

KEY TO
CHANGE

2022–2023

ANNUAL
REPORT



**Key to Change
empowers
underserved youth
through world-class
music instruction
and supports their
development as
self-aware leaders.**



Key to Change gives diverse students somewhere to grow and belong.



Key to Change is so much more than a world-class String Studio. We're a community brought together by a love of music, a place for our students to grow and belong.

Last year marked another year of tremendous growth for our organization, and we absolutely could not have done it without you. Thanks to your support, we are uplifting young people every day, teaching them essential skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

For starters, last year we opened the doors to our very own space, establishing a permanent home for our lessons as well as a kind of conservatory clubhouse for students. Back when we were renting a room at a nearby high school, kids could only be present onsite for class; now they gather at Key to Change HQ to practice with their friends and watch one another's lessons, supporting one another as they push to master new repertoire and challenging techniques.

Our space has become a home base buzzing with energy.

Last year also saw us develop our partnership with Seattle Symphony, creating opportunities for students to connect with orchestra members and perform at Benaroya Hall. These kinds of experiences are all too rare for kids from underserved communities. When we provide them, we not only inspire our students to dream, we show them that they deserve the world.

Seattle Symphony's concertmaster, Noah Geller, joined the Key to Change faculty in October 2022 as well, making our studio the only place in the region where he gives lessons to youth. Noah believes deeply in our students and their talent, and his commitment to them motivates them to be at their best.

Our Young Artists Academy (YAA) and COMBO programs also debuted last year, giving students and their families more options to suit their

individual needs and goals. COMBO, a combination of individual and group lessons, provides the benefits of one-on-one attention and the camaraderie of group lessons. YAA—part of our partnership with Seattle Symphony—is a year-long intensive program. Soon after it began, we saw a spike in musical and academic achievement as the YAA cohort flourished, becoming each other's mentors and friends.

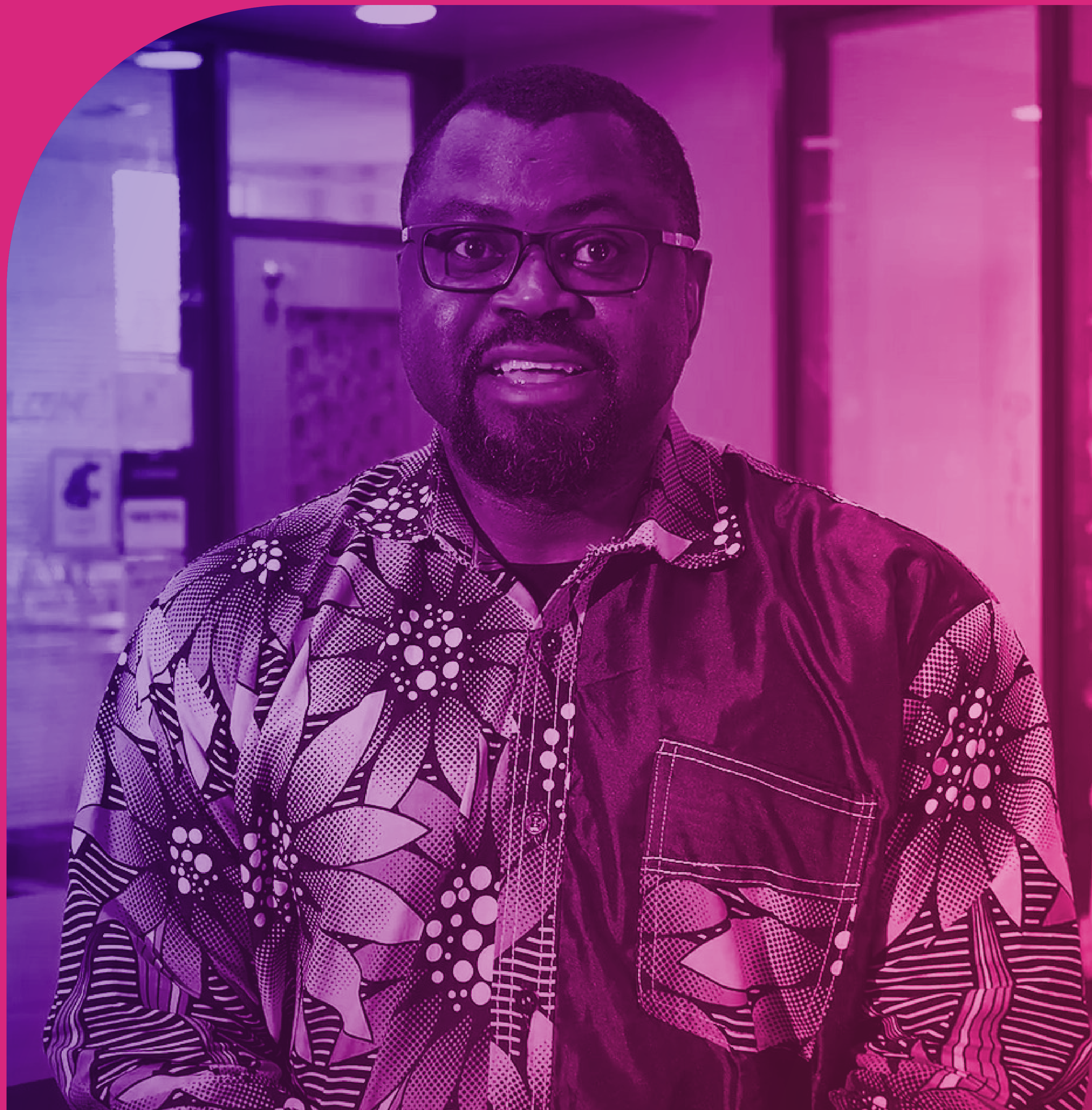
In the pages ahead, you'll learn more about the wonderful, diverse students in our studio and the ways they are succeeding in school and in life. I could not be more proud of them, just as I could not be more grateful to you for supporting our work.

Best wishes,
Dr. Quinton Morris,
Executive Director & Founder

“

**Key to Change
is breaking the
stereotype that
classical music is for
white, privileged, elite
people. Classical music
is music. Music is
beautiful for everyone.**

Dr. Jean-Jacques Kayembe, parent





Music education has a huge impact on outcomes for kids.

Research consistently shows that students who participate in music education achieve more academically, grow intellectually and creatively, and strengthen their social skills.

And yet many young people in South King County—where many residents are lower-income people of color—do not have access to music lessons in school, and the typical cost of private instruction remains out of reach for their families.



2022-2023 Highlights

1200 students received violin and viola lessons at our String Studio and through our outreach in the community in 2022–2023.

40 students participated in our annual Solo String Festival, where they competed for scholarships and prizes.

30-60% below regional averages for tuition. *The average hourly cost for violin lessons is \$150 per hour.*

90% of students received scholarship assistance.

91% of the previous year’s students returned.

Key to Change students speak many languages, including French, Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, Vietnamese, Spanish, Creole, Chinese, Japanese, Tagalog, and English.





SEATTLE

SYMPHONY

became a major partner in our work.



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Together, we will help build a solid foundation to further evolve longer-term collaboration, expanding opportunities for historically underserved youth in our region to enhance their musical development and broaden music education access in the community.

Jérémy Jolley, Seattle Symphony's Senior Director of Education and Community Engagement

Our String Studio offers more options to suit student and family needs.

Last year, our organization expanded the classes it offers to create more possibilities for our students. In addition to our private lessons and group classes, we launched two new types of lessons.



COMBO Lessons

These include both private and group instruction, giving students the best of both worlds: one-on-one attention and the camaraderie of group lessons.



40% of our students took COMBO lessons.



Three students enrolled in COMBO Lessons took top prizes, including scholarships and instruments in our Debut Competitive Division of the Solo String Festival.



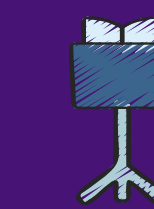
100% of our seniors enrolled in COMBO Lessons were accepted to college.

Young Artist Academy

Offered in partnership with the Seattle Symphony, our Young Artist Academy (YAA) is for middle and high school violin or viola players who are motivated to learn their instrument at a high level. YAA students receive private lessons, group lessons, and masterclasses with guest artists. This program requires a one-year commitment and an application



The first YAA cohort had five students.



YAA students performed side-by-side with members of the Seattle Symphony and took top prizes in the Jessie Montgomery Competitive Division at the Solo String Festival.



Students also performed on *Unmute The Voices* on Classical KING FM radio and performed an outreach concert with violinist Curtis Stewart, a four-time Grammy-Award nominee, violinist and string faculty member at The Juilliard School.



Our Spring Salon celebrated students—and broke our fundraising record. ✨



Students won prizes and high praise from professional musicians.



Three students who won the Key to Change Concerto Competition gave performances and dazzled the audience.



Arts advocate Vivian Phillips received the inaugural Key to Change Community Achievement Award for her dedication to youth, arts and culture, and the Black community.

We exceeded our goal, raising over

\$195,000

—a new record! ✨



Our supporters are making a difference in the lives of young people. You make everything we do possible.

Last year, Key to Change was able to broaden and deepen our work because people like you supported us. We smashed our records in all aspects of our fundraising.

2022–2023 Fundraising Totals

Individual Donors: \$189,480 (36%)

Corporate Giving: \$17,500 (3%)

Grants & Foundations: \$162,479 (31%)

In-Kind: \$16,605 (3%)



2022–2023 Earned Revenue Totals

Tuition: \$64,639 (12%)

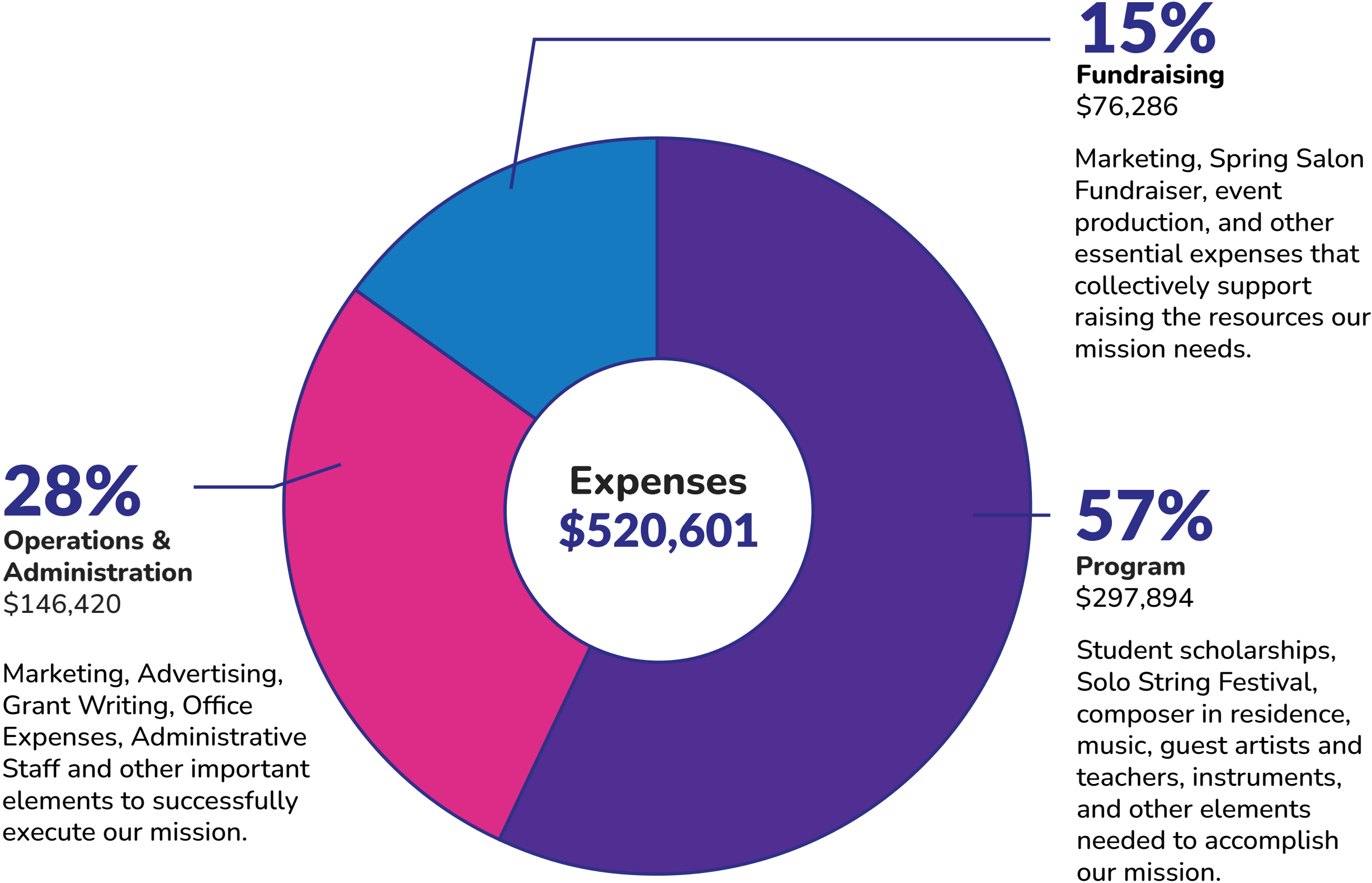
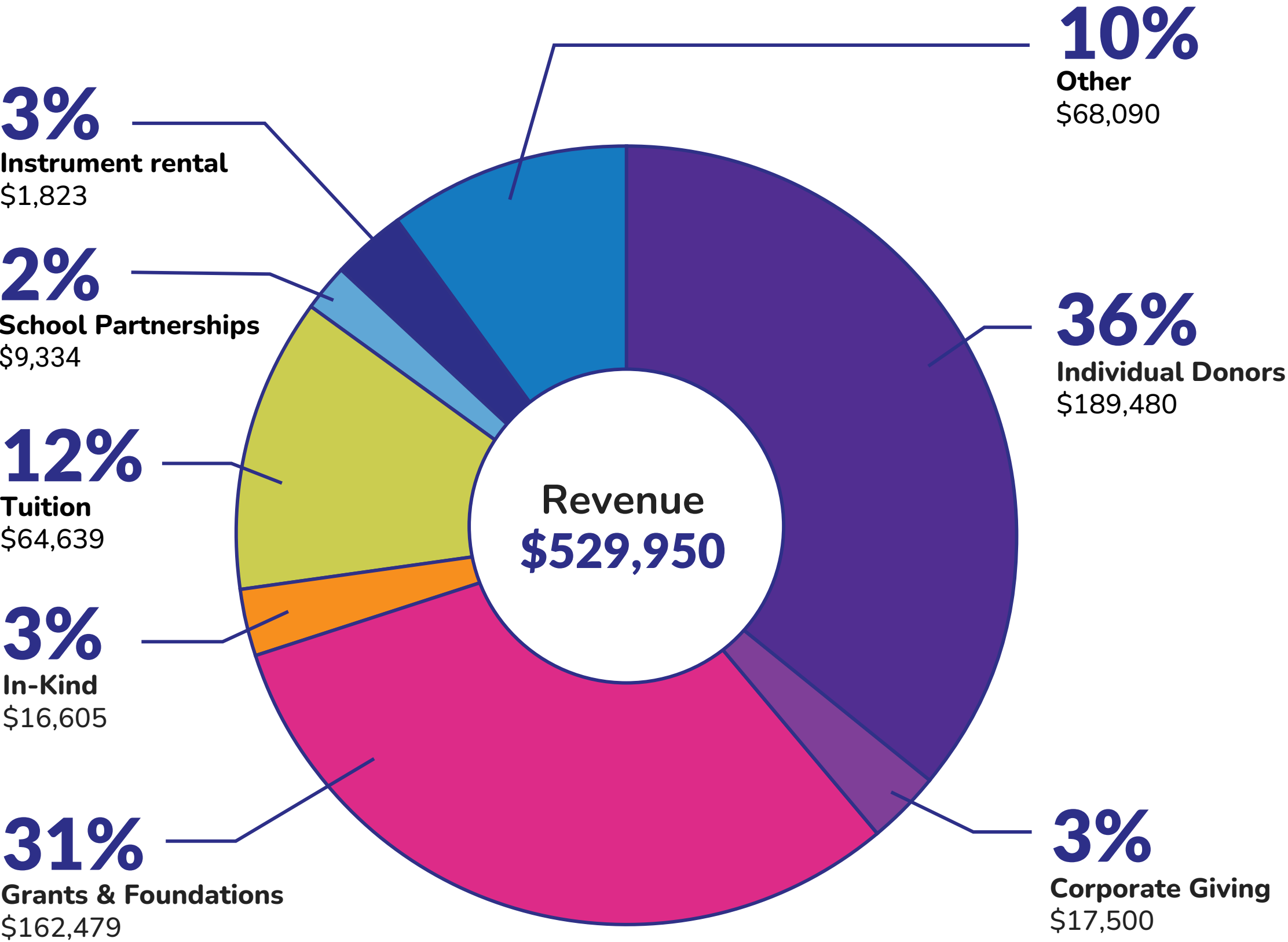
School Partnerships: \$9,334 (2%)

Instrument rental: \$1,823 (3%)

Other: \$68,090 (13%)



Financials



Thank you for your support!

\$50,000+

King County
Washington State Department of Commerce
Anonymous

\$25,000+

4 Culture
City of Seattle
Anonymous

\$10,000+

ArtsFund
Children Count Foundation
Classical King FM 98.1
Dr. Quinton Morris
Nesholm Family Foundation
Rafael Carrabba Violins
Renton Municipal Arts Commission
Stephanie Ellis-Smith and Douglas Smith

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Allied Arts of Renton
ArtsWA
Fales Foundation Trust
Grace Nordhoff and Jonathan Beard
Inman Foundation
John Hill
Stacie and Garrett Kang
Susan Harmon
The Dale and Leslie Chihuly Foundation

\$1,000 – \$4,999

Alex Diaz
Ashley Glover
Bassetti Architects
Berry and Barnes Violins
Bonnie and Alan Steele
Calandra Childers
Carol Maurer
Christine and Mike Goodner
Dr. Brenda Barnes
Dr. Erik Torgerson
Dr. James Kuan
Dr. Jeffrey Evans
Ellen Ferguson
First Security Bank
Foster Garvey PC
Integrus Architecture
Isa Ellis
James Duncan
Jon Rosen
Karen and Bill Feldt
MaryLou Pederson
Matthew and Teresa Byers
Mele Miller
Mount Si Ladies Golf Club
Pam and David McDonald
Paula and Will Borhauer
Peter Drury
Roger Wolfson
Saralee Stata
Starkie Lutherie
Susan Smith Leland and Rod Leland
Virginia Davison
Anonymous (2)

\$500 – \$999

Calvin Gasaway
Colleen Reilly
Craig Sheppard and Gregory Wallace
Daniel Ching and Sandy Yamamoto
Denise Mamaril
Fei-Pang Ching and Wailan Loh
Gary and Linda Byers
George Griffin
Herbert Rand
Leah Bradford-Francis and Kevin Francis
Michael Schmitt
Nordstrom
Phil Crocker
Ruby Greene Golden
Sally Terpilowski
Tacoma Community College Foundation
Anonymous

\$250 – \$499

Alan Garrett
Anthony Ives
Bryce Vanparys
Dave Davison
Donna Moodie
Douglas McFalls
Dr. David Rahbee
Gordon Alexander
Iann and Matt Seel
Jazmyn Scott
Jillian Mochnick
Kevin Maifeld
Liberty Mutual
Lynn Dietrich
Mark Church
Mary Okocha
Max Silverman
Owen Richards
Paula Caballero

Toyia Taylor
Viesta Morris
Vivian Phillips
Zabrina Jenkins

\$100 – \$249

Adrienne Kerr
Ann Jones Almlie
April Morris
Barbara Earl Thomas
Betty Childers
Catherine Carbone-Rogers
Darrel Anderson
Derik Hubbard
Diane and Bill Ogle
Eric Gerard Parsons
Erik Anderson
Fidelma McGinn
Gina Herrmann
Gustavo Basualdo
Henry Bischofberger Violins, LLC
Huong Vu
Jason Amos
Jerome Olivarez
Keith Auer
Lindsay Pulsifer and Joan Pitell
Louise Alexander
Michele Hasson
Microsoft
Minnie Collins
Naomi Ishisaka
Nate Miles
Oklahoma Simms
Randy Engstrom
Shelby Harris
Tammis and Jeff Greene
Tanya Bridges
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
Todd Mahaffey
Trubee Davison
Vikki Torrence
Anonymous

\$25 – \$99

Aharon and Heidi TenBroek
Anita and Steve Tucker
Brian Easley
Camesha Jones
Carolyn Burger
Chris Thalman and Melissa Anderson
Chris Tugwell
Denise Barriere
Donna Hutchinson
Dr. Stephen Luckey
Gail Erickson
Holly A Jacobson
Janet Cantelon
Jenise Silva
Jesse Kinkad
John Welch
Juanita Chinn
Kareen Forward
Kirsten Roth
Kristin Edlund
LaSaundra Booth
Lisa Burkett
Marietta Zintak
Marilyn S. Smith
Meaghan Angelo
Melkie Mengistu
Pam Guntrum
Randy and Pamela Rutledge
Renolda Grant
Robert Simonds
Tova Buerk



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I always felt included, and the growth I made as a violinist in Key to Change was more than I would've gotten playing in an orchestra in school. I was taught to value my efforts and be patient with myself. I learned to communicate my needs and struggles, and keep an open mind with constructive criticism.

Analisa Teresa Ruiz, alumna

Invest in our youth today!

All youth in our community deserve equal access to world-class violin and viola instruction—and the important life skills that come with it. When you make a tax-deductible contribution to Key to Change, you are making an investment in a middle or high school student, connecting them with lessons, mentorship, masterclasses, performance opportunities, mentorship, and more.

Give Now

More Ways to Give

There are many ways to give to Key to Change. You can donate online, via check, by transferring stock or by establishing a planned gift through your will. You may also be able to multiply your impact by taking advantage of philanthropic opportunities in your workplace. For questions regarding donations of any kind, please contact Development Officer Rob Simonds.



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