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FACT SHEET

[cARTie](#) is Connecticut's first and only nonprofit mobile art museum bus committed to bridging inequities in education and arts access across the state, and bringing the museum field trip to schools and students directly. On an annual basis, cARTie exhibits a juried art show of a diverse representation of high school students' art in highly interactive and participatory ways for our youngest learners and their school, family, and other communities. cARTie focuses programming on PreK-2 audiences and ensures all young children positive and prolonged early introductions to museum-based learning and opportunities for developing critical and creative thinking dispositions. Ultimately, cARTie presents itself as a space for, by, and with children, thereby reimagining the museum concept, deconstructing traditional models, and making sure the state's diverse children feel represented and empowered. Co-founded in 2019 by mother-daughter educators, Clare Murray and Elizabeth Murray, cARTie is poised to empower generations of young children and catapult critical and creative thinking through looking at art across the state.

History

- 2019 cARTie founded
- 2020 cARTie became a registered 501C3 organization
- 2020 cARTie welcomed its inaugural student-artist cohort
- 2021 cARTie was awarded foundational support from The Daniel E. Offutt III Charitable Trust
- 2021 cARTie was awarded important seed support from The Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, DATTCO, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, The Valley Community Foundation
- 2021 cARTie purchased and retrofitted its museum bus
- 2021 cARTie hosted its first open house
- 2022 cARTie hired an Executive Director
- 2022 cARTie completed its pilot year of programming with schools across the state
- 2022 cARTie completed its first program evaluation
- 2022 cARTie hired its education team

Facility

- 20x8x8' mobile art museum bus retrofitted by DATTCO
- Housed with DATTCO in Bridgeport, CT
- Annually curated by cARTie's Executive Director and summer student volunteers

Education Programs

Education programs provide direct opportunities for young children and student-artists at crucial moments in their development. cARTie's programming is focused on both high-school student-artists as well as PreK-2 students with limited access to the arts in education.

- **Exhibitions / Internships**
 - High school student-artists from across Connecticut are invited to submit their art to be considered in cARTie's annual juried art exhibition aboard the museum bus.
 - If selected by a jury of local artists, educators, and nonprofit leaders, student-artists' works travel across the state, inspiring thousands of young children, for ten months.
 - Student-artists are also invited to apply for summer internships and volunteerships with cARTie whereby they design projects that will support their career development and work closely alongside cARTie's Executive Director to grow as emerging arts nonprofit leaders.
- **Museum-School Partnerships**
 - PreK-2 students at partner schools go on exciting, developmentally-appropriate museum field trips throughout their school year. Their teachers receive professional development from cARTie, and artful thinking is integrated into their curriculum.
 - Students develop their critical and creative thinking dispositions through looking at, discussing, and making art. They also grow comfortable in the museum environment.

Founders

Founders Clare Murray and Elizabeth Murray embody the combination of care for young children and artistic excellency that defines cARTie.

- Clare Murray, Executive Director
Clare Murray is an early childhood museum educator and academic, currently pursuing her doctorate in Art and Art Education at Teachers College, Columbia University. Clare holds an M.Ed. in Art in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, an M.A. in Early Childhood Education Policy from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a B.A. in Economics and Latin American Studies from Colby College. She has extensive experience establishing early childhood museum education programs, not to mention critically studying program impacts and implementation across the world. In 2019, in fact, she received a Predoctoral Fulbright Research Fellowship to study the educational programming and fundraising potential of an emerging network of independent cultural spaces in Spain. She specializes in spatial design with/by/for young children as well as curriculum planning that nurtures and develops critical thinking and creativity. As a conceptual artist, Clare also studies different audience members' perspectives and experiences in museum spaces through a range of media. Her work has been exhibited at small galleries and shows across New England and Spain.
- Elizabeth Murray, Board Chairperson
Elizabeth Murray is an early childhood educator who also carries a business background. Elizabeth has worked in several early childhood learning centers in Connecticut. She holds a B.S. in Business Administration, as well as extensive early childhood education training. More recently, she has been inspired by and seeks to apply the Reggio Emilia Approach, and with her guidance, cARTie has adopted many Reggio-Inspired practices.

Staff

- Clare Murray, Executive Director
- Diane Kendall, Educator
- Elizabeth Alcorn, Educator
- Elizabeth Katz, Educator
- Elizabeth Murray, Volunteer Educator
- Holly Hawthorn, Educator
- Kristen Toohey, Educator
- Nailah Haq, Educator
- Patricia Keane, Educator

Board of Directors

- Elizabeth Murray, Chairperson
- Holly Hawthorn, Vice Chairperson
- Diane Kendall, Secretary
- Lindsey Kendall, Treasurer
- Adrienne Carter-Brown, Programming Committee Chair
- Cal Inguanti, Fundraising Committee Chair
- Emily Clark, Communications Committee Chair
- Michael Gallagher, Finance Committee Chair
- Alexis Vondran
- Jacqueline Lema
- Patricia Keane
- Priscilla Wohlstetter
- Ramin Ganeshram, Board Advisor

Funders

Foundational support for cARTie was generously provided by The Daniel E. Offutt III Charitable Trust. Important support has been provided by BLICK Art Materials, The Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation, The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Derby-Shelton Rotary Club, George A. & Grace L. Long Foundation, Bank of America, N.A., Co-Trustee, Loeb Family Fund No.2 of The Pittsburgh Foundation, Penguin Random House, Penguin Young Readers, Pro Bono Partnership, and The Valley Community Foundation. cARTie receives support from The Connecticut Office of the Arts, which also receives funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, as well as CT Humanities (CTH), with funding provided by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts from the Connecticut State Legislature.

Statement on Equity

cARTie recognizes that many existing systems of power grant privilege and access to the arts unequally. cARTie amplifies BIPOC voices, and works to ensure that all children in Connecticut have equitable access to full and vibrant creative lives.

Statement on Accessibility

cARTie does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of our staff, volunteers, subcontractors, vendors, and clients.