2021 Annual Report

July 1, 2020
June 30, 2021

“It’s a safe space to be yourself without any limits.”

- Amariah Strand

Mission: TO INSPIRE UNDERSERVED YOUTH THROUGH WORLD-CLASS MUSIC INSTRUCTION AND SUPPORT THEIR DEVELOPMENT AS SELF-AWARE LEADERS.
Over the past 20 months, our entire world has been flipped upside down due to the enormous disruption of COVID-19. And like so many of you who work and raise your families, trying to keep it all together hasn’t always been easy. The strain, the frustration and the uncertainty has at times felt like our stress barometer was about to explode. There have been a few moments where it just felt like it was all too much. We’ve worked hard to keep our students safe and provide an environment where they can feel a little bit of relief and a sense of normalcy when they show up to their weekly music lessons. And truthfully, we’ve only been able to do these things because of YOU. You have not just been a donor - you’ve been a supporter, a friend and a lifeline to our organization and we are incredibly grateful. Thank you.

Because of you, our students have thrived and excelled, both in our string studio and in their academic studies and personal endeavors. You have literally been the “key” to all of their successes. Our students have excelled this year, performing socially distanced or virtual performances, giving lectures to a Zoom room full of adults, getting accepted to colleges, and receiving scholarships and awards. You have been there every step of the way demonstrating to them what they are capable of. And in the moments of crisis for some of our students who have lost family members, had mental health issues or personal challenges, your support has been a glimmer of hope for them to see a pathway forward. You’ve helped them create new memories and understand that they are valued and supported. On their behalf, we thank you.

This annual report is dedicated to you and all that you’ve done to help us excel. Thank you for believing in our vision and providing support when none of us were sure what would happen next. You have taught us that while string lessons are important to our students, they’re just the vehicle to help us understand something more meaningful. We’ve learned what it truly means to be responsible, accountable and caring citizens. Your support of investment in our organization has taught us this and we appreciate this valuable lesson. Thank you for supporting Key to Change and being a source of hope for our students.

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Quinton Morris          Susan Smith-Leland
Executive Director & Founder  Board President
“It’s a safe space to be yourself without any limits. Studio classes are a PRIME example of safe spaces to learn and be yourself. I love private lessons too. The one on one time with Dr. Morris helps me a lot. It challenges my mind as well”.

- Amariah Strand, 10th Grade

Launched a successful pivot from in person to online lessons.

Derek & Devin Nguyen | Twin brothers, age 15, have been studying violin for the past 3 years.

Our enrollment quadrupled to serving over 150 string students across South King County with violin and viola lessons.

Over 96% of our students felt they made significant improvements in their playing ability and overall progress.
Students performed original compositions of Vaughn-Jones in a virtual recital.

Established community partnerships with Classical King FM, Seattle Symphony and Highline & Renton School Districts to provide lessons and performance opportunities to students.

Provide current students with violins and violas from our instrument library.

Violin donated by David Van Zandt, valued at $17,000.
Achieving Excellence

“I proved that I can stand up in front of an audience and use my skills to play the violin the best I could. It was super scary, but afterwards, I was super proud of myself. Key to Change helped me accomplish this milestone in every way and I’m so grateful”.

- NATALIE ANDERSON, 8TH GRADE

13 students received Superior and Excellent ratings at the Jackson State University Music Department’s Virtual Solo & Ensemble Contest.

3 students performed and were featured on Unmute The Voices, a radio and video series sponsored by Classical King FM and Seattle Chamber Music Society.

Awarded over $60,000 in scholarships to current Key to Change students, alumni and youth in the South King County community.
Hired HeARTwork Collective to create anti-racist practices within the board, staff and string studio curriculum.

Served 110+ students in the Highline School District through weekly music lessons, masterclasses and classroom visits.

33 students participated & 6 students received top prizes at the 2021 Solo String Festival, held at Seattle Symphony’s Benaroya Hall.

Completed a new Business Plan for the next five years.
How Your Investments Are Spent

Your financial investment helps make everything possible. We couldn’t do it without you!

**How Your Investments Are Spent**

**REVENUE**

- 37% Grants & Corporate Gifts
- 25% Individual Donations
- 16% In-Kind Donations
- 17% Tuition
- 20% Program
- >1% Instrument Rental
- 5% Other

**EXPENSES**

- 33% Administration
- 25% Operations
- 22% Fundraising
- 5% Surplus (+$21,926)
- 17% Tuition
- 25% Individual Donations
- 5% Surplus
- 20% Program
- 16% In-Kind Donations
- 5% Other
- >1% Instrument Rental

**Student scholarships, music, instruments and other things needed to accomplish our mission.**

**People who execute the mission forward.**

**The funds we use to raise even more funds, doubling your impact.**

**Studio rental, equipment, office expenses to help keep us running efficiently.**
How You Can Help

Your gift today provides a deep and transformative impact to underserved students in South King County with access to receive weekly string lessons. These lessons have been an incredible support to the emotional and mental health of our students. Your gift today gives hope to a student that they are cared for and that the community has their back.
Including gifts such as a charitable lead trust, charitable lead annuity trust, bargain sale and retained life estate, all avoid probate, as well as gifts of assets like appreciated securities, retirement plans, insurance policies and real estate.

**Donor must be 70 ½ or older. Donation must come from a traditional or inherited IRA. The maximum annual gift transfer is $100,000 per donor. Transfers must go directly to a recognized charitable organization such as the Key to Change (be careful—the money cannot go to you first). Donation counts towards satisfying donor’s required minimum distribution but is not included in adjusted gross income.**
Our Most Trusted Partners

STAFF
Dr. Quinton Morris
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FOUNDER, INSTRUCTOR
Beth Guterman Chu
MUSIC INSTRUCTOR
Geoffrey Liu
MUSIC INSTRUCTOR & COACH
Ashley Glovier
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/ OFFICE MANAGER
Daniel Schmitt
GRANTS MANAGER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Susan Smith
Leland
PRESIDENT & TREASURER
Alexander Diaz
VICE PRESIDENT
Viesta Morris
SECRETARY
Brenda Barnes
Leah Branford-Francis
Ain Powell
Dr. Quinton Morris (EX-OFFICIO)

Stay In Touch!

PO Box 16787 Seattle, WA 98116
info@keytochangestudio.org
https://www.keytochangestudio.org/