



Colorado Artists in Recovery

2024 Impact Report



CAiR provides a safe, encouraging, and inclusive environment for people affected by substance use and mental health. Through art, music, and other creative community collaborations, we foster healing, resilience, and a sense of belonging. We currently offer recovery-oriented creative expression programming in the Denver, Larimer, and Weld Counties in Colorado.

2024 Impact Report

Over the past year, Colorado Artists in Recovery (CAiR) has achieved remarkable milestones and transformative growth. In response to the rising demand for our creative approach to recovery support, we have broadened the scope of our workshops, welcomed new team members, doubled our reach, secured funding for innovative initiatives, and established partnerships with organizations serving diverse communities in need. Today, CAiR stands as a vital hub for holistic recovery through creative expression, and we are eagerly looking forward to the opportunities and possibilities the new year will bring!

CAiR has expanded its reach, strengthened its impact, and become a vital resource for holistic recovery through creative expression, paving the way for even greater possibilities in the year ahead.

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External Growth

592

Events & Workshops



+92%

Increase in
Program
Participation

40+

Organizational
Partnerships



Provided 70% more recovery-oriented workshops and events compared to 2023

Nearly doubled our program participants from 2,600 in 2023 to 5,000 in 2024

Partnered with over 40 other organizations serving Coloradans in recovery

Program Updates

This year, Colorado Artists in Recovery (CAiR) has seen remarkable growth in our programming, serving over 5,000 participants—a 92% increase from last year. We facilitated over 590 creative workshops and community-building events, doubling our offerings and providing more opportunities for healing through artistic expression. These achievements reflect the growing demand for holistic recovery support and our dedication to meeting that need.

We also expanded into new geographies, offering programs in rural communities across Northern Colorado and forming partnerships with over 40 organizations serving individuals in recovery. These collaborations have allowed us to serve diverse communities, including Spanish-speaking, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, justice-involved individuals, and

CAiR is proudly celebrating a truly transformative year, expanding hope and healing through artistic expression.

individuals experiencing homelessness. With new programs starting in correctional facilities and shelters, we continue to tailor our offerings to meet the unique needs of underserved populations, promoting equity and access to recovery resources.

Partnerships

This year we have seen significant developments in forging partnerships with over 40 organizations serving individuals in recovery. We have expanded collaborations with community organizations, cultural institutions, funders, and recovery programs, enhancing our ability to reach diverse audiences and create a more inclusive and supportive space for individuals on their recovery journey. This includes several monthly workshops serving BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, justice-involved, and individuals experiencing homelessness. By advocating for the integration of recovery-oriented creativity workshops within established underserved communities, we contribute to a more equitable distribution of mental health and recovery support resources.

Events

This year, our organization has hosted and participated in numerous impactful events that have expanded our reach, strengthened our mission, and engaged diverse communities in recovery. Highlights include our Annual Winter Fundraiser, which broke records in attendance and donations, and our Drag Show Fundraiser, which brought the community together to celebrate creativity and recovery while raising critical funds. We also hosted programming events like "Breaking the Stigma: Beyond the Brushstrokes" and other Recovery Art Shows, as well as our popular Sober Open Mic Nights, which provide safe, supportive spaces for



self-expression. Our participation in community events like the Advocates for Recovery Rally, the Mobilize Recovery bus tour, and Denver PrideFest allowed us to offer inclusive programming, amplify the voices of individuals in recovery, and advocate for alternative pathways through the arts. Additionally, we contributed to conferences and speaking engagements, further emphasizing the transformative power of creativity in sustaining recovery. These efforts have strengthened community connections, built meaningful partnerships, and created transformative experiences for individuals on their recovery journeys.

Sharing About Our Work

This year, we experienced several noteworthy opportunities to increase visibility and amplify our work. We were featured on the radio show KUVO JAZZ 89.3's "The Morning Set," where our Executive Director shared the importance of alternative pathways to recovery through art and music. Our participation in major events like Denver PrideFest, the Advocates for Recovery Rally, and the Mobilize Recovery bus tour provided invaluable platforms to showcase our programs and engage with diverse communities. Additionally, we presented at multiple conferences and our Executive Director continues to

speaking at recovery organizations to advocate about alternate pathways of recovery through creative expression and highlighted the impact of our work. These opportunities have not only elevated CAiR's profile but also strengthened awareness about the transformative power of creativity in recovery.



Internal Growth

Doubled
Our Staff



Doubled our staff in 2024 with the addition of 2 FT and 3 PT team members

Enhanced
Workshop
Offerings



Enhanced our workshop offerings to include many new forms of creative expression

22
Facilitators
In Recovery



Increased our pool of art workshop facilitators over 50% from 2023

Embracing growth from within, we've cultivated a richer tapestry of support for those on the recovery journey by doubling our team at CAiR.

Team & Capacity

This year, we have experienced significant growth and expansion of our team to better serve our community. Early in the year we transitioned two part-time staff members to full time, including a Northern Colorado Program Coordinator and an Operations/Program Manager. We also added three new part-time staff members, including a Bilingual Program Coordinator and two Program Assistants. Additionally, we increased our pool of art workshop facilitators to 22, all of whom are peers in recovery, and welcomed many volunteers from our program participants who are eager to give back. To further strengthen our leadership, we brought on several new board members, including a new Board President, all with lived experience in recovery. This growth reflects our commitment to building a dedicated, recovery-focused team that can deliver impactful programming to the communities we

serve.

Staff & Culture Development

We have made significant strides in staff development this year, showcasing our commitment to professional growth and organizational excellence. Highlights include our annual Board Retreat, specialized teacher trainings and coaching sessions, and impactful program development support from HadaNōu Collective and The Steadman Group, LLC. Additionally, our team participated in RISE training focused on justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, further reinforcing our dedication to fostering an inclusive and

growth-oriented culture. These deliberate efforts in staff development contribute to the ongoing success and resilience of CAiR, ensuring that our team is well-equipped to serve the recovery community with excellence and empathy.

Infrastructure

We have made significant strides in enhancing our infrastructure to better support our mission and the recovery community. Key developments include the implementation of a comprehensive data dashboard to track and analyze program metrics and participant engagement, as well as the adoption of new registration, marketing, and donor platforms to streamline operations and improve efficiency. These advancements align with our commitment to transparency, adaptability, and organizational excellence, ensuring that CAiR continues to optimize its impact and meet the evolving needs of our community.

Continuous Growth

Our organization has demonstrated a strong commitment to continuous growth and internal improvement through our ongoing coaching relationships with The HadaNōu Collective and The Steadman Group, LLC, which have enhanced our strategic planning and organizational capacity. We also maintain close relationships with our funders, leveraging their insights and expertise to guide our development. Additionally, we actively participated in industry trainings and professional development sessions offered by the Colorado Providers Association and other recovery resources, ensuring our team remains equipped with the latest tools and knowledge to better serve our community.



Financial Growth



\$478k

In New
Financial
Support

Received over \$478k in new financial support

4

Successful
Grant
Awards

Received 4 grant awards totaling over \$410k

\$68k+

In
Individual
Donations

Raised over \$68k in individual donations and sponsorships.

Funder Relationships

This year, we've cultivated four invaluable partnerships with funders. We secured renewed grants from Caring for Denver, Colorado Health Foundation, and Signal Behavioral Health Network and established a new collaboration with Larimer County Behavioral Health Services. We also doubled our private sponsorships and donations this year, securing crucial financial support for our organization to grow and support our community for the next year.

Revenue

This year, increased grants, donations, and sponsorships have enabled us to provide programming to rural communities in Northern Colorado, as well as increasing our offerings to marginalized populations here in Denver. This is a direct result of our tireless effort to diversify our funding streams to serve our community.

Transforming generosity into impact, our robust financial growth has become the cornerstone of expanding our reach and deepening our commitment to fostering recovery through the arts.

Grant Applications

We will be working with a consultant with the Steadman Group, LLC to explore new grants and funding streams to support our ongoing and new programs in 2025.

Impact

5000+

People
Served

Over 5000 people served through various programs

98%

Maintained Sobriety
Throughout the workshop

98% of 6-week workshop participants reported maintaining sobriety for the entire 45 days

100%

Reported **Increased Overall Well-Being**

All participants reported increased overall well-being

People Served

The number of people served by our organization has increased every year since beginning our mission in 2020, driven by our dedication to reaching individuals in other regions, increased support from new funders, and the expansion of our staff to meet the growing demand for our programming. These efforts have allowed us to provide more accessible and impactful alternate pathways to recovery support, reaching a broader and more diverse community than ever before.

Demographic Changes

This year the demographics and geography of people served by our organization have expanded significantly. Through intentional outreach to underserved regions, such as rural Northern Colorado, and increased partnerships with organizations serving BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and Spanish-speaking communities, we have successfully tripled our impact within these

In a year marked by remarkable growth, our programs have become beacons of transformation, illuminating stories of resilience and empowerment for those we serve.

populations. Specifically, this year, 47% of the individuals we served identified as BIPOC, 50% as LGBTQIA+, and 27% as unhoused. These achievements were made possible through increased partnership workshops, dedicated outreach efforts, and new funding that supported the expansion of staff and resources to meet the growing demand for alternative recovery pathways led by peers in recovery themselves. This progress reflects our commitment to ensuring equitable access to recovery support for diverse and underserved communities.

Community Outcomes

Here are some testimonials from our participants that show the personal impact from our programs...

"No other recovery groups have kept me sober, I was a chronic relapser and had been to rehab 8 times. [Through CAIR] I have found a new meaning of life. I have found purpose in creativity...

These classes are what is keeping me alive."

"This has brought me back to a time before my addiction even began, where creative expression came extremely naturally within music. Now that I've been reconnected with music, I don't want to let that go ever again."

"Tonight, I came here instead of drinking to cope. You are helping me heal. 2 weeks sober! I'd have never thought I could. This space is a light in my life."

"Recovery isn't just letting something go, it's discovering what can fill you up now."

"Being around people in recovery is life-giving to me! It helps me remember I am not alone on this journey and that many people are walking the road of recovery, whatever that looks like for them."

"The safe space to share and talk about your work was really helpful. That's why I love CAIR classes because that culture of vulnerability is protected and celebrated."

"Identifying feelings, having beautiful things to take home that I made with my own hands, connecting with other cool people in the group, and realizing I'm not alone."

"It can be really hard to be vulnerable in sobriety. There is safety in CAIR workshops. There is also connection, a feeling of belonging. I felt less alone in my sobriety journey after joining the CAIR community."

By prioritizing accessibility and inclusivity, we're creating a ripple effect of positive change, empowering more individuals to embark on their recovery journeys through the transformative power of creative expression. Our commitment to community well-being is reflected in these outcomes, and we remain dedicated to furthering positive change in the lives of those we serve.

Closing

What's Next

We are incredibly inspired by the growth we've seen this year in our reach and services, providing meaningful support for individuals seeking to transform their lives through recovery. This journey is a testament to the power of creativity and community, and we remain deeply committed to expanding and improving the pathways we offer for healing and self-expression. As we look ahead to 2025, we are filled with excitement to serve new communities, introduce innovative creative experiences, and welcome new peer facilitators into our programs. With the strength of our partnerships and the passion of those we serve, we are determined to continue breaking barriers and showing how creativity can heal, connect, and empower individuals in recovery. Together, we will keep building a future full of hope, resilience, and transformation.

Final Thoughts

We are deeply grateful for the support that has allowed Colorado Artists in Recovery (CAiR) to grow and expand our mission of providing creative, recovery-oriented programs to underserved communities. This year has been transformative, with incredible progress in reaching new regions, tripling our impact among BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, justice-involved, and unhoused individuals, and strengthening partnerships that align with our commitment to health equity. As we look to the future, we remain inspired by the resilience of our participants, the dedication of our team, and the generosity of our supporters. Together, we are creating a vibrant and inclusive recovery community, one workshop, one partnership, and one life at a time. Thank you for helping us make this vision a reality.

—

Darin Valdez

Executive Director, CAiR

Thank you.

