuing to build toward the future. Community education offers families multiple opportunities throughout the school year to engage in workshops about Montessori practice. Our effort toward perpetuating excellence has been recognized two years in a row in Albuquerque the Magazine's Best in the City!



Best in the City - Two Years in a Row!

In 2023 we were honored to be named the inaugural recipient of the Best Montessori award in Albuquerque the Magazine's Best of the City Issue. In 2024, the Escuela community voted us as Best Montessori for the second year in a row! We are so grateful to our community for their support!

Montessori 101

As part of Escuela + Harwood's commitment to lifelong learning, we have re-established the practice of hosting family education workshops.

We held Montessori 101 events for Early Childhood and Elementary families. Montessori 101: Education for Early Childhood Families helped orient families to planes of development, the Montessori classroom and materials, positive discipline, and more!

Montessori 101: Science Night explored the science curriculum - including botany, geology and chemistry - from Toddler through Jr. High.

In 2025, we will hold a Montessori Journey, a two-day educational event that models the Montessori experience from Toddler through Jr. High.



Montessori in the World: Preparing Children for the Future

“Montessori gave me confidence and a sense of self-motivation. It helped shape how I learn and lead.”

– Stephen Curry,
NBA Player

“Montessori taught me the joy of discovery. It showed you can become interested in pretty complex theories, like physics, by playing with blocks.”

– Will Wright,
Game Designer,
The Sims, Spore

“The Montessori method—learning by doing—has been most valuable to me.”

– Julia Child, Chef,
Author, TV Host

“We both went to Montessori school, and I think it was part of that training—being self-motivated, questioning what’s going on in the world, doing things a little bit differently—that’s really stuck with us.”

– Larry Page, Co-Founder of Google

One of the most frequently asked questions we get on tours and from families transitioning from one level to the next is:

“How do Escuela students do out in the ‘real world’?”

The question is much more existential than it seems on the surface. Families want to know how to ensure our children and adolescents are prepared for a future that is largely unpredictable. The truth is that Montessori is transferable and deeply applicable to the wider world that children will inevitably navigate.



Having the freedom to choose how we explore curiosity and apply academic skills are components of lasting happiness, engagement, and meaning. Montessori students grow to be critical thinkers, capable of caring for themselves and others in interconnected and holistic ways, and understand how to solve problems creatively not just in service of personal ideals, but for the greater whole. They learn how to access the world, how to find purpose and to shape their own way forward.

Our Escuela graduates report an abiding love and curiosity for learning, a willingness to try new things, of being undeterred by mistakes or failures, and instead feeling emboldened to refine their process, to learn better. High school is a transition for everyone, but we hear over and over again that our alumni connect with their teachers and maintain relationships with their Escuela friends, that they naturally and collaboratively take on leadership roles, they offer empathy and compassion to others, they learn from their mistakes and approach learning with a kind of unabashed openness.

Montessori Education in Action

We are pleased to say Montessori students are their own people. They think for themselves. They are unafraid to build their own structures or pathways, to redefine success and progress. They love their communities and find ways to support both locally and globally. They are lovers of life and creative practice. They are mentors and entrepreneurs, they are activists and artists. The evidence points to individuals who are awake to the world around them and who know that while they are Individuals, they are deeply bound to others, they are interconnected.

The point of Montessori isn’t to “learn math” or “to write an essay,” although that happens, too. The point is to learn how to make sense of the world, how to order it, how to find patterns, how to organize your thinking, to express yourself fully, to externalize your internal world. The point is to construct a self that is unique, but has been forged through interaction with the environment – small to large; local to global; familial to universal. One that belongs to the world and understands that you are responsible for your place in it.

We will not know immediately the profound impact an education has on an individual. Escuela’s commitment to nurturing a passion for lifelong learning is a commitment to the many ways learning occurs for humans. Learning isn’t something that is isolated or compartmentalized, knowledge is dynamic, connected, and connective. Learning is active. Dr Montessori posited that through this method of education we could reform society. “An education capable of saving humanity is no small undertaking; it involves the spiritual development of man, the enhancement of his value as an individual, and the preparation of young people to understand the times in which they live.” (Maria Montessori, Education and Peace). This is both the hope and aspiration for our students: that that they know how to adapt to the world they live in, that they see their contribution as valorizing, that they participate fully, on purpose and with the kind of resilience that speaks of individuals who know they are bound to others and know “how to Montessori” in the world and their lives.

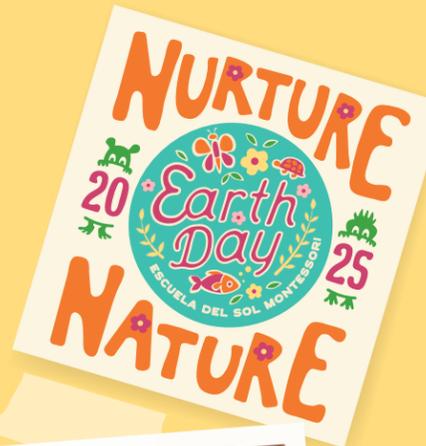
– Tanesia R. Hale-Jones, Head of School

The point is to construct a self that is unique, but has been forged through interaction with the environment – small to large; local to global; familial to universal. One that belongs to the world and understands that you are responsible for your place in it.

Events

highlights

Building community through events is a foundational part of the Escuela del Sol Montessori experience. This year the focus was on the reaccreditation process and community education about Montessori. Helping our community learn more about Montessori is one way we uphold our commitment to lifelong learning. Below is a selection of some of the events that took place in our community over the past year.



International Day of Peace

On International Day of Peace, the community came together on the Elementary field to sing, led by Mr. Casey.

Family Work Days

Families came together throughout the year to support campus improvements. Families worked together to clean up our campus gardens, plant flowers, and a new tree in the Primary playground.

Work Share

Elementary families were invited into the classroom to learn about their student's favorite works. Primary and Elementary students prepared for the event by picking two works they wanted to share with their families. Work Share looked a little different for Jr. High students as they presented to their families upon completion of a project cycle.

S.T.E.A.M. Expo

Students had the opportunity to work on a project individually or as a group. Jr. High students interviewed Junior EL students about their projects while members of the admin team interviewed Senior EL. Toddler and Primary students toured the classrooms and asked questions about projects as well!

Earth Day

The Earth Day parade kicked off our annual celebration! The community marched through the neighborhood with chants about recycling and making Earth Day, every day! Following the parade, students performed for their families and then enjoyed activities on the Elementary field. Our board members hosted a coffee bar to meet and greet our community members.

Montessori 101

An ongoing family education series, led by our classroom guides, that helps families learn about Montessori practice across levels. In 2025, we offered a workshop for Early Childhood families and a Science Night for Elementary families.

12X12

Elementary and Jr. High student artists created 6X6 and 12X12 works to be displayed and sold alongside work by adult working artists for Harwood Art Center's annual fundraising exhibition. The Harwood main event is an opportunity for Escuela families to join Harwood for an evening of community and celebration.

Encompass

Jr. High students, led by Art Studio Guide Christy Cook, envision an installation as part of Harwood Art Center's spring community exhibition, Encompass. Students from Primary through Jr. High contribute artwork based on the yearly Encompass theme. The Encompass community event features music, open studios, t-shirt printing and more!

Escuela Alumni Awards

Our second annual alumni celebration honored the journeys of educator Jonathan Wolfe, filmmakers Forrest Goodluck and Sam Freed, and beauty entrepreneur Angelina Romano. Our honorees held classroom workshops for Primary, Elementary, and Jr. High students, and then joined us for a panel discussion and reception with the community.

Indigenous Peoples Week of Celebration

As part of Indigenous Peoples History Month, we held a week of celebration that included an Indigenous music dance party and a potluck where students shared traditional meals from their families. We also held a staff in-service featuring speakers from the Indigenous Montessori Institute.

Pride

The Escuela community joined together to march in the annual Albuquerque Pride Parade. Escuela marchers handed out stickers and pencils, while walking together in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community.

Montessori in the Home

Experienced guides Shaina Brinkman and Emily Schuyler led this five-week course designed to support Toddler and Primary families as they begin their journey with Montessori education. This course offers insight into the history of Montessori education, and explains the characteristics of the first plane of development (ages 0-6 years). Families are taught how to design a home environment that supports their child in this critical first stage of learning.

UPDATE



August 1, 2024 - July 30, 2025
at Harwood Art Center:

- 38** resident studio artists received 24/7 workspaces and affordable rents
- 92** exhibiting and commissioned artists received public shows, material resources, and professional development supports
- 90+** current staff, teaching and studio artists

- 150+** artist contributors to 12x12 annual fundraiser
- 300+** working artists in annual exhibition and commission programs
- 500+** youth and adult student participants across arts education and outreach programs
- 10,000+** participants of all ages in community celebrations and events

Funding sources for Harwood Art Center

All of Harwood's public programs are made possible by a generous network of individual and family donors, community, and funding partners, and the artists and patrons who contribute to our annual fundraiser, as well as a diverse portfolio of contracts for services, sliding scale program fees, event and studio rentals, and art and Shop sales. (see p20-21 for Donor List).



100th Anniversary of Campus

Harwood is commemorating the 100th anniversary of our historic campus with public programming that looks back on a century of creativity, learning, and engaged citizenship, while also imagining into the future. As we vision into the future, we have taken this year to also reflect on our programs to find how we can best facilitate lifelong learning for our arts community.

Galleries + Exhibitions

Harwood Art Center Galleries & Exhibitions Program is dedicated to providing exhibition, audience expansion and professional development opportunities to artists working in any media and from diverse creative fields. Each year we host 14 distinct exhibitions over seven six-week exhibition cycles. All selected artists receive a micro grant as part of their award package.

Surface

SURFACE: Emerging Artists of New Mexico is dedicated to cultivating the creative and professional growth of artistic talents and to expanding their visibility and viability in our community. Invited *SURFACE* artists are eligible for four named awards and a solo gallery exhibition award, and all receive a \$250 honorarium for their participation. 2025 marked our 12th year of *SURFACE*.

Artist in Residence

Harwood's residency program supports the creation of new, original, and experimental projects and their culminating public exhibitions, by artists who work at the intersections of art and social justice. The resident is resourced with a private studio at Harwood during their residency, a six week exhibition, project, promotional, and professional support from our staff, and honoraria to support their time, materials and creative work. Our 2025 Resident Artist is Jocelyn Salaz.

12x12

12x12 is Harwood's annual fundraising exhibition. Over 200 youth, emerging, and established artists from New Mexico contribute

to our 12x12 exhibitions, artworks remain anonymous until sold. All funds raised support Harwood's community arts education, outreach and professional development programs.

The Shop

The Shop at Harwood is a gallery boutique that features notable artists and designers in our community. *The Shop* highlights art for everyday living, and represents participating artists for a year. Works are sold at varying price points, and sales are split 50/50 with the artist and Harwood Art Center. Each year, *the Shop* will feature a new collection of artists, debuted during 12x12.

Encompass

Harwood Art Center and Escuela del Sol Montessori present Encompass, a unique multi-generational art event that takes place annually. The theme in 2025 was *Echoes & Dreams* and featured five exhibitions, art making and experience activities, open studios, live music and more.

Artist Studios & Rentals

In our historic building, Harwood proudly provides affordable studio

space to 36+ working artists in the greater Albuquerque area. Additionally Harwood offers public access and event rentals to specialty spaces including a photography darkroom, basement theater, Dining Hall, and community co-op space.

Art School

Art School offers adults the opportunity to explore and refine their creative skills in a focused environment, with the support of experienced instructors. We offer subsidized, standard and community support registration fees to the public.

Summer Art Camp

Summer Art Camp offers multi-disciplinary, multicultural experiences for youth in grades 1-9. Art Camp provides fun skill building projects as well as opportunities for both individual and collaborative creative exploration. Summer Art Camp runs in two-week sessions throughout June and July.

Creative Roots: Youth Mural Project

Established in 2013, Youth Mural Project hires teaching artists to lead after school mural clubs at

APS middle schools across the city. Students at Garfield, Hayes, and starting in 2024, Van Buren Middle School, design and create public murals for their campuses and for public venues. In 2025 we installed the mural *Ecosistemas de Mañana* at Cesar Chavez Community Center.

Apprenticeship Program

Harwood's Apprenticeship Program hires, trains, and mentors artists aged 17-24 in the co-creation of community driven public artworks. From 2018-2024, Harwood produced a series of large scale artworks at Mesa Verde Park with integrated goals of expanding plant life and biodiversity, increasing lighting during student commute hours, and making the area more inviting for neighbors; the last project was installed in the Summer of 2024.

Social Practice Project: Shelter

Harwood's most recent Social Practice project is called *Shelter* and centers ideas of home, safety and survival in response to Albuquerque's housing crisis. Through workshops with community partners, we invited people of all viewpoints and experiences

to consider housing as a human right while they embellished Tyvek houses with art and poetry.

Artist Trading Cards

Artist Trading Cards is an annual celebration of connection and creativity, bridging artists across place and practice. Participating artists receive 10 blank cards to create mini artworks. Harwood shuffles and distributes the artworks to participating artists. Participants end up with a mini collection of artworks from 10 unique artists! In 2025 over 200 artists participated in the swap.

Community Events + Celebrations

Harwood hosts year-round community events and celebrations across our programs. These offerings are free and open to the public. They include receptions, artist talks, open studios, gallery tours, public art dedications, and more!



100 Years of Learning
at Harwood

THE ART BEAT OF THE COMMUNITY

2025 marks the 100th anniversary of our historic campus. Harwood is commemorating the occasion with public programming that looks back on a century of creative expression, learning, and engaged citizenship while also imagining into the future. Through our open application process we invited artists, creatives, and curators to submit gallery proposals that were inspired by history and envisioned new futures. We received many applications from artists who had deep histories with Harwood. And so, our 2025 exhibition schedule is a retrospective of many creative voices that have built Harwood Art Center.



Our calendar began with the 28th annual partnership exhibition with ArtStreet Healthcare for the Homeless, *Between Dust & Stars: Echoes of the High Desert*, a collection of individual and collaborative works made by the artists and representatives of ArtStreet. Drawing from lived experiences, the artists of ArtStreet came together to pay homage to the spirit of the desert, bringing to life the often-fleeting moments of humanity in the harsh desert landscape.

Our annual group exhibition at Encompass featured five exhibitions and many artists (see p. 8-9), including Phoenix Savage who “credit[s] Harwood with the early development of my career as an artist. In the mid 90’s I lived in Albuquerque and was an artist in a highly attended annual exhibition (at Harwood) of women of

Ghosts of Harwood Student Installation at Encompass

Echoes of the Past was an installation conceptualized by Jr. High and filled with art created by Jr. High and Elementary students for Harwood Art Center’s annual Encompass exhibition and community celebration. For the past 11 years, Ms. Christy Cook has helped to facilitate the annual student installation.

“Ghosts” lit the Jr. High’s creative fire, working together to imagine how ghosts could be memories, histories, and stories. Junior Elementary’s work with surrealistic Alebrijes (bright creatures dreamed up by Mexican artist Pedro Linares composed of many intersecting animal parts) allowed these creatures to turn into story-filled spirits for Encompass. Jr. High students pursued their interest in creating pencil and ink illustrations of character ghosts – some of whom would be turned into large printed images in collaboration with local printmaker Juliana Kirwin—the already colorful three-dimensional creatures in Junior Elementary art classes began to gain their own histories.



Library of Congress Grant: 7th & Mountain: Exploring 100 Years of Learning Through History, Art, and Civic Engagement

Escuela + Harwood has been awarded a Library of Congress Teaching with Primary Sources grant for our project: *Escuela del Sol Montessori + Harwood Art Center / 7th & Mountain: Exploring 100 Years of Learning through History, Art, and Civic Engagement*. This collaborative effort between Escuela, Harwood, and community partners will allow our students to engage with the layered history of our campus, connect it to broader educational contexts, and share their discoveries through public exhibitions with local artists. We will also develop Montessori-informed curricula and materials to extend the impact of this work far beyond our own campus. It is an extraordinary opportunity to honor our history while contributing to learning opportunities for our students.



African descent living in New Mexico. Those early years exhibiting at Harwood taught me invaluable lessons in art making and curatorial skills that I use till today.”

Our next exhibition showcased Harwood’s history of supporting spoken and written word artists. *Poetry in Place*, an archival exhibition of ABQ Slam Poetry catalogs, performances, zines, and DIY flyers, was organized by Hakim Bellamy, Susan McAllister, Kenn M Rodriguez, Damien Flores, and Don McIver, spoken word poets who have each organized and participated in events and programs with Harwood Art Center since its founding. *Fruiting Body* featured a poetry mural by Escuela’s Head of School and poet Tanesia R. Hale-Jones.

Practice // Portal featured multimedia installations by four past and current studio artists, who each used this

exhibition as an opportunity to explore new mediums and modalities within their practice. Concurrently, *Windows into the Future*, showcased the work of Shared Futures, an ArtScience collaborative, and was curated by current studio artist Marisol Meyer-Driovinto.

And finally, through our Artist Made Series, we commissioned a design by our former Artist in Residence, Gael Luna, to be featured on shirts and tote bags available at The Shop at Harwood. Their piece *School Campus & Dreams* was inspired by the centennial commemoration of our campus, and the many decades of life, learning, and creation that have happened on its grounds.



Letter from the board



Dear Friends,

One of the most powerful lessons I've watched Escuela instill firsthand is how to live and work in community. It's a spirit of deep partnership that sets our alumni apart long after their last Moving Up day – and the same spirit guides our Board, families, and Harwood Art Center.

If you've ever wondered, "What does the Board actually do?" – it's an excellent question! We serve as the organization's compass, not its engine. We're partners in helping to set direction, and the daily stewardship belongs to our incredible educators and team.

This year we were delighted to welcome Douglas Carver and Kersen Witkin as new trustees.

* Douglas is the dad of a Jr. High alumnus who is now attending the Bosque School. A sought-out legal expert on ethics and race, ethnicity, class, and gender in the criminal justice system, he currently leads the New Mexico Sentencing Commission.

* Kersen Witkin, an Escuela alumnus based in London, is a mechanical engineer with 20+ years in engineering and construction management in the US and UK. A leader in sustainability for the industry, he started at Escuela in preschool and later served as an assistant guide with us while he was in college.

Each trustee brings their own honed talents as a thought partner, and most importantly, shares a deep love for what makes Escuela + Harwood so special.

Our often "backstage" work continually asks how we can make amazing things possible: Tuition assistance that opens doors for new families. Exhibitions that elevate art for everyone. Campus improvements that give our students and initiatives room to grow.

We're so proud of what we've accomplished this year, and excited for what's next. Thank you for being part of this journey with us – as caregivers, alumni, artists, friends, and true partners.

Sincerely,

Emilie De Angelis

Emilie De Angelis
Chair, Board of Trustees

*Pictured below, left to right:
Douglas Carver, Secretary;
Allison Chavez; Ann Edenfield Sweet;
Linh Nguyen; Kersen Witkin;
Maria Garcia Geer, Treasurer*



Escuela + Harwood by the Numbers

This year, our financial position was strengthened by the final distribution of Earned Retention Credit funds from the IRS. The \$75,000 grant we received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will further enhance campus safety and cybersecurity infrastructure. We also received our first planned gifts through our Sunflower Circle honoring Harwood Art Center, a meaningful reflection of our enduring impact and legacy in the community. To expand access, we increased tuition assistance by \$25,000 by reducing other costs, enabling us to support more families in joining our strong Montessori program. Looking ahead, upcoming strategic planning will focus on long-term sustainability, and identifying the best pathways to advance our mission and vision for years to come.



Statement of Activities: Escuela del Sol Montessori + Harwood Art Center

	2023-2024			2024-2025 (pending)		
	ESCUELA	HARWOOD	TOTAL	ESCUELA	HARWOOD	TOTAL
Revenue						
Program Revenue	2,936,209	241,181	3,177,390	3,128,913	173,293	3,302,206
Other Income*	224,562		224,562	210,468		210,468
Donations	1,651	850	2,501	2,652	13,075	15,727
Grants	26,000	69,169	95,169	5,000	56,759	61,759
Bequest & Legacies					103,866	103,866
Interest	35,975		35,975	57,677		57,677
Rental Income	16,500	6,185	22,685	18,000	4,465	22,465
Fundraising	71,823	14,778	86,601	62,294	16,718	79,012
Contracts		74,000	74,000		74,800	74,800
Total Revenue & Support with Donor Restrictions	3,312,720	406,163	3,718,883	3,485,005	442,975	3,927,981
Revenue & Support w/o restrictions	3,312,720	406,163	3,718,883	3,485,005	442,975	3,927,981
Expenses						
Employee Compensation**	2,185,035	350,691	2,535,726	2,103,661	361,276	2,464,937
Financial Aid	267,692		267,692	290,379		290,379
Occupancy	287,473		287,473	282,869		282,869
Outside Services & Fees	161,050	38,541	199,591	251,521	6,584	258,105
Administrative Costs	109,143	16,904	126,047	90,931	8,479	99,410
Program Costs	183,032	27,490	210,522	134,438	83,428	217,866
Depreciation Expense	67,345		67,345	112,169		112,169
Professional Development	9,034	1,400	10,434	16,450	1,400	17,850
Total Expenses	3,269,804	435,026	3,704,830	3,282,419	461,167	3,743,586
Net Income	42,916	(28,863)	14,053	202,587	(18,192)	184,395

* Escuela includes ERC rebates & credit card rebates

** Harwood employee compensation includes contracts with artists through seasonal and teaching positions, as well as administrative wages and salaries
Source: IRS Form 990 (2023-2024); unaudited information 2024-2025, see also Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Financial Position



ASSETS

	2023-2024	2024-2025 <small>pending</small>
Current Assets		
Cash	1,128,728	1,330,340
Accounts Receivable	191,386	279,793
Prepaid Tuition	170,301	257,678
Grants & Contract Receivable	130,516	73,438
Employee Loans	15,000	21,200
Total Current Assets	1,635,931	1,962,448
Fixed Assets		
Land	266,408	266,408
Buildings	3,105,564	3,159,619
Improvements	514,221	460,167
Equipment	87,652	89,315
Playground Improvements	275,367	275,367
	4,249,212	4,250,876
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(1,815,555)	(1,927,724)
Fixed Assets, net	2,433,657	2,323,153
Other Assets		
Mural	1,000	1,000
Deposits	1,500	1,500
Total Other Assets	2,500	2,500
Total Assets	4,072,088	4,288,100

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

	2023-2024	2024-2025 <small>pending</small>
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	6,324	
Credit Card Payable	10,056	12,933
Deferred Income (Prepaid Tuition)	169,701	257,078
Accrued Liabilities	30,562	33,987
EIDL Loan - SBA	500,000	497,776
Total Current Liabilities	716,643	801,773
Long-term Liabilities		
Enterprise Bank	1,065,483	1,041,468
Total Liabilities	1,782,126	1,843,241
Equity		
Retained Earnings	2,016,058	2,062,328
Without donor restrictions	227,634	227,634
Net Revenue	46,270	154,897
Total Equity	2,289,962	2,444,859
Total Liabilities and Equity	4,072,088	4,288,100

Enrollment Trends



Tuition Assistance

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26
Financial Aid	\$371,698	\$284,073	\$160,894	\$196,050	\$203,086	\$268,912	\$290,379	\$340,000
Percentage of budget	11.2%	9.2%	6.6%	6.0%	5.9%	7.2%	7.4%	7.2%
Percentage of students	24.8%	26.3%	28.2%	22.9%	27.8%	29.6%	28.5%	23.2%
Total students	206	198	103	157	158	162	158	164
Students assisted	51	52	29	36	44	48	45	43

For decades we have committed to making an Escuela education accessible by extending access to 28% of students who attend. That's nearly one in three students receiving tuition assistance, ensuring that an Escuela education remains within reach for more children. Through the Escuela Fund, families, alumni, and friends can come together to expand opportunity and sustain the rich diversity that defines our school.

Escuela Fund/Campus Improvements

Keeping Campus Cool

Our Facilities consultant Paul Ward worked with the facilities team to get all the coolers up and running. The team walked every inch of campus focusing on coolers and air conditioning units as well as roofing. It was determined that some of the coolers would need to be replaced.

The Junior Elementary West classroom became the coolest spot on campus when two new window air conditioning units were installed. New units were also installed in the 6th Street Studio and in the Jr. High House, replacing the swamp cooler.

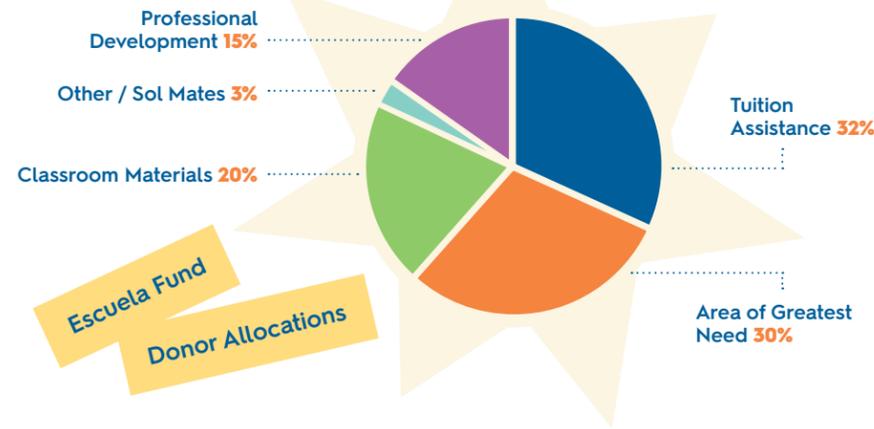
A new swamp cooler was installed above the Administration building, giving the second floor better air flow and cooling.

Stucco Repair

In 2023, repairs to the stucco on the Primary building began. The front facade of the classrooms was refreshed and the White Room was restuccoed to become the new Green Room.

This school year, we continued with those repairs. Gary Rogers, who began the project of repairing and repainting the front of the Primary classrooms stucco, returned to finish the Elementary buildings and playground, as well as the rear of the Primary buildings.

Fundraising & Financial Stewardship



Operating Escuela del Sol Montessori + Harwood Art Center is an all-hands endeavor – it truly takes a village! Your generosity allows us to meet the needs of today while intentionally shaping the future. Every charitable gift, whether from caregivers, alumni and their families, sponsors, arts lovers, faculty and staff, or friends, reflects our shared commitment to our “north star” values: lifelong learning, child-centered education, the prepared environment, creative expression, an inclusive and anti-racist culture, and community collaboration. In total, the school raised \$139,000 in support while Harwood secured more than \$271,000 in grants, bequests, and other contributions, including:

The Escuela Fund: Tuition Assistance once again emerged as the top choice of 43 families participating in the Escuela Fund, which raised nearly \$14,000 and an average gift of \$330. Each year, the Fund highlights three of our key priorities, while always keeping Tuition Assistance as an option. For decades, this commitment has enabled us to extend access to middle- and low-income students, consistently exceeding the national benchmark of 20–25% of students served.

Harwood Annual Support: This year marked the launch of our new sponsorship and membership program, the realization of our first annual leadership gift at the \$10,000 level, and community-wide generosity through events like the 12x12 fundraising exhibition in December. These efforts totalling more than \$35,000 are the lifeblood of sustainable support of Harwood’s exhibitions, programs, and artists.

Capital Giving: Capital gifts — restricted to campus infrastructure — have a transformative effect on daily life at Escuela + Harwood. In 2024, Escuela received a \$75,000 FEMA grant for technology and security upgrades, and renewed a \$50,000 annual gift from a generous individual donor for capital improvements.

In addition, Sol Mates, Escuela’s family volunteer organization, gathered in-kind donations of trees, plants and mulch to revive and beautify our urban oasis. With national costs for capital projects continuing to escalate in 2024 and 2025, we are profoundly grateful for this support that enables us to steward our historic campus.

The Sunflower Circle: Our planned giving program, the Sunflower Circle, was deeply honored to realize two generous bequest gifts providing nearly \$104,000 total for Harwood Art Center — one from artist Harriet Yale Russell and another from art lover Laverne Fitzgerald. Anyone who has included Escuela + Harwood in their will or named us as a beneficiary of an account is invited to join the Circle. To learn more, please reach out to Kate Chavez at executivedirector@edelsol.org.

Special Grants: A highlight of the year was the Library of Congress grant, detailed on page 11. This significant endorsement affirms the impact of our people and programs, and underscores the importance of our work on a national stage. In addition, Harwood was proud to secure more than \$130,000 in grants and contracts awarded by funders including the Albuquerque Community Foundation and the City of Albuquerque.



2024 Honorees

Jonathan Wolfe, educator

Dr. Jonathan Wolfe is a passionate educator who lives to impart his love for math and science to children and teachers. He has volunteered in countless schools (including Escuela del Sol Montessori) sharing his passion that fractals are SMART (science, math, art) with tens of thousands of students.

escuela alumni awards

As we embarked on the second annual Escuela Alumni Awards, it was compelling to see what Montessori in the world looks like through the eyes of a wide variety of alumni. We were excited to hear our honorees talk about their time at Escuela as a formative experience, and as we engage with our alumni, we continue to hear about the impact that Escuela has had on their lives far beyond what you might expect from an early childhood experience.

The alumni award event was created to uplift and highlight the work and impact of Escuela alumni on their communities. So far we have honored seven amazing alumni, there is so much more great work happening out in the world that we are eager to share. We hope to bring more alumni to campus to share out more stories of what Escuela alumni are doing. We also aim to give alumni families opportunities to come back to be celebrated and held in community; for current families to hear from alumni to gain a wider understanding and context of what their children are experiencing; and to connect former and current students for enrichment and lifelong learning.

Escuela del Sol Montessori has been growing lifelong learners since 1968. In 2024, we brought together a group of alumni innovators who embody the spirit of Escuela from its inception to today. We were excited to share this tradition once again.



Forrest Goodluck + Sam Freed, friends + filmmakers

Sam and Forrest are a wonderful example of the lasting bonds and friendships that get forged on the playgrounds and in the classrooms at Escuela del Sol Montessori. They exemplify how creative minds can flourish at a young age in a Montessori environment like Escuela.



Angelina Romano, entrepreneur

Angelina epitomizes independence, creativity, and innovation. Her journey to becoming a successful entrepreneur demonstrates her resilience, adaptability, and commitment to carving her own path. Her achievements reflect the foundational principles she absorbed at Escuela del Sol Montessori.



Our People

Escuela del Sol Montessori + Harwood Art Center

Kate Chavez, Executive Director
Carmela Chavez Liberman, Strategic Communications Manager
Ellen Dornan, IT Director
Carla Humphris Guardiola, Assistant Guide
Jodie Martinez, Business Manager

Escuela Admin Staff

Tanesia R. Hale-Jones, Head of School
Nicole Erol, Family + Classroom Support Coordinator
Elizabeth Marcilla, Administrative Director
Victoria Barrio, Administrative Assistant
Hadley Reeder, Classroom Support Assistant

Escuela Early Childhood Guides

Shaina Brinkman, Montessori Guide
Monica Chavez, Montessori Guide Primary Extended Day
Megan Chiquette Griffith, Montessori Support Guide
Estela Cross-Guillen, Montessori Guide
Joslynn DeHererra, Montessori Guide
Angelize DeVargas, Assistant Guide Early Childhood Extended Day
Nicole Duran, Montessori Guide
Jolie Guiney Fletcher, Montessori Guide
Jayke Ingraham, Assistant Guide Primary Extended Day
Shardae LeDouix, Support Guide
Leslie Mendoza Morales, Assistant Guide

Maria Mendoza Morales, Montessori Support Guide
Elle Serna, Assistant Guide
Rhian Small, Montessori Guide Toddler Extended Day
Gretchen Voglesberg, Montessori Guide
Sarah Wright, Assistant Guide

Escuela Elementary Guides

Jasper Bragg, Assistant Guide Elementary Extended Day
Carla Humphris Guardiola, Assistant Guide
Jess Kurland, Assistant Guide
Emily Schuyler, Montessori Guide
Cristina Sessa, Montessori Guide
Renee Soldanels, Montessori Guide
Livia Walker, Assistant Guide Elementary Extended Day
Shereen Zangeneh, Support Guide

Escuela Jr. High Guide

Jordan Hines, Jr. High Guide

Escuela Studio Guides

Christy Cook, Studio Guide - Art
Casey Mraz, Studio Guide - Music
Sandra Munoz-Puga, Studio Guide - Spanish
Robin Soliz, Studio Guide - Outdoor Education

Escuela Culinary Guide + Chef

Michael Chavez Liberman, School Chef

Escuela Classroom Support

Josh Armstead, Classroom Support
Elizabeth Forster, Classroom Support
Wendy Gallarza, Classroom Support



Elizabeth Livingston, Classroom Support
Sarah Louderbough, Classroom Support

Escuela + Harwood Facilities

Jimmy Griego, Maintenance
Joe Marcilla, Facilities Manager
Paul Ward, Facilities Manager

Harwood Art Center Staff

Julia Mandeville, Chief Programs Officer
Helen Juliet Atkins, Director of Opportunity
Jordyn Renteria, Director of Engagement
Jennifer DePaolo, Director of Outreach
Hallee Nguyen, Community + Partnership Liaison
Sharmayne Arviso, Programs Assistant

Former Escuela + Harwood Staff

Holly Putnam
Chandler Wigton
Inga Tomlinson
Isabelle Lambert
HD Mellin
Jocelyn Muniz
Dana McCabe

Escuela + Harwood Board of Trustees

Emilie De Angelis, Board Chair
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Allison Chavez
Ann Edenfield Sweet
Linh Nguyen
Kiersen Witkin



Our Supporters



Escuela Fund and generous project support was donated by the following alumni families, board members, caregivers, faculty, grandparents, staff, and other funding sources.

Fay Abrams
Wendy Paige Abrams
Zoila Alvarez Hernandez
The Barrio Urias Family
BB Family
The Blaschke Family
Douglas Carver
Allison Chavez
Kate Chavez + Robin Holloway
The Chavez Liberman Family
Family of Maeve Clements
Emilie De Angelis + Bert Davenport
Zander Davenport
Eileen Deme
Friend of Escuela (5)
Maria + Rod Geer
The Govoni-Kasch Family
Mary Hale
The Holscher Family Charitable Trust
Lucie Jackson Miller
Joseph Landau, in memory of Ann Wagner, Grandmother of Auggie, Gideon, Helen, Juli & Guille
Brittany Lang
Gloria Lucero



Julia Mandeville
Elizabeth Marcilla

Jodie Martinez
Dana McCabe + Friedje vanGils
New Mexico Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management
Megan Olson
Pax
Len + Donna Romano
Seahollow Family Gift Fund at the Santa Fe Community Foundation
Ann Edenfield Sweet
Gift in honor of Friedje vanGils, for her incredible dedication and hard work for so many years
Jordyn Whisenant
Andrew Williams
Zahia Zayed

Major in-kind support generously provided by:

Allied Communications
Emilie De Angelis, Serafina Company
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Paul Ward
Welch's Boiler/Yearout Mechanical



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Georgia Owens
Patricia Page
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The Marjorie Fasman Trust
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City of Albuquerque Department of Arts & Culture and Public Art
City of Albuquerque and Mayor's Office

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12x12 & 6x6 Artists:

Aaron Parmeter
Adelaida U.
Adeline M.
Adrian Ricca Lucci
Alastair E.
Aldo S.
Alex P.
Alice M.
Allison Hunt
Amanda Jackson Miller
Amari T.
Amy Beeder
Amy Mann

Angelika Rinnohofer
Arthur F.
Arthur N.
Ash R.
Asha W.
Asher F.
Ashley Benning
Aspen R.
Audrey Livingston
Auggie T.
August W. L.
Barbara Grothus
Bella L.
Ben Utigard
Benjamin Tobias
Benji C. L.
Blythe S.
Caitlin Carcerano
Caitlin Padilla
Calvin T.
Candy Nartonis
Carla Forrest
Carrie Botto
Catherine Alleva
Celine Gordon
Chandler Wigton
Cheryl Dietz
Christian Gallegos
Connor Swayden
Courtney Angermeier
Dan Noyes
Dana Aldis
Dana Burgy

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Juan 2 Play
Julian K.
Juliana Coles
Junior H.
Justin Yazzie
Kaline Carter
Kate Miller
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Kauri Wilson
Kelli Cooper
Kim Jackson
Kyle L.
Lauren Deyo
Lea Anderson

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ROOTS
RUN
DEEP**

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Leigh Oviatt
Lena H.
Lena Ilene Weiss
Leo Neufeld
Leslie Mendoza Morales
Lev G.
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Logan C.
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Mason D.
Matthew Ellis
Matthew F.
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Max Yardbird
MB Ramos
Miles L.
Momo M.
Monica Chavez
Monika Guerra

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Nicole Duran
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Norah Solorzano
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Trey F.
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Vicki Teague-Cooper
WESLEY PULKKA
Will Geusz
Will K.
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Xz B.
Zachery Mason
Zada H.





**escuela del sol
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