

“At Marwen, everyone wants to see you succeed.”

—Emily



Marwen

IMPACT REPORT

2019–2022

Marwen LETTER from the Executive Director

Welcome! I'm delighted to provide this snapshot of the transformative experiences that Marwen offers.

So much has changed over the past few years. The pandemic altered where we work, how we live, learn, communicate, and even make art. Amid the challenges of this continually evolving world, Marwen has had to reimagine, recalibrate, and reinvigorate ourselves and the organization. Yet, we are here. We remain resilient, meeting families where they are and committed to supporting young people across Chicago now and into the future.

Art has the power to transform lives, freeing the immense potential of every individual. Over the past several years, your generosity has enabled us to deliver innovative programming, career and educational counseling, and resources to thousands of young people—in particular to those affected by financial or systemic barriers. Thanks to donors such as yourself, all Marwen offerings are provided at no cost to the young people and families we serve.

Fostering Creative Exploration: Through our wide range of courses and programs, Marwen provides an inclusive space for young artists to explore their creativity. Our instructors, who are practicing artists themselves, guide students through disciplines that include painting, sculpture, photography, 3-D modeling, digital media, and more. By fostering a supportive environment that embraces joy, promotes exploration, and encourages hope, we have witnessed tremendous growth in our students' skills and self-confidence.

Amplifying Voices: Marwen believes in the power of art to amplify diverse voices and perspectives. We actively champion the importance of representation, respect, and inclusivity within the arts. Through partnerships with local schools and organizations, we have expanded our reach, empowering young artists from every one of Chicago's 77 neighborhoods to share their unique stories and experiences.

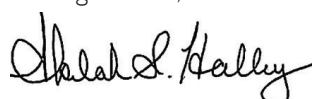
Building Life Skills: Beyond artistic development, Marwen recognizes the invaluable life skills that arts education develops. Arts participation has been proven to have a remarkable impact on the academic, social, and emotional lives of young people. However, while art's transformative impacts have long been recognized, its place in K-12 education has become increasingly tenuous, especially for young people affected by financial and systemic barriers. That's where Marwen—and you—come in. Through our programs, students hone critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and collaboration skills. Young people learn to navigate challenges with creativity and resilience, equipping themselves with essential tools for a thriving adulthood.

Cultivating Community: Marwen understands the power of community and the impact of art in bringing people together. We actively engage families and community partners in our mission, fostering a sense of belonging and collective responsibility. Our exhibitions not only celebrate our students' achievements, but also spark meaningful conversations and connections within the wider community, promoting the importance of the arts in our city and society. Chicago has a civic soul. Marwen nourishes that soul by participating in the art community and supporting the lives of young people.

Your Support Matters: None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the unwavering support of our generous donors as well as the families who entrust us with the education and well-being of their young artists. Your contributions have directly transformed lives, creating a ripple effect that extends far beyond our studio walls. Together, we are nurturing the next generation of creative thinkers, innovators, and leaders.

As you look through this report, we invite you to witness the vibrant stories and inspiring testimonials of our young people. Thank you for being an integral part of Marwen's journey. With your continued support, we will inspire countless more young artists to grow, glow, dream big, and create a luminous future.

With gratitude,



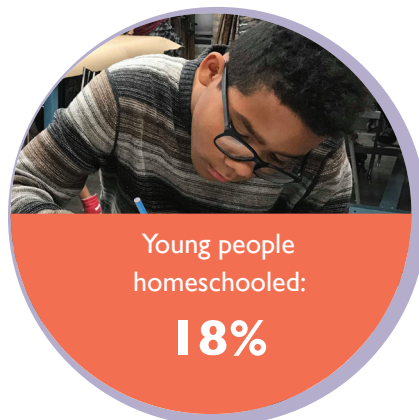
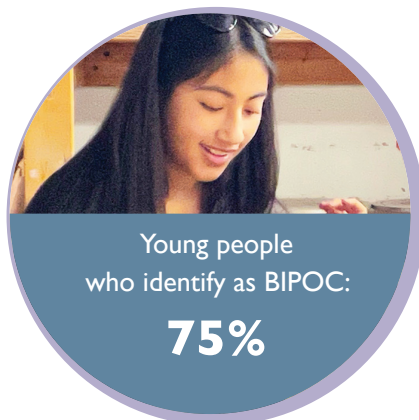
Akilah Halley, Executive Director

Marwen WHO WE SERVE

Marwen has a civic soul and is committed to Chicago—even more, we’re committed to the young people and families we serve. Our community is composed of young people in grades 6–12 who live in Chicago and experience financial and systemic barriers to an arts education and/or access to post-secondary opportunities. The numbers below add precision to how we make our work happen, who’s involved in our story, and what Marwen offers.

2019–2022

- Total enrollment: **4490**
- Total number of unique students: **2635**
- Course and workshops offered: **326**
- Class hours provided: **24,450**
- College and Career counseling sessions provided: **300+**



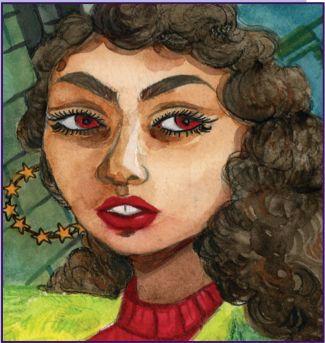
marwen FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	2022	2021	2020	2019
ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,053,771	\$ 789,677	\$ 884,346	\$ 917,560
Accounts receivable and prepaid expenses	18,905	134,335	167,912	35,161
Contributions receivable, net	743,459	213,359	381,261	328,298
Investments	9,978,479	12,304,384	10,667,867	9,679,775
Other assets, net	89,844	103,815	109,703	125,374
Property and equipment, net	7,691,219	7,992,612	8,344,144	8,680,853
Total assets	19,575,677	\$ 21,538,182	\$ 20,555,233	\$ 19,767,021
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS				
LIABILITIES				
Accounts payable	202,564	\$ 45,811	\$ 32,990	\$ 55,159
Other liabilities, net	74,662	174,267	201,685	161,008
Bonds payable	3,708,410	3,703,063	3,698,128	3,693,192
Total liabilities	3,985,636	\$ 3,923,141	\$ 3,932,803	\$ 3,909,359
NET ASSETS				
Without donor restrictions	14,496,640	\$ 17,262,240	16,102,327	14,826,238
With donor restrictions	1,093,401	352,801	520,103	1,031,424
Total net assets	15,590,041	17,615,041	16,622,430	15,857,662
Total liabilities and net assets	19,575,677	\$ 21,538,182	\$ 20,555,233	\$ 19,767,021

The financial information presented above is derived from Marwen's 2019–2022 audited financial statements. This information is a summary and does not include all disclosures required by accounting principles accepted in the United States. As a result, it does not purport to present Marwen's entire financial conditions or results of operations. NB: *2021 unaudited Financial Statements

Marwen HIGHLIGHTS 2019–2022

Over the arc of the pandemic, Marwen faced unprecedented challenges. Like many others, we had to daily redesign and reimagine our work in order to best serve our young people and families—all while staying on mission under financial stress. Yet, we are here. Resilient and committed to the future.



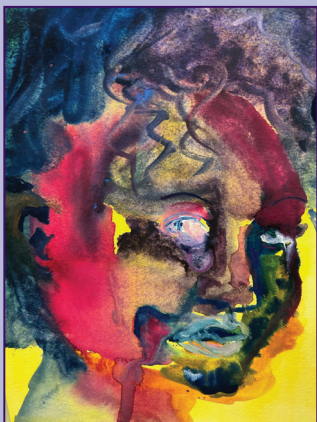
2019 RECOGNIZE

- Marwen responds to the 14-day long CPS strike by providing full time classes 5-days/week.
- Art Fair achieves record-breaking sales in support of programs.
- Marwen partners with the Night Ministry to have young people create a 20' mural on the side of their Chicago headquarters.
- Enrollment: 2020

2020 RECALIBRATE

- Covid halts all in-person classes at Marwen. Programs are redesigned to be online and art supplies are provided to remote students.
 - Online classes focus not only on art but also community building.
- Marwen's 33rd Birthday is celebrated with cupcake deliveries across the city.
 - Programs are launched to assist instructors during the pandemic.

Enrollment: 893



2021 REEMERGE

- Courses develop into a hybrid model with classes held both in-person and online.
- Forever Changed talk hosted on the intersection of youth, arts, & social justice.
- Marwen offers vaccinations for students, staff, family, and neighbors.
- Paid internships and commissions provide income to students as Marwen continues to reemerge from the pandemic.
- Enrollment: 718

2022 REACTIVATE

- Classes with students attending in-person and online continue.
 - Marwen doubles the amount of courses offered to young people from 2021.
- Marwen completes and implements an organization-wide racial equity program.
 - Art Fair and Paintbrush Ball return to in-person events.

Enrollment: 859



Marwen



“You have access to all types of things at Marwen. There’s so much going on that you can do it all.”

—Pedro



“My instructors really care about my future.”

—Isabella



“It’s a great community. You can make a lot of friends here and find a lot of cool opportunities for yourself.” —Jacob



“Marwen is awesome”

—Porter



“Marwen created a foundation for me to dream.”

—Clemenstein



“Marwen is the chilliest, sweetest, friendliest place you will ever be...there’s never a reason to feel nervous here.”

—Isaiah



“Marwen is a place I consider to be my safe haven. My identity as an artist and person is valued.”

—Marwen Student

Visit MarwenImpact.org to see the full report with complete data, future plans, stories, videos, and more.

