College of Adaptive Arts
Inclusive Collegiate Partnerships

2026 Annual Report



Our Mission

College of Adaptive Arts is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization providing equitable, accessible, and lifelong college programs for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, wherever and whenever they need them.

Our Vision

The vision of CAA is to transform the perception of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by creating a world with innovative and inclusive access to ongoing college education.

CAA at a Glance

- Founded in 2009 with 12 students
- Now serves 320+ students
- 3000% operational growth since inception
- Students range from 18 to 75+
- 10 schools of study
- Serves learners in person and online
- Students from 11 states and 1 country
- 39 new students enrolled for Summer/Fall 2026
- 16% enrollment growth in 2026
- Average student takes 4 classes
- 18 students in Workforce Development
- Over 50% of staff identify as having a disability

June 2026 End of Semester Student Survey

The student impact survey demonstrates meaningful positive outcomes.

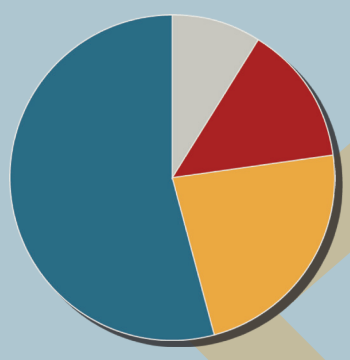
79% Hope

90% Belonging

84% Confidence

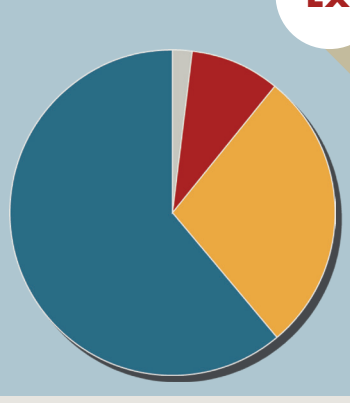
Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue – $2,292,000



- Tuition: 54%
- Donations/Events 23%
- Grants 14%
- School Underwritings & In-Kind: 9%

Expenditures – $2,457,000



- Academic Program: 61%
- Admin: 28%
- Workforce Development: 9%
- Fundraising: 2%

Testimonials

"CAA's model is not just about education; it's about fostering lifelong connections and growing communities that embrace acceptance and belonging."

Senator Dave Cortese (D-CA)

"CAA was what I was dreaming about. My son, who is autistic, has a lot of interaction with other students and has established his routine. I haven't found any other place that is so tolerant and accepting. Now, I have peace of mind and can work without worrying."

Yoko, Parent of CAA Student

"CAA really helps adults with disabilities learn. It is a great, safe place."

Brighid K., CAA Student

Programs

- Strengthened curriculum and added new courses in CAA's 10 schools of study which include Visual Arts, Business, Communication, Dance, Digital Media Studies, Health and Wellness.
- Held open house events at Laney College and Mission College to expand enrollment to new areas.
- Expanded Social Recreation program, increasing opportunities for students to build friendships, strengthen social connections, and engage with peers beyond the classroom through clubs and online and onsite events.

Workforce Development

- Developed a three-level apprenticeship pathway encompassing foundational curriculum, professional development, hands-on training, mentored work experience, and pathways to employment within and beyond CAA, aligned with students' interests and strengths.
- Increase in Cardinal Apprenticeship participants with 4 apprentices and 3 fellows.
- 18 total participants with 100% graduation success rate and 80% securing employment.

Staff & Culture

- Hired 8 new team members and promoted an additional 14 employees.
- Voted as one of America's Most Admired Cultures by DRIWaterstone.

Development & Outreach

- CAA students participated in numerous community events, including Montalvo "Arts in Your Classroom", Sensory Day with the San Jose Barracuda, Christmas in the Park, Accessibility Expo at West Valley college and more.
- Increased number of new, returning, and upgraded donors by 10%.
- Raised over $200,000 at last annual fundraiser gala.
- Strengthened and expanded partnerships with West Valley College, Mission College and Laney College.

Grants

- Secured OpenAI People First grant to strengthen organizational capacity and support sustainable growth.



CAA in the Spotlight

- CAA and its students were featured in 9 different media stories including Forbes, NBC Bay Area, and the San Jose Mercury News.
- TedX Presentation on "Amplifying Silent Voices: A Higher Education Revolution" in Helsinki by CAA co-founder DeAnna Pursai.
- Dr. Pamela Lindsay honored as a 2025 University of Phoenix Luminary.

Become a Mountain Mover. Donate Today!

Donors & Sponsors

School Underwriters

Art: Schmidt Family
Business: Giannini Family
Communications: Open
Dance: Soderbery Family
Digital Media Arts: Anonymous Longstanding Family Friend
Health & Wellness: Giannini Family
School of Leadership & Civic Engagement: RSD Educational & Charitable Foundation
Music: Open
Science & Technology: Raghuram Family
Theatre: The O'Farrell/Principe & the Thermond Families

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Arrupe Program at Santa Clara University
Ashley Cousino Artist
Autism Society of SF Bay Area (SAFSA)
Betsy Beech Quilt Fairy
Blind Institute of Technology
Buddies in Action - Los Altos
California Disability Services Association
Christmas in the Park
City Lights Theater Company
Colin Werner Artist
Community Heath Partnership
Debra Roussopoulos - local artist
Friends of Children with Special Needs
Hearts & Minds Activity Center
Helpers Artisan Boutique
History Park San Jose
HOPE Services
Javier Valdez Artist
Jose Olmedo Artist
Kyle Stauber Artist
Laney College in Oakland
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Los Gatos Ballet
Major Pain Podcast
Mexican Heritage Plaza
Michael Rowe Artist
Mitra for Life - India
Mission College Disability Education Support Program
Montalvo Arts Center
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Oliver Motiee Artist
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Santa Clara County Fair
Saratoga Rotary Fine Arts Show
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West Valley College LGBTQ+ Department
Youth Drama for All

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*Bold Names = Repeat Donors

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Tuition Differential

What is it?

An additional fee added to base tuition to improve the quality of education.



How it works:

Base Tuition + Tuition Differential = Total Tuition

Why schools use it:

When base tuition increases are limited, schools use a tuition differential to fund improvements and maintain quality education.

Our Current Situation

CAA Cost to Operate

The cost to operate a class when all back-end expenses are accounted for is $57.26.

VS.

State Reimbursement

CAA gets reimbursed by the state at $27.24 – only when students are in attendance.

This has been the same rate since 2016 with no Cost of Living adjustments.

Donate today and help transform the future for adults of all abilities!

