



Office for the Arts at Harvard

IMPACT REPORT 2024-2025

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OFA MAIN OFFICE

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Director, Office for the Arts

Alexa Albanese
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Associate Director for Creative Productions

Sonia Braithwaite
Financial Coordinator

Angélica Durrell
Director of Programs

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Administrative Assistant

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Communications Coordinator

Marin Orlosky '07-'08
Arts Fest Coordinator

Kathryn Rosenberg
Associate Director for Administration

Keenan Shirt '12 ALM '23
Information and Outreach Technology Lead

Raymond Traietti
Director for Administration

Stephanie Troisi
Student Services Coordinator

Ceramics/Visual Arts

Darrah Bowden
Communications and Events Coordinator

Ji Eun Kim
Administrative Manager

Kathy King
Director, Ceramics Program

Mary Cale Wilson
Ceramics Instructional Operations Coordinator

Dance

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Manager of College Dance

Theater

Jon King
Production Technician for College Theater

Dana Knox
Manager of College Theater, Director of First-Year Arts Program

Thomas Morgan
Technical Director for College Theater

Claire Morse
Production Technician for College Theater

Ensemble Music

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Instructor, Harvard Jazz Combo Initiative

Phoebe Carrai
Conductor, Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra

Sarah Darling
Assistant Director, Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra

Allen Feinstein
Conductor, Harvard Pops Orchestra

Sheldon Reid
Conductor, Kuumba Singers of Harvard College

Orchestral/Jazz

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Director, Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra; Senior Lecturer on Music

Jensen Zane Ling
Band Coordinator

Mark Olson
Director, Harvard Band and Wind Ensemble

Yosvany Terry
Director of Jazz Bands; Senior Lecturer on Music

Choral Activities

Hana Cai
Associate Director of Choral Activities; Lecturer on Music

Andrew Clark
Director of Choral Activities; Senior Lecturer on Music

Olivia Porada
Administrative Manager for Choral Music

Memorial Hall/Lowell Hall

Susannah Baron
Production Manager

Andrew Gitchel
Director, Memorial Hall / Lowell Hall Complex

Han Huling
Production Services Coordinator

Maureen Lane
Production Venue Representative

Ariana Molokwu
Program Manager

Jonathan Salz
Production Associate

Jessalyn Smith
Program Coordinator

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Senior Box Office Associate

Erica Brown
Box Office Associate

Kathryn Daugherty
Box Office Sales Associate

Jason Govostes
Box Office Manager

Ari Shvartsman
Manager of Operations and Student Ticketing Services

Michael Van Devere
Box Office Associate



74 Mount Auburn Street
Cambridge, MA 02138
ofa.fas.harvard.edu

Front and back cover photos: Adam Kissick/OFA

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

50 Years: Visioning the Future of Creativity at the OFA

The Office for the Arts celebrated its 50th anniversary this year—a milestone of both reflection and transformation. We honored the legacy of longtime OFA director Jack Megan, who retired in 2024, and we also turned to the future, envisioning the next 50 years of creativity and artmaking for our students.

Through the work of the OFA, students engage in transformative thinking, model innovative ways of being, and center our shared humanity through artistic practice. The arts at Harvard serve as a form of self expression and as a tool to help students shape their futures with purpose, meaning, and creativity. Our students grow and are emboldened by knowledge forged in traditional academic spaces and in studios, rehearsal rooms, residential Houses, and on stages.

This report celebrates and enumerates the power of the arts at Harvard—told through the creativity of our programs, our students, and the communities they inspire. Thank you for joining us on this journey, and for helping to ensure that the next 50 years of the arts at Harvard are as vibrant and visionary as the first.

With gratitude,

Fiona Coffey

Director of the Office for the Arts at Harvard



Fiona Coffey
Director of the Office for the Arts
at Harvard

Jessalyn B. Smith/OFA

OFFICE FOR THE ARTS AT HARVARD

Mission

The Office for the Arts at Harvard cultivates a vibrant ecosystem for artmaking across campus, empowering students to live creative and meaningful lives, regardless of experience level or chosen career path. Through its wide-ranging programs and services, the OFA mentors and teaches, supports student-led art, connects students with renowned artists, commissions new works, and forges partnerships across local, national, and global communities. By nurturing students as artists and cultural leaders, the OFA affirms the arts as essential to a Harvard education and champions creativity as a force that enriches society and strengthens the communities we share.



Adam Kissick/OFA

OFFICE FOR THE ARTS AT HARVARD

Who We Are

Ceramics

Dance

Harvard Arts Festival

Theater

Learning from Performers / Visiting Artists Series

Student Services and Funding

First-Year Arts Program

Arts in the Houses

Creative Careers and Arts Entrepreneurship

Memorial Hall / Lowell Hall Complex

Harvard Box Office

Ensemble Music

Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra

Harvard Jazz Combo Initiative

Harvard Jazz Orchestra

Harvard Pops Orchestra

Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra

Harvard University Band

Harvard Wind Ensemble

Choral Ensembles

Cambridge Common Voices

Harvard Glee Club

Harvard-Radcliffe Chorus

Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum

Radcliffe Choral Society

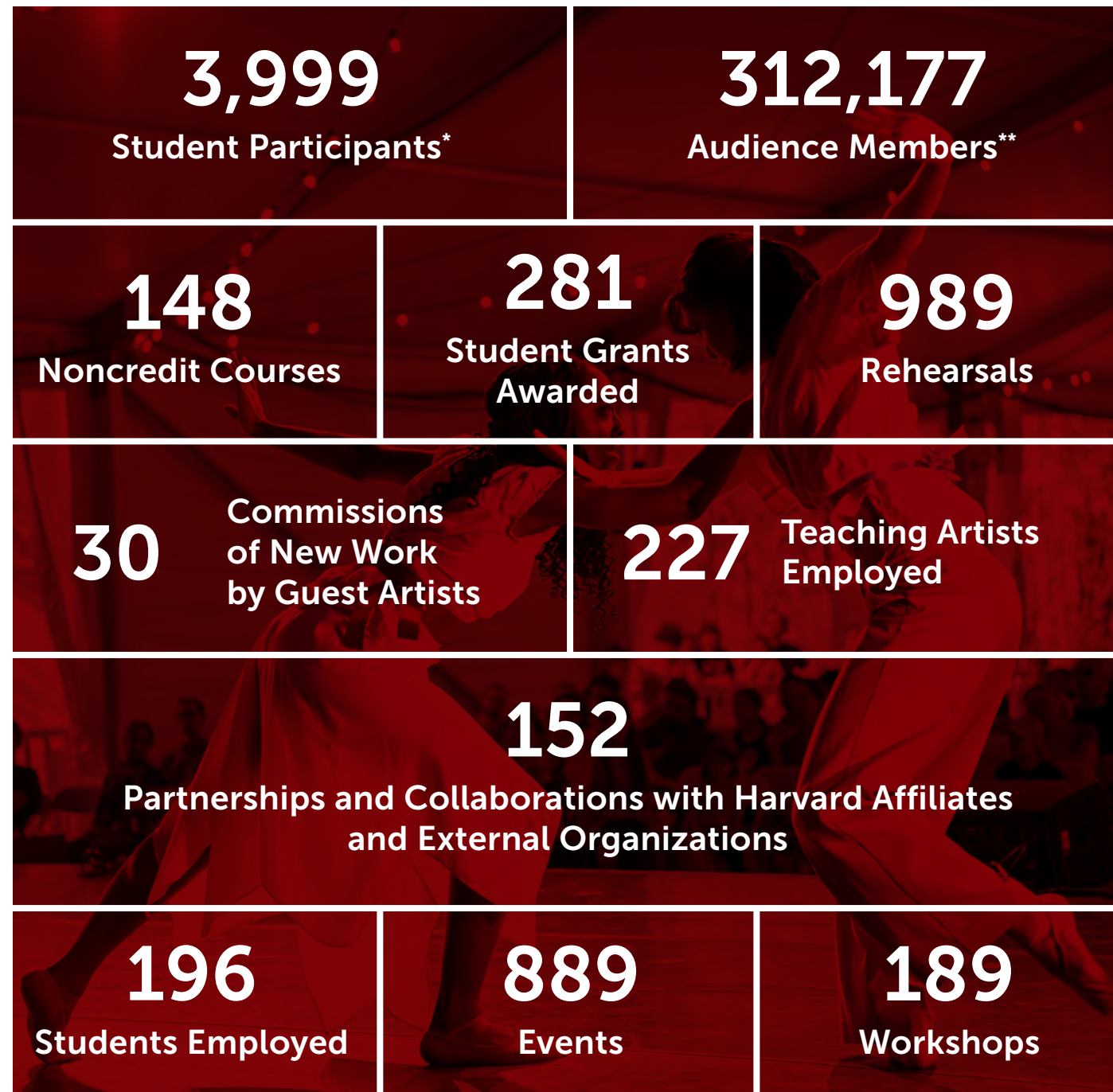
Kuumba Singers of Harvard College



Adam Kissick/OFA

OFA programs celebrate student arts and cultural groups across campus with funding, production support, and opportunities to perform in front of live audiences.

Impact by the Numbers



All data in this report is from July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025.

*Duplicates possible as students participate in multiple OFA program offerings

**Includes virtual audiences

Adam Kissick/OFA

Investing in Creativity

The OFA supports student artmaking through grants and funding for projects, lessons, and other endeavors to pursue artistic visions while lessening economic barriers to creative exploration.

GRANTS & FUNDING PROGRAMS

Project Grants

100 co-curricular arts projects for 2,500 students across all disciplines

House Arts Grants

\$12,000 in student- and dean-initiated, community-building projects in 6 residential Houses

Arts Prizes

\$14,000 in awards to 14 students for achievements in visual art, dance, theater, music, and arts administration

Artist Development Fellowships

10 students for transformative summer opportunities in partnership with Mignone Center for Career Success

Ceramics Course Scholarships

\$58,000 in support of 66 students and community members

Lesson Subsidies

\$60,000 in instrumental and vocal training subsidies for 95 students

Instrument Rental Fund

\$3,900 to support individual students and music groups as an FY25 pilot and strategic priority

Student Event Fund

\$122,000 in ticket subsidies, administered by the Box Office and funded by the Financial Aid Office, for 1,058 students to purchase 3,222 tickets

“The arts at Harvard, especially as shaped and sustained by the OFA, are oxygen for the imagination, community, and civic life of the College. The OFA in particular remains one of the best investments we can make in our students’ lives and in the broader Harvard community.”

Rakesh Khurana

Danoff Dean of Harvard College, 2014-2025



Adam Kissick/OFA

Rakesh Khurana and students at Arts Fest.

“Having access to the cello through the rental program has been one of the most meaningful parts of my first year at Harvard. It helped me grow as a collaborator, performer, and listener.”

Meena Karimi '28

CELEBRATING THE POWER OF ARTMAKING ACROSS CAMPUS

Arts Fest

Launched in 1994, the Harvard Arts Festival (formerly Harvard ARTS FIRST Festival) transforms Harvard Yard, the Science Center Plaza, and many campus venues into a joyful four-day showcase of performances, exhibitions, and interactive artmaking. The festival also honors the artistic excellence of alumni through the Harvard Arts Medal, awarded annually since 1995. Operatic bass-baritone Davóne Tines '09 was the 2025 recipient.



1,472

Student Participants

16

Student Employees

10

Guest Artists

25

Visual Arts Exhibitions

150

Performances

14,500

Audience Members

Adam Kissicki/OFA



50th Anniversary Celebration

On February 13, 2025, the Office for the Arts celebrated its 50th anniversary with a landmark event in Sanders Theatre and a birthday party in Annenberg Hall. This milestone event was both a tribute to the rich history of the OFA and a powerful affirmation of the essential role the arts play in shaping creative, intellectual, and cultural life at Harvard.

Ceramics Program

The OFA Ceramics Program is an internationally recognized hub where students, faculty, and community artists learn and create together. In FY25, the studio hosted international residencies, student showcases, and workshops.

823

Student Participants

71

Guest & Teaching Artists

38

Courses

“Learning ceramics is undoubtedly my most treasured experience as an undergrad, and this is in part due to top-notch teaching, enthusiasm, and kindness. Thank you for cultivating the welcoming, fun, creative environment where I spent many late nights, met so many cool people, felt at ease, and fell in love with clay.”

Alicetonia Nwamah '24



Chris Dehney Photography

The biannual OFA Ceramics Program Show & Sale draws 1000+ patrons and features 100+ student and community member exhibitors.



Melissa Blackall

Teaching artists at the OFA Dance Program offer noncredit community classes in a broad range of movement styles and dance traditions for all levels and abilities.

Dance Program

The OFA Dance Program empowers students to take risks, build resilience, and find joy through movement. Through classes, workshops, film screenings, student-group residencies, and conversations with dance innovators and culture bearers, participants expand their understanding of dance and connect across movement styles and dance traditions.

1,365

Student Participants

48

Guest & Teaching Artists

31

Courses

“As an artist who is pursuing a professional career in dance, the opportunities that I was afforded through the OFA Dance Program and the student-run dance groups were essential in reaching my goals.”

Payton Thompson '25



FROM CLASSROOM TO STAGE

Harvard Choruses Commission and Premiere a New Opera

Commissioned by Harvard Choruses, *American Jezebel: The Trial of Anne Hutchinson* tells the story of a turbulent period in Massachusetts Bay Colony, culminating in the 1637 trial of Puritan Anne Hutchinson. Music and Libretto by James Kallembach; conducted by Hana J. Cai; stage directed by Roxanna Myhrum. Performed March 1, 2025, in Sanders Theatre.

Ensemble Music

OFA instrumental ensembles provide students with the opportunity to perform at the highest level while building lifelong community.

500+
Musicians

75+
Performances



Catie Thai

Student conductor **Enoch Li '26** led the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra in a performance of Jean Sibelius' *Symphony No. 7*.

INSTRUMENTAL GROUPS

Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra*

annual concerto competition, premiered student works, and performed masterpieces from the Western classical repertoire

Harvard Pops Orchestra

four staged concerts, including a children's program, of classical, film, and popular music with theatrical elements

Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra

early music traditions performed by students and community members on period instruments with baroque techniques

Harvard University Band

school spirit music-making for Harvard athletics, sporting events, commencement, convocation, and more

Harvard Wind Ensemble

original and transcribed wind band repertoire

Harvard Jazz Orchestra*

large ensemble concerts featuring artist residencies, this year with saxophonist/composer Ted Nash and vocalist Catherine Russell

Harvard Jazz Combo Initiative

student-arranged works and original pieces in small jazz combos

*Denotes for-credit course through the Department of Music

Choral Ensembles

Harvard's choral ensembles bring students together through music that spans centuries, cultures, and traditions. From chamber choirs to powerhouse choruses, singers perform, tour, and celebrate identity through voice.

450

Student & Community Singers

80+

Performances

Kuumba Singers of Harvard College

Students and community members uplift Black creativity, joy, and spirituality through two signature annual concerts and a range of community outreach events. Founded in 1970, Kuumba, Harvard's oldest Black organization, celebrates and advances the musical traditions of spirituals, gospel, African folk songs, and contemporary works. Performances weave together song, dance, poetry, and spoken word to honor the ensemble's legacy of cultural celebration, resilience, and community building.



Courtesy of Kuumba Singers

Kuumba Singers perform *A Light in the Darkness* at the 55th Annual Professor Hubert Walters and Mr. Robert Winfrey Spring Concert at Sanders Theatre.

HARVARD CHORUSES

Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum*

80 student singers performing classical to contemporary repertoire

Radcliffe Choral Society*

50 treble voices, 10 concerts and collaborations performing choral repertoire

Harvard Glee Club*

60+ singers performing in the tenor-bass tradition

Harvard-Radcliffe Chorus*

100+ singers include staff, alumni, graduate students, and community members performing choral-orchestral works

Cambridge Common Voices

inclusive community choir of young adults with diverse learning challenges performing choral works, in partnership with the Threshold Program at Lesley University

Holden Voice Program

100+ singers, individualized training for Harvard chorus members

Skills for Singing Workshops

vocal technique and music literacy for students and community members

*Denotes for-credit course through the Department of Music

Welcoming First-Year Students to the Arts

First-Year Arts Program (FAP)

Each August, FAP welcomes incoming students for a week of workshops across artistic disciplines. In partnership with the First-Year Experience Office, the program fosters community, eases the college transition, and culminates in two performances of a sold-out student showcase of new, original work. As a strategic initiative of the OFA, FAP has been free to students since FY24.

127 First-Year Students | 70 Workshops

First-Year Musical

In its 30th year, the OFA First-Year Musical is an annual tradition in which first-year students write, compose, direct, and perform an original musical in the spring. This program takes place in partnership with the First-Year Experience Office and the First-Year Arts Program.

Photo: Upper-class FAP proctors provide a gateway to the arts for first-year students.



Theater Program

The OFA Theater Program provides space, funding, technical and stage design training, mentorship, workshops, and production support for student-led plays and musicals, guiding projects from concept to performance. The program also supports performances in Houses across campus.

750

Student Participants

41

Performances

7,000+

Audience Members

Development residency of *The Human Comedy* hosted Broadway producer **Jack Viertel '71**, Sam Willmott, **Sammi Cannold EDM '16**, **Ian Chan '23**, and 50 Harvard students.



Crystal Manyoun '26

Learning from Performers & Visiting Artists

Since 1975, Learning from Performers (LFP) has brought world-class artists to Harvard to engage with students through workshops, classes, residencies, and candid conversations. Many visits culminate in performances, exhibitions, or new works, often in collaboration with FAS courses and departments, local universities, and arts organizations in Boston.

HIGHLIGHTS

Community Soundscape Hour

an improvisational music, dance, and spoken word jam featuring 5 undergraduate students led by DeShaun Gordon-King, Artist Pipeline Program Fellow at Harvard Ed Portal

ArtsBites

a series of intimate student luncheons with artists including playwright John Cariani, choreographer and innovator Jon Boogz, scholar and writer Ibrahm X. Kendi, and American Repertory Theater Terrie and Bradley Bloom Artistic Director **Diane Paulus '88**



During the portraiture project *Seeing Each Other*, Bex Thompson, a graduate student at Harvard Divinity School, spoke with **Robert Shetterly '69** about images he contributed to the show, a partnership with the Harvard Foundation.

Dylan Goodman '25/OFA

Arts in the Houses

The OFA provides a wide range of support and services to the residential Houses. The OFA Theater team annually provides technical support, safety training, and consults for drama and performance activities in the Houses, including the annual Lowell House Opera and Cabot Musical.

Launched in FY24 as a strategic priority, Visual Arts in the Houses activates Harvard's unique residential arts spaces, offering workshops, grants, residencies, and student-led programs that foster creativity and community. OFA pottery classes took place in Quincy, Cabot, and Mather Houses.



HARVARD JAZZ COMBO INITIATIVE

Don Braden '85 leads students each year in a fall and spring concert in Leverett Library Theater.

58

Visual Arts Workshops

12

Houses



Students enjoyed making pottery with OFA Ceramics Program instructors in residential spaces.

Creative Careers & Arts Entrepreneurship

The OFA prepares students to sustain the arts in their lives and careers after graduation by providing hands-on experience and professional pathways, often in partnership with the Mignone Center for Career Success (MCS). Through workshops, residencies, internships, and networking, students gain experience in budgeting, marketing, fundraising, arts management, and creative leadership.

HIGHLIGHTS

Student Leadership Luncheon

inaugural event connecting students with other student leaders on campus to support collaborations and connect with OFA program leaders

Creative Careers Conference

inaugural conference in partnership with Harvard Alumni Association and MCS connecting students with alumni and arts leaders

Creative Summer Internships in New York City

inaugural paid hands-on arts industry experience for 15 students, in partnership with MCS and Harvard Club of New York Foundation

Arts Entrepreneurship Initiative

workshops, mentorship, and with MCS, Wintersession courses on Creative Entrepreneurship

OFA Ambassador Program

inaugural paid opportunity for student arts leaders to gain leadership and management experience in the arts, including serving as liaisons between campus senior administrators and students



The Student Leadership Luncheon provided attendees the opportunity to engage with campus leaders about pathways to the arts at Harvard and beyond.

Memorial Hall and Lowell Lecture Hall Complex

The OFA manages the Memorial Hall/Lowell Lecture Hall Complex—home to Sanders Theatre and Transept, Annenberg Dining Hall, Lowell Lecture Hall, and multiple classrooms and practice rooms—to serve as a hub for learning, rehearsals, performance, and connection.

The team manages daily operations and production support for OFA programs, student groups, Harvard affiliates, and external partners. It also manages one of the largest classroom spaces on campus, seating 1,000+ students, hosting signature courses such as CS50, EC10, and numerous GenEd offerings in partnership with Education Support Services.

81 Courses Hosted	341 Classes, Events, & Rehearsals	170,000 Visitors
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Harvard Box Office

91,000+
Audience Members

258
Ticketed Events

The OFA manages the campus-wide Harvard Box Office, with locations in Memorial Hall and the Smith Campus Center, serving as the central ticketing hub for non-athletics events, including student performances, House celebrations, University events, and select transportation services.



The OFA team at the Memorial Hall/Lowell Lecture Hall Complex supports college events such as an onstage conversation with Danoff Dean of Harvard College David Deming and journalist Jordan Klepper presented by the Intellectual Vitality Initiative at Sanders Theatre.

Courtesy of Harvard University

Thank you

to all students, staff, donors, supporters and partners throughout 50+ years.

2024–2025 PARTNERS

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
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Office for the Arts at Harvard



