

20 21

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Quinton Morris".

Dr. Quinton Morris
Executive Director & Founder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Smith-Leland".

Susan Smith-Leland
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



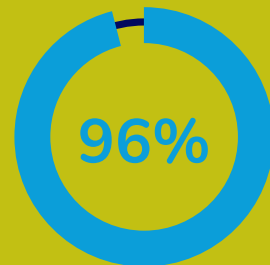
Launched a successful pivot from in person to online lessons.



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.



GEOFFREY LIU | NEW STRING
INSTRUCTOR & COACH

Students
performed
original
compositions
of Vaughn-
Jones in a
virtual recital.



CALEB VAUGHN-JONES | OUR
INAUGURAL COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE



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



EDEN PAWLOS | FEATURED GUEST ON UNMUTE THE VOICES
(KING FM) AT SEATTLE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

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*.



RICHIE DOAN | AN INAUGURAL STUDENT OF OUR STRING STUDIO GRADUATED FROM RENTON HIGH SCHOOL WITH HONORS.

CURRENTLY A FRESHMAN MAJORING IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Awarded over \$60,000 in scholarships to current Key to Change students, alumni and youth in the South King County community.



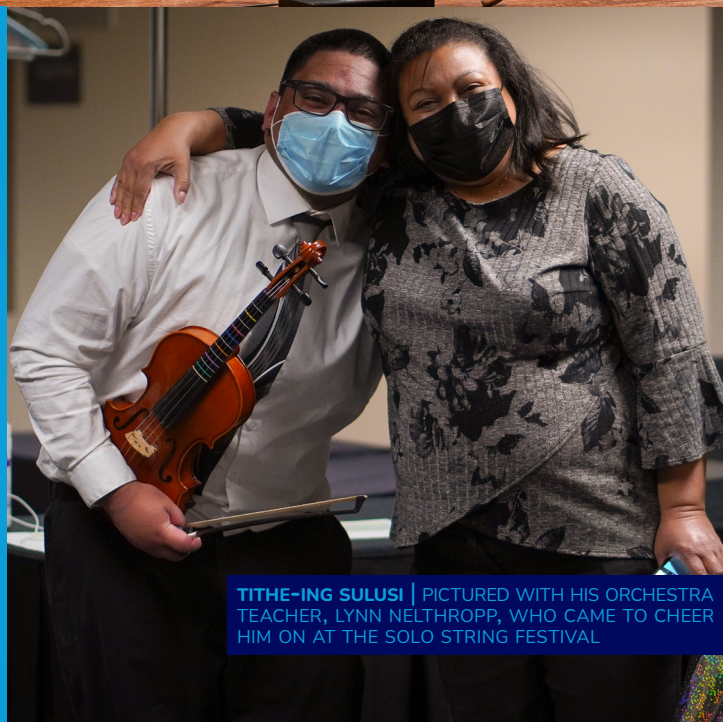
33 students participated & **6 students received top prizes** at the 2021 Solo String Festival, held at Seattle Symphony's Benaroya Hall.



CHERLANDA LAGUERRE, 7TH GRADE | RECEIVES FEEDBACK FROM DR. MORRIS BEFORE HER PERFORMANCE AT BENAROYA HALL.



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



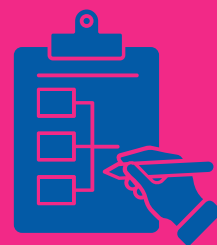
TITHE-ING SULUSI | PICTURED WITH HIS ORCHESTRA TEACHER, LYNN NELTHROPP, WHO CAME TO CHEER HIM ON AT THE SOLO STRING FESTIVAL



Hired *HeARTwork Collective* to create anti-racist practices within the board, staff and string studio curriculum.



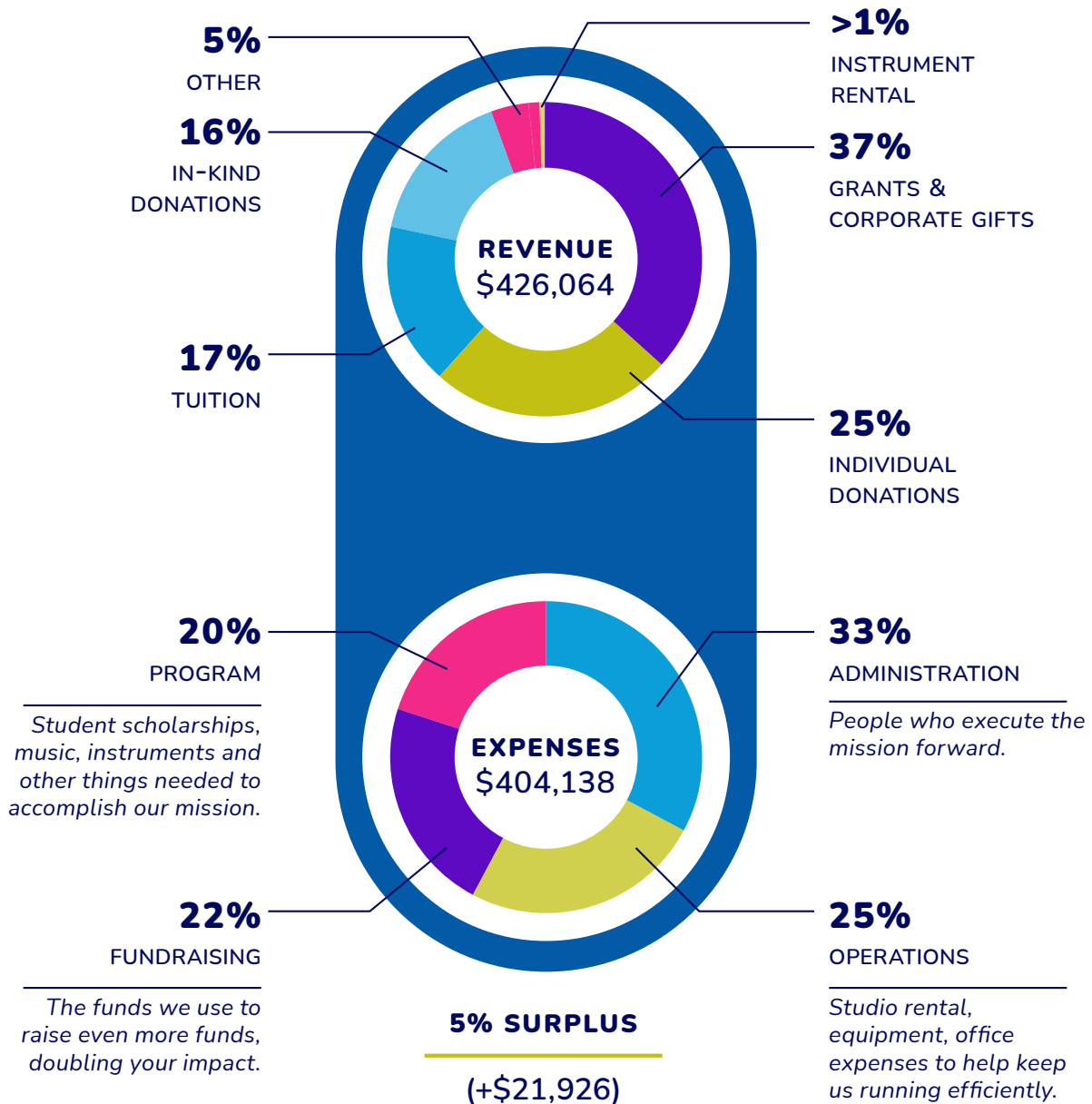
ASHLEY GLOVIER | OUR FIRST EMPLOYEE



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 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.

VOLUNTEER

If you are interested in volunteering in our string studio, please contact us at info@keytochangestudio.org or call (425) 243-3597.

MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

If you are interested in our matching gift program, corporate sponsorship, giving a gift of stock or including Key to Change in your estate plans, please click below for more information.

INDIVIDUAL DONATION

Be the “key” to “change” the life of a student with a recurring or one-time investment. Make an online donation: www.keytochangestudio.org/support

PLANNED GIVING

If you wish to include Key to Change in gifts outside of wills,* please contact Dr. Quinton Morris at qmorris@keytochangestudio.org

DONATE THROUGH AMAZON

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2ZJV0DPG6BPU>

IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION (QCD)

If you are 70½ or older and own an IRA, you may make a direct transfer of up to \$100,000 annually from your IRA to Key to Change without having to include the withdrawal in your adjusted gross income for income tax purposes.**

DONATE BY MAIL

Key to Change
P.O. Box 16787
Seattle, WA
98116

“BE A KEY”

“Be a Key” by hosting student scholarship fundraiser. If you would like to host a fundraiser to raise money for student scholarships, please contact Dr. Quinton Morris at info@keytochangestudio.org.



STOCK

If you wish to donate stocks or other securities, please use the following information:

Empowering
Youth for Change
Fund | Renton
Regional Community
Foundation

Attn: LeAnne Moss,
Executive Director:
(425) 282-5199,
lmoss@rentonfoundation.org

**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 —

**SEATTLE
SYMPHONY**



ARTSFUND 



CLASSICAL
KING FM 98.1



STAFF

Dr. Quinton Morris
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
& FOUNDER,
INSTRUCTOR

Beth Guterman Chu
MUSIC INSTRUCTOR

Geoffrey Liu
MUSIC INSTRUCTOR
& COACH

Ashley Glover
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/
OFFICE MANAGER

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Ain Powell
Dr. Quinton Morris
(EX-OFFICIO)

Stay In Touch!



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<https://www.keytochangestudio.org/>