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SEATTLE  
**JAZZED**

**2022-2023  
ANNUAL REPORT**





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# Welcome Letter



Dear Friends,

I write to you today with great pride as I take the helm to welcome you to our annual report. I've been on this remarkable journey with our organization for a little over two years now. In that time, **I've witnessed a transformative period marked by growth, adaptability, and hope.** I joined the team just after the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, when uncertainty loomed large over all of our lives. It's been an adventure filled with profound change and adaptation. And here we are, still pushing, still growing, and learning every single day.

In the last year, **I've seen the quietest teen trumpeter call in their strength** and step to the forefront of a jazzy jam session. **I've had the privilege to receive the kind words from a teary, proud mom** speaking to the incredible impact JazzED's Foundations program had on her child. I've watched with uncontainable joy as the Girls Ellington Project graced the stage at the Royal Room, performing in front of their beaming family and friends.

I've also had the honor of welcoming new members to our JazzED team. New staff members, new board members, new educators, all joining our mission of youth development through jazz education. Together, **we've explored and examined the 'why' of our presence here.** And at the core of it all, **we are committed to advocating for justice within our community, striving to create spaces where youth can confidently be themselves.**

We're here for those kids that have heard they're "too much" or "not enough". We're here for those kids that think they're not ready to take that solo, for those kids that can feel the music within them, but the world is telling them it's still out of reach. Ultimately, **we are here to nurture our young people and embrace the values of jazz as we work to create systems that foster the absolute brilliance within each individual.**

It's the strength of our community that we celebrate and showcase in this report. As we recount our achievements, challenges, and aspirations, it's our collective spirit that shines through. **The stories within these pages reflect the indomitable spirit of our organization, the people who make it all possible, and the lives we touch every day.** We invite you to explore this annual report and see our community in action. It's not just a collection of numbers and figures; it's a testament to the commitment, resilience, and passion that drives us forward.

Thank you for being here.

We see you.

**Erin Hill**  
Communications & Development Director

# Our Mission

Through jazz education that liberates and inspires, Seattle JazzED increases access in the music room, celebrates student expression, and builds lasting connections rooted in community.

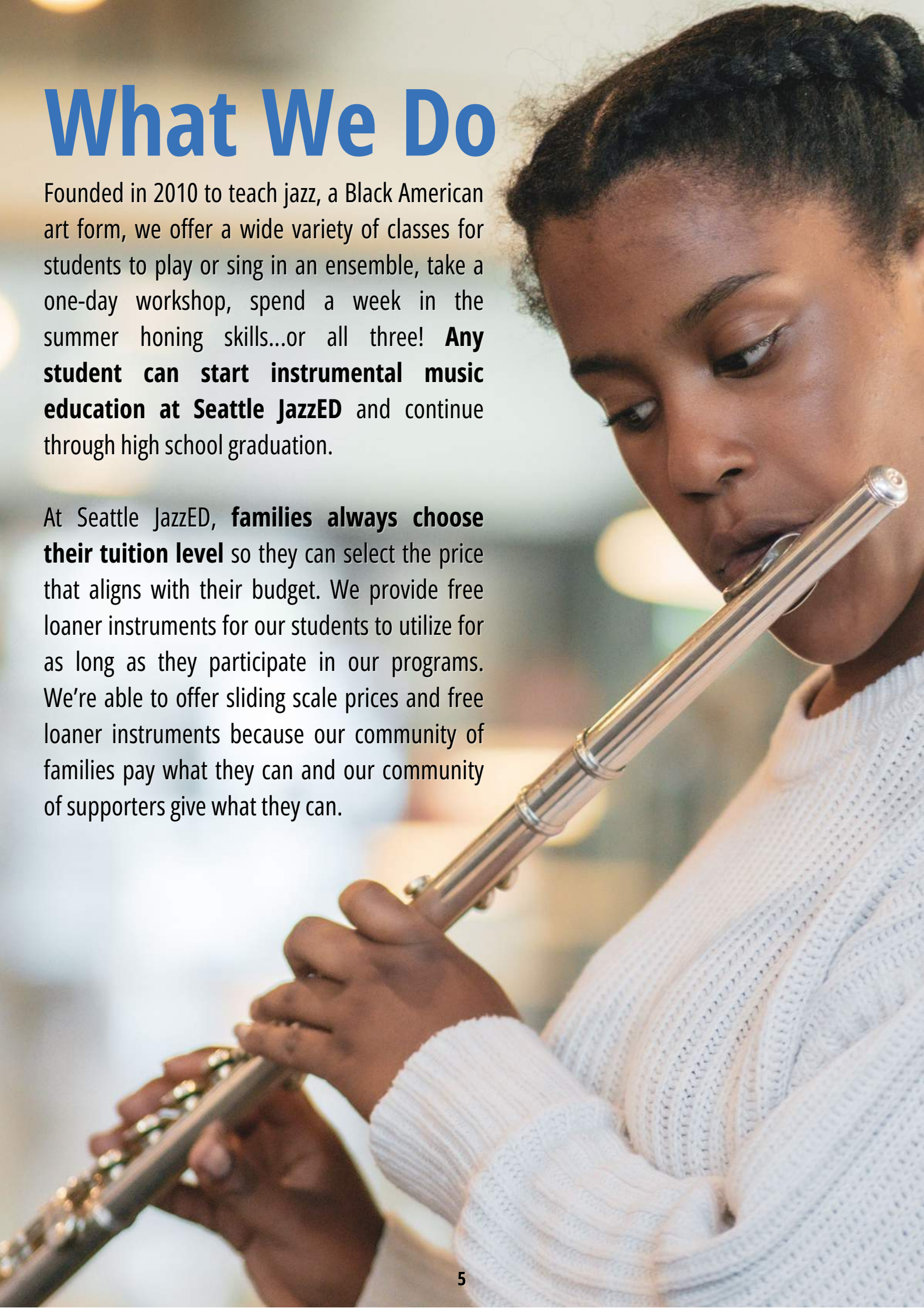




# What We Do

Founded in 2010 to teach jazz, a Black American art form, we offer a wide variety of classes for students to play or sing in an ensemble, take a one-day workshop, spend a week in the summer honing skills...or all three! **Any student can start instrumental music education at Seattle JazzED** and continue through high school graduation.

At Seattle JazzED, **families always choose their tuition level** so they can select the price that aligns with their budget. We provide free loaner instruments for our students to utilize for as long as they participate in our programs. We're able to offer sliding scale prices and free loaner instruments because our community of families pay what they can and our community of supporters give what they can.





# Family Spotlight

## Anyango

Last year, I was in choir, jazz band (Connections), and drumline. It was super fun! This year, I'm still doing drumline and jazz band. The trumpet is my main instrument, but I'm trying to learn the tenor saxophone. My big goal is to be a musician and learn 18 different instruments.

I've learned so much from JazzED – it's made it easier for me to play in my school band. It's like having another place to learn and practice cool stuff, and that's super helpful.



When I first joined choir, I was kind of scared since my mom told me it's for all ages, but I didn't see many kids my age. **After the first class, I immediately loved it! The teacher, the music, and the people were all amazing. Everyone was nice, friendly, and crazy about music, just like me.** Don't worry if you're nervous, it's really fun! You get to meet cool and like minded people who love music just like you.

Seattle JazzED has made me feel welcome with other peers and helped me share my love of music with everyone!

**“My big goal is to be a musician and learn 18 different instruments.”**

# Anna, Anyango's Mom



What's truly wonderful about Seattle JazzED is its commitment to equity and accessibility. There's no paywall, which is a game-changer to me. It means that Anyango can fully immerse herself in music without any financial barrier. One of my greatest hopes for Anyango is for her to have a positive and enriching experience with music. JazzED is a place where everyone feels welcomed and included.

The confidence and friendships Anyango gained are invaluable. Walter, her trumpet instructor, went above and beyond by gifting her a new trumpet when he noticed her old one was dinged up. That act of kindness meant so much to her. The inclusive attitude at Seattle JazzED is felt throughout, whether it's at drumline conventions or performances.

**Anyango's time at JazzED has given her the confidence to experiment and try new things.** It's an empowering space, and the extra playing time she gets there carries over into her school life, making her bolder and braver in all aspects of her journey.

*"Seattle JazzED is more than just a music program; it's a place where Anyango flourishes, gains confidence, and continues to explore her love for music."*

# Owuor, Anyango's Dad

Over the years, I've witnessed Anyango's creativity and self-expression in action. She's particularly fond of her JazzED sessions on Saturdays. Her last teacher's approach to music ignited a new perspective and appreciation of music within her. It wasn't all about the right note. It was about imagination and discovery.

What really stood out is her leadership, especially as a trumpet player. Taking responsibility for her part and playing it with precision has a ripple effect, inspiring those around her to do the same. It's a testament to the spirit of collaboration and mutual inspiration among the students in each class. When you're in an environment that you genuinely enjoy, it fuels your desire to explore and grow.

**Her class is characterized by inclusivity and collaboration, a stark contrast to the more rigid institution-based jazz format.** It's a place where the true essence of music shines through.





# Educator Spotlight



## BJ Montoya

My first connection with JazzED was through my daughter at her school. We enrolled in JazzED's Foundations Summer Camp in 2019. I saw how she was able to learn an instrument and immediately play music with a group in a matter of days through that camp. My experience as a parent drew me to JazzED. We shared the same values of teaching: social music making and creative playing. In 2021, I started teaching at JazzED and am now I manage the design and development of curriculum across programs, teach private lessons, and man one of our lead educators for Foundations and Connections. **Beyond teaching music fundamentals, our goal is to show how music can connect others and build confidence in themselves.**

## Audrey Stangland

Three and a half years ago, I discovered JazzED while subbing on trombone for Kelly Clingan in Banda Vagos. I now teach at JazzSprouts, Foundations, Girls Ellington Project, Femme Jazz Camp, and Jazz Storytime across the city. At Femme Jazz Camp, a program for femme and nonbinary students, **I wanted to capitalize that they are allowed to take up space and be assertive.** I feel like people raised as girls are socialized to be cautious and are afraid to take up space. Femme Jazz Camp was all about being creative and making artistic decisions, which isn't as often the structure in public school settings. I didn't always have that opportunity in school, so it was cool to see students bring unique ideas to the music.





# Community Partner Spotlight



Mary's Place is a non-profit that works to ensure no child sleeps outside by centering equity and opportunity for women and families. Their vision is a community where all families have safety, stability, and housing.

JazzED partners with Tots Club to offer Jazz Storytime, a program that brings music and stories to children at no cost.

## Zoë Bill



We were looking for programs that resonated with our youth. **What particularly impressed us about JazzED is its strong connection to the rich history of African American culture, which is deeply rooted in jazz.** Over 80% of our families in shelter identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color. Jazz holds significant importance in our community, making it a perfect fit for our families.

Music plays a vital role in our communities, and JazzED highlights the cultural elements that we may not encounter elsewhere.

One memorable experience was a high energy three-year-old that we had in shelter. She never stopped moving! But within five minutes of the start of Jazz Storytime she was calm and engaged. It was clear that she loved music and movement, and the staff got a break as they all sat down to enjoy the story together.

Jazz Storytime is more than listening to a story, it's interactive. The kids get to hear and move to the music as they view the beautiful pictures in the book.



Pictured: JazzED educators, Luigi and Audrey, leading Jazz Storytime.

# Supporter Spotlight

## Ruby Blondell

My spouse Douglas was not just a musician, but a talented drummer. In 2017, he faced a life-altering diagnosis of lung cancer. During this challenging time, he wanted to find an organization where he could donate his many drum sets, most of which he made himself.

Following his passing, I reached out to Seattle JazzED through Douglas's friend. This connection was the first step in honoring his musical legacy.

In addition to facilitating the donation of Douglas' cherished drum sets, I felt compelled to establish the Douglas Roach Jazz Future Fund in his memory. This decision was deeply rooted in our shared commitment to promoting music accessibility for under-resourced communities. This fund reflects his love for the jazz art form, his commitment to sharing that love through performance and education, his desire to ensure that racial and gender minorities are better represented on stage and in the classroom, and his belief that local professional jazz artists should be compensated for their work. **We both understood the profound impact music could have in bridging divides and inspiring the younger generation.**



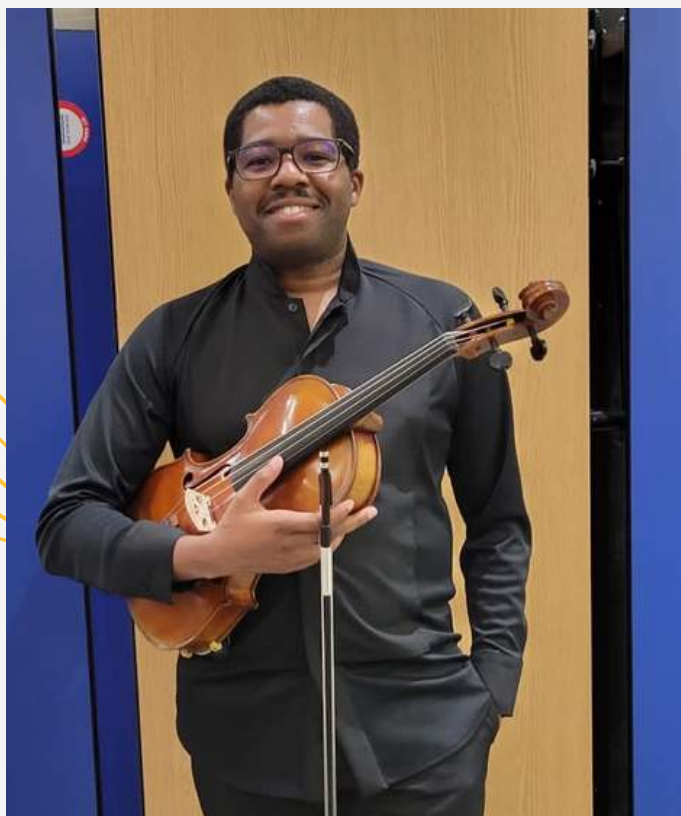
While the decision to donate to Seattle JazzED carried great significance and emotional weight, I can now confidently say that I am happy and have no regrets. **Witnessing the transformative power of Douglas' drum sets in the hands of aspiring young musicians brings me immense joy.** It's a beautiful reminder that his legacy lives on through the music he held dear, inspiring generations to come.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who have supported this endeavor and contributed to the enduring impact of his musical journey. His memory continues to live on through the rhythms and melodies of those he has touched.

**"While the decision to donate to Seattle JazzED carried great significance and emotional weight, I can now confidently say that I am happy and have no regrets."**



# Robert Babs



What I appreciate most about JazzED is the profound sense of community it fosters among its students, families, parents, and teachers. This is especially significant to me as I come from the classical music world, having trained as both a violinist and violist. In classical music, inherent positivity isn't always prevalent; it can be highly competitive, with a focus on factors like instrument quality and the age at which private lessons began.

For me, it often feels like JazzED is not solely about music, but more about youth development.

**“It's about students finding their voices, discovering their identities, and building relationships with each other, with music serving as the vehicle for these transformative experiences.”**

It's about students finding their voices, discovering their identities, and building relationships with each other, with music serving as the vehicle for these transformative experiences.

Among the many remarkable programs JazzED offers, the Girls Ellington Project holds a special place in my heart. Witnessing Kelly Clingan's mentorship and the way these young women collaborated and supported one another was profoundly inspiring. Their exceptional musicianship was certainly noteworthy, but what stood out even more was their professionalism, their sense of community, the way they looked out for each other, and their unwavering commitment to doing their absolute best.

**JazzED is a remarkable organization. When I think of it, I can't help but recall the smiling faces of the students who come to learn about music, themselves, and teamwork.** It's a truly special place, and the fact that people continue to return speaks volumes about the positive impact it has on everyone involved.





*To see this community in action fills us with hope at JazzED, the power of so many people coming together to open pathways for young people.*



Dear Friends,

At the heart of our mission to provide music education that liberates and inspires, **we have a community of people who care deeply about our young people.**

From the families who entrust us with their students, to the music educators who give those students the tools they need to unlock their musical self-expression; from the JazzED staff and board who work tirelessly on behalf of the organization, to the supporters who financially invest in this work; from the community partners who help us spread this work across the region, right back to our very own JazzED students who have the bravery to show up every day sharing their full selves through their musical creation. **You all are the very heart of Seattle JazzED.**

Here are three ways you can join us as we keep charting forward:

- 1. Spread the Word:** Help us reach a wider audience by spreading the word about Seattle JazzED. Share our mission with your friends, family, and colleagues. Every new supporter we gain brings us one step closer to our goals.
- 2. Share Resources:** Our community's contributions are vital in sustaining our programs and expanding our reach. Your donation, no matter the size, amount, or type, makes a significant difference in our ability to provide music education opportunities. We value all kinds of resources; gently used and new instruments, financial contributions, time and talents!
- 3. Attend Our Events:** Participate in our concerts, workshops, and events. Your presence not only uplifts our students but also contributes to the vibrant music community we are building together.

To see this community in action fills us with hope at JazzED, the power of so many people coming together to open pathways for young people.

We are grateful to all of you for showing up and for joining in, and we invite you to continue alongside us!

With gratitude,

**Laurie de Koch, Executive Director**



# Year in Review

**This year, Seattle JazzED embarked on a transformative journey, fostering musical growth, creativity, and community for students across the Pacific Northwest.**





# 22-23 Program Recap



## Music for the Smallest Learners in "JazzSprouts"

Our dedication to nurturing a love for music began with the youngest members of our community in what we now call "JazzSprouts", formerly known as WeBOP. Families with children as young as 8 months old danced, sang, and played music together taught through the lens of Black Americana music.

## Nurturing Beginners in "Foundations"

Musicians in grades 4-8 found common ground in our Foundations program where musical growth and connection flourished. Thanks to the previous year's absorption of former nonprofit, Seattle Music Partners, we expanded our instrument offerings to include historically orchestral instruments alongside our traditional percussive, brass, woodwind, and string options for Foundations students. Each week, they learned via a hybrid model with an in-person ensemble experience and virtual instrument specific sectionals.



## Unleashing Creativity in "Connections"

Our "Connections" program became a haven for creativity. Ensembles of students in grades 5-8 focused on improvisation and composing music that expressed their emotions. They embraced the freedom to experiment with their instruments, honing their ear training skills and developing their unique musical voices.

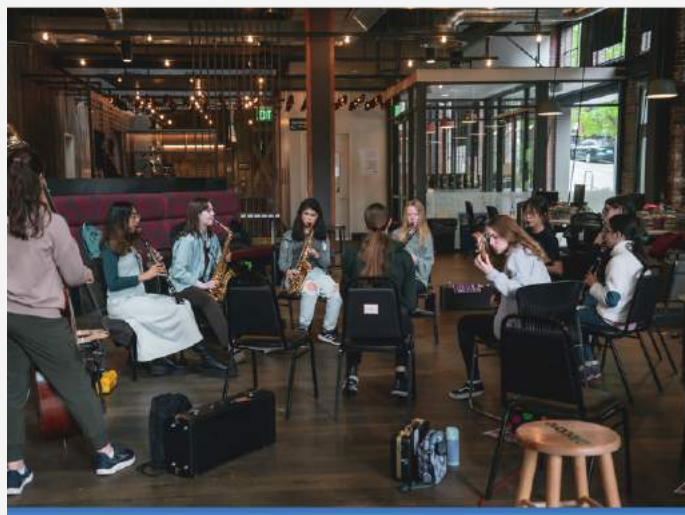




# 22-23 Program Recap

## “Exploration” and Building Musical Community

Our Explorations programs for grades 8-12 served as a creative space for older students, allowing them to delve into specific avenues and topics within music. We offered a wide range of options, including Big Band, Choir, Girls Ellington Project, Drumline, and Getting into Gigging. In a collaborative effort, we entered into a partnership with Seattle local choir, Sound of the Northwest, to host a multigenerational vocal group.



## Expanding Horizons with Satellite Sites


We greatly appreciate the collaborative efforts of our community partners in launching community-based programming. This expansion included the introduction of our yearlong “Foundations” program in the after-school space, offering introductory ukulele classes, and bringing “Jazz Storytime” to various locations. The support of our partners has allowed us to broaden our impact and provide valuable opportunities to even more young people within our community.

## Celebrating Jazz: Past, Present, and Future


During Black History Month, we traveled to elementary schools and community sites, sharing the history of jazz as a Black American art form. In April, Girls Ellington Project alum hosted "Femme Jazz Day," a special event designed to elevate girls and gender-diverse musicians, strengthening our sense of community. We celebrated the accomplishments of students who came from across the Pacific Northwest, with 14 ensembles joining us, by reviving the BDX Drumline Festival in June.



# Student Demographics



**4,980+**  
Students Served



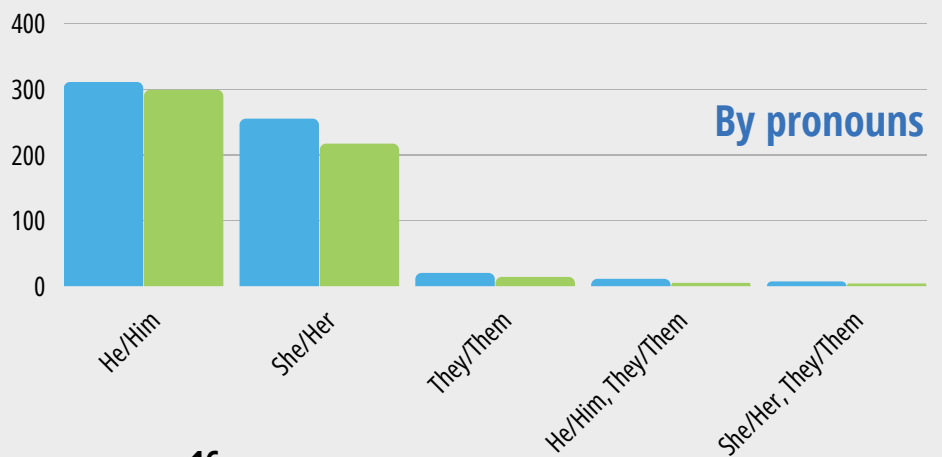
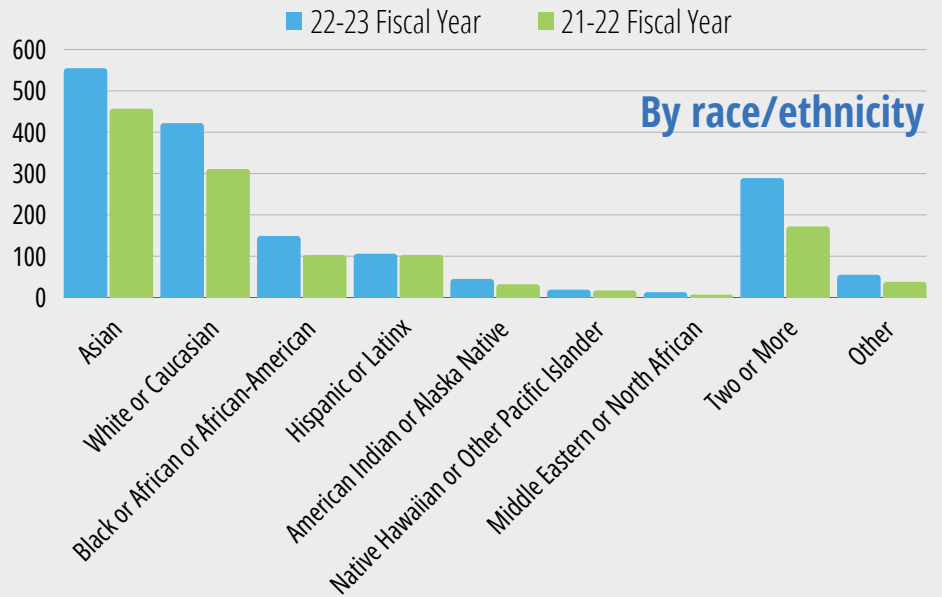
**503**  
Families Used Sliding Scale Tuition



**83**  
Zip Codes Served in Washington



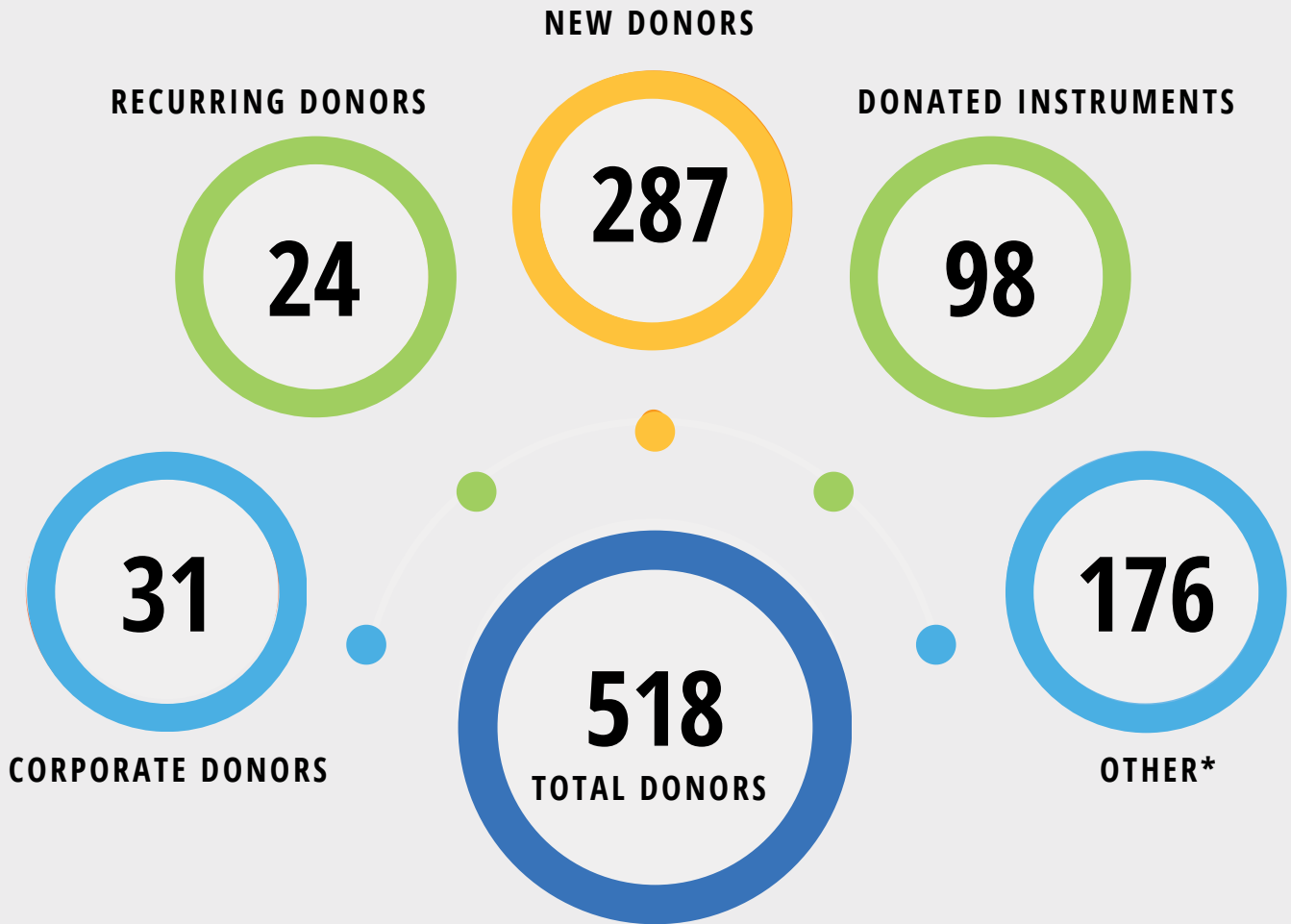
**281**  
Free Loaner Instruments Provided





# Seattle JazzED Supporters

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated and generous community members. Your support comes in a multitude of forms.



\*Other includes one-time giving, in-kind donations, pledges, and donor-advised funds.

# Financials

Our finances reflect the major shifts in a post-pandemic world and our resolute commitment to centering community needs despite the obstacles we face.

## Revenue \$1,315,878\*

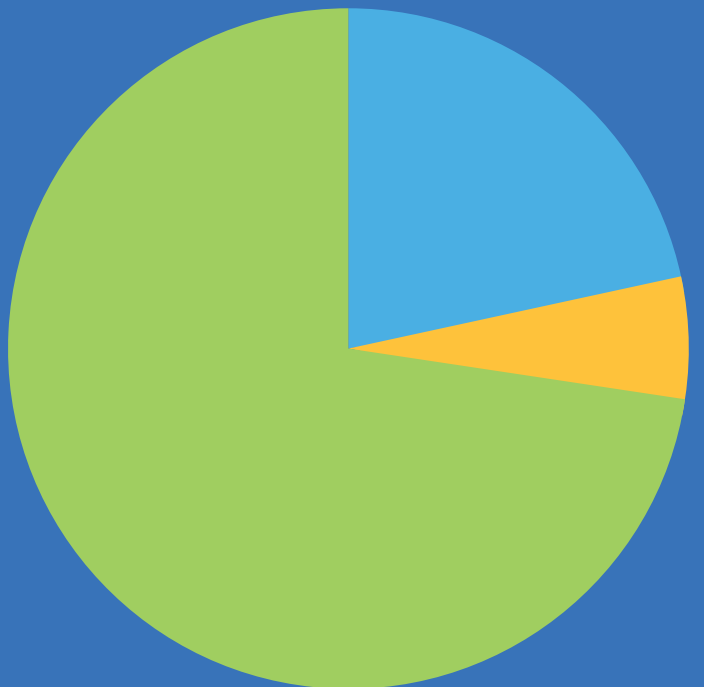
- Individual: \$559,582
- Program Fees: \$552,806
- Foundations: \$156,155
- Corporate: \$41,600
- Other: \$35,735



## Expenses \$1,684,590

Operations includes wages and program expenses.

- Operations: \$1,223,331
- Financial Aid: \$363,785
- Fundraising: \$97,474



\*A \$225,000 grant was budgeted for the 22-23 fiscal year, but came through in August of the new fiscal year.



# Leadership & Staff



**Shelby Archer**  
Program Operations Specialist



**Walter Cano**  
Equipment Manager



**Natalie Chan**  
Development Manager



**Kelly Clingan**  
Education Director



**Laurie de Koch**  
Executive Director



**Michael Fowlkes**  
Program Manager



**Nicole Harvey**  
Deputy Director



**Erin Hill**  
Communications & Development Director



**Katyrose Jordan**  
Booking Manager & Lead Teacher



**Roxanne Miller**  
Program Registration Specialist



**BJ Montoya**  
Curriculum Manager & Lead Teacher



**Alyssa Seng**  
Communications Manager

# Educators

Abbey Blackwell  
Alex Dyring  
Angela Keedy  
Anna Seymour  
Ash Tweet  
Audrey Stangland  
Beserat Tafesse  
Beth Fortune  
Bill Horist  
BJ Montoya  
Brandi Waller-Pace  
Brian Bermudez  
Carissa Nichoalds  
Carlos Snaider  
Chris Icasiano  
Chris Mena  
Colin Babcock  
Darrius Willrich  
Deb Schaaf  
Demarcus Baysmore  
Dmitri Matheny  
Ed Littlefield  
Freddy Gonzalez  
Gared Contawe  
Henry Coba  
Ivan Nolasco  
Jai Lasker  
Jeanie Cookston  
Jerome Smith  
Jeremy Bacon  
Jahnvi Madan  
Jun Iida  
Kat Bula  
Kate Olson  
Katyrose Jordan  
Kelly Clingan  
Kelsey Mines  
King Dawidalle  
Lauren Hepburn  
Lea Fetterman  
Leanna Keith  
Luiggi Chancafe  
Marcus Pimpleton  
Maren Kilmer  
Marina Albero  
Marina Christopher  
Marissa Kall  
Madison Ely  
Michael van Bebber  
Nate Omdal  
Sam Boshnack  
Shaina Ellis  
Steve Treseler  
Tony Sodano  
Tracy Hagen  
Vanessa Bruce





# Board Members



**Board President**  
Arlene Sargeant  
Consultant

Angie Jenkins  
Director of Learning Assistance Program, Seattle University

Caroline Perkins  
Retired Educator

Debra Smiley  
Senior Trust Analyst, Laird Norton Wealth Management

Elvis Fraser  
Founder, Sankofa Consulting

Erica Garvey  
Finance and Real Estate, Tech Firm

Harold Bradford  
Physician/Anesthesiologist

Jeff Clapsaddle  
Community Volunteer

Kim Clements  
Architect, Creative Director

Kyle Rolfe  
Vice President, Wright Hotels

Lipika Mukerji  
Architect

Mark Zobel  
Radiologist, Overlake and Seattle Children's Hospital

Nancy Garcia  
Public Defender, King County

Ortencia Santana  
Business Owner

Ruby Biloskirka-Conley  
Customer Success Manager, Zillow

Stan Ra  
Chief Investment Officer, Seattle Children's Hospital



**Vice President**  
Shirish Mulherkar  
Community Volunteer



**Treasurer**  
Christian Anderson  
Private Wealth Advisor,  
Goldman Sachs



**Secretary**  
Kathryn Robinson  
Writer

SEATTLE  
JAZZED



For more information, email us at [info@seattlejazzed.org](mailto:info@seattlejazzed.org) or visit us at [seattlejazzed.org](http://seattlejazzed.org).