

**KEY TO
CHANGE**

2023–2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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



Key to Change is nurturing student success in music, school, and life.

If last year at Key to Change had a single theme, it would be growth: The growth of our students, who become more capable and confident every day. The growth of our String Studio, which provided many more lessons than ever before. The growth of our staff, which added two new positions. And the growth of our community, which stood steadfast alongside us all year long.

Together, we are nurturing the next generation of leaders by giving them a world-class music education that teaches discipline, perseverance, and accountability. Everyday in our classrooms, we are fostering mentorships, friendships, and a sense of belonging for each young person who comes through our doors.

As a result, our students are finding success in all kinds of ways—including on stage. Three of them performed guest solos with the region's leading orchestras last year, showcasing their incredible hard work for public audiences in some of the region's best

venues. Many professional musicians never get this kind of opportunity, and we could not be more proud of our students for the skill and maturity they showed while preparing for and playing these concerts.

Students and families in South King County are increasingly aware of our accessible lessons and eager to sign up for classes. That means we always need more instruments! So we were thrilled when several luthiers and other community members donated almost 20 violins and violas to us last year, collectively valued at more than \$65,000. Of course, we immediately loaned them to students—and now their families don't have to worry about the cost of renting or purchasing an instrument.

When I first imagined Key to Change nearly a decade ago, I knew that together we could teach young people skills that would serve them throughout their lives. I also knew that we could inspire them to strive and reach their

goals. Today we inspire the students in our studio by surrounding them with encouragement and excellence, often by welcoming extraordinary classical musicians as guest artists (see a list on page 7). Through their one-on-one teaching and outstanding masterclasses, they motivate our young people to be their very best. I hope you'll join us for one sometime this year and behold the magic for yourself.

For now, I invite you to learn more about the details of our work in the pages ahead. None of it would have been possible without your support, and we remain deeply grateful to you for being a part of our beautiful community.

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



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It's really important that people support Black youth, young people of color, because we want to see ourselves succeed—and it always starts with a role model, someone who's there before us. And if we don't see that, then how are we supposed to envision ourselves there?

Amani Tompkins, student violinist



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.

2023-2024 By The Numbers

Our instructors taught **380+** hours of group lessons and **378** hours of individual lessons.

Students in our Young Artist Academy received nearly **500** hours of instruction.

Over the course of three trimesters, we offered **15** different group lessons for students with various levels of experience.

Our instructors taught **30** studio classes and **60** private lessons.

86% of students received scholarship assistance.

95% of students returned from the previous year.

5 students graduated from high school and enrolled in colleges or universities.





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For my daughter and other students, Key to Change is, amongst many things, a work for justice. To me, it is the embodiment of Dr. King’s call for direct action in creating the ‘beloved community’ through creative excellence.

Patra West, parent

Our String Studio gives students opportunities that inspire excellence.

Whether they're taking group classes, private lessons, or are part of our Young Artists Academy, our students learn alongside outstanding professionals and participate in a wide range of community events.



Dr. Quinton Morris with students following their performance for former First Lady Dr. Jill Biden.

2023-2024 Highlights

Below are just a few of the outstanding experiences and achievements our students enjoyed last year.

- Three students performed solos with local orchestras, including Seattle Symphony, Federal Way Symphony, Northwest Symphony Orchestra, and University of Washington Philharmonia.
- Students performed for U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris (spring 2024) and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden (fall 2023).
- Students performed a side-by-side concert with the Seattle Symphony.
- Several staff traveled to Boston with students and their parents to see Noah Geller, Seattle Symphony Concertmaster and Key to Change instructor, perform with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. They also attended a masterclass that Dr. Morris gave at Boston Conservatory.
- Students performed a concert inside the hot shop at Tacoma's Museum of Glass as part of a partnership with Hilltop Artists.
- King County Councilmember Dave Upthegrove honored our organization by proclaiming October 24, 2023, Key to Change Day in recognition of our students performing with the Seattle Symphony.

Guest Artists

Key to Change regularly welcomes guest artists who are professional musicians and composers working at the top of the classical music field. Our guests last year included these exceptional teachers and performers, many of whom frequently play with the world's best orchestras and several of whom have won multiple GRAMMY nominations. Their visits with our students include masterclasses, individual instruction, and more.

Jennifer Arnold
Richmond Symphony

Mara Gearman
Seattle Symphony

Randall Goosby
Artist-in-Residence, Southbank Centre (London)

Augustin Hadelich
Yale School of Music

Curtis Stewart
The Juilliard School

Seth Parker Woods
University of Southern California



Randall Goosby

Seth Parker Woods

✦ **Our annual Spring Salon recognized student achievement while setting a new fundraising record—again!** ✦

We smashed our Spring Campaign goal, raising more than ✦

\$200,000

through individual gifts, sponsorship, and tickets to the Salon.



Students performed in our Solo String Festival, earning prizes and admiration from professional musicians.



Students worked with an executive coach to prepare and deliver speeches on stage, where they shared their visions for their futures.



One student won a brand new violin donated by Seattle-based luthier Jason Starkie.



Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange, Chancellor of the University of Washington Tacoma, received the second-ever Key to Change Community Achievement Award for her tireless efforts to increase access to post-secondary education for underserved students.



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 broke past records in all aspects of our fundraising.

2023–2024 Fundraising Totals

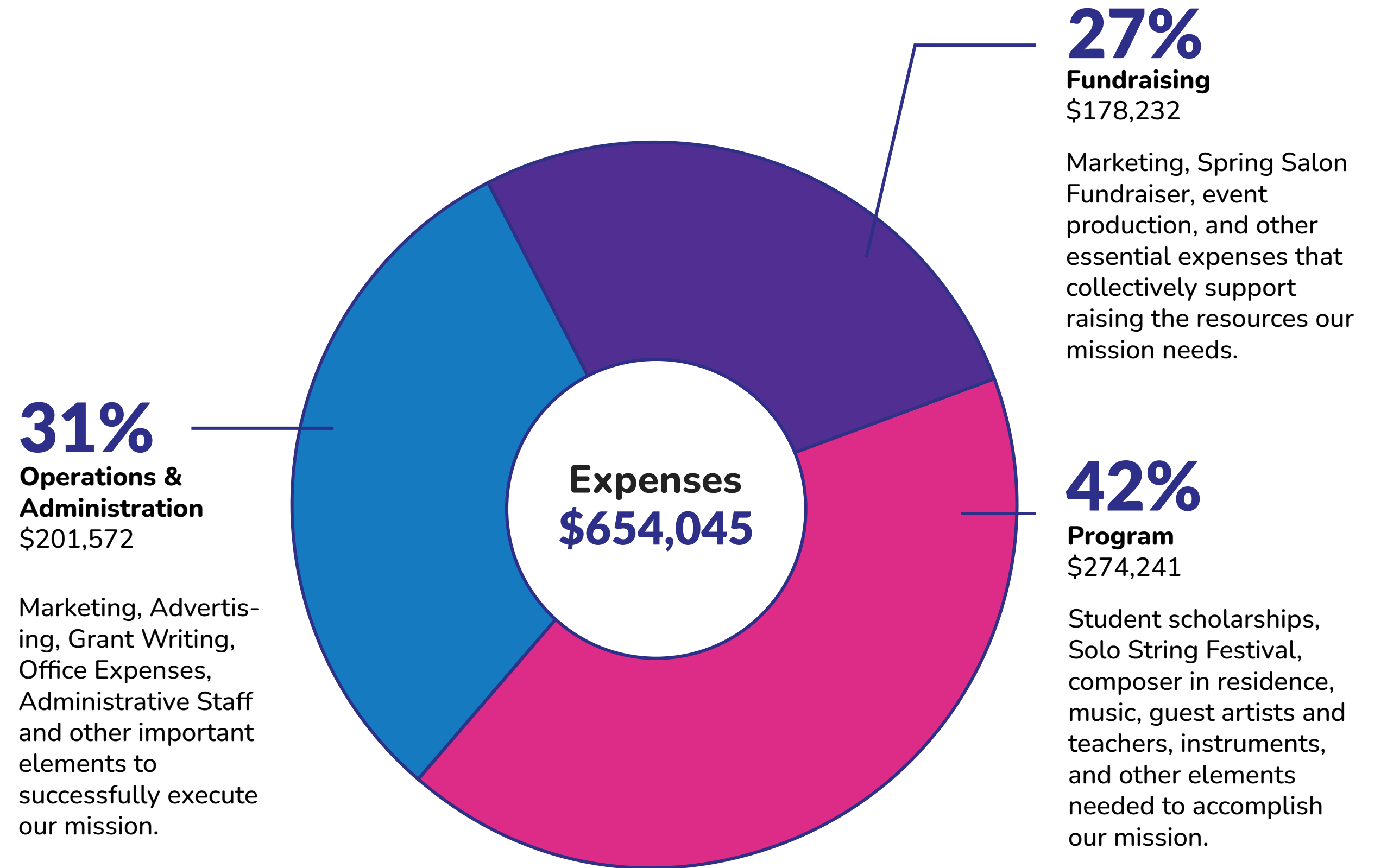
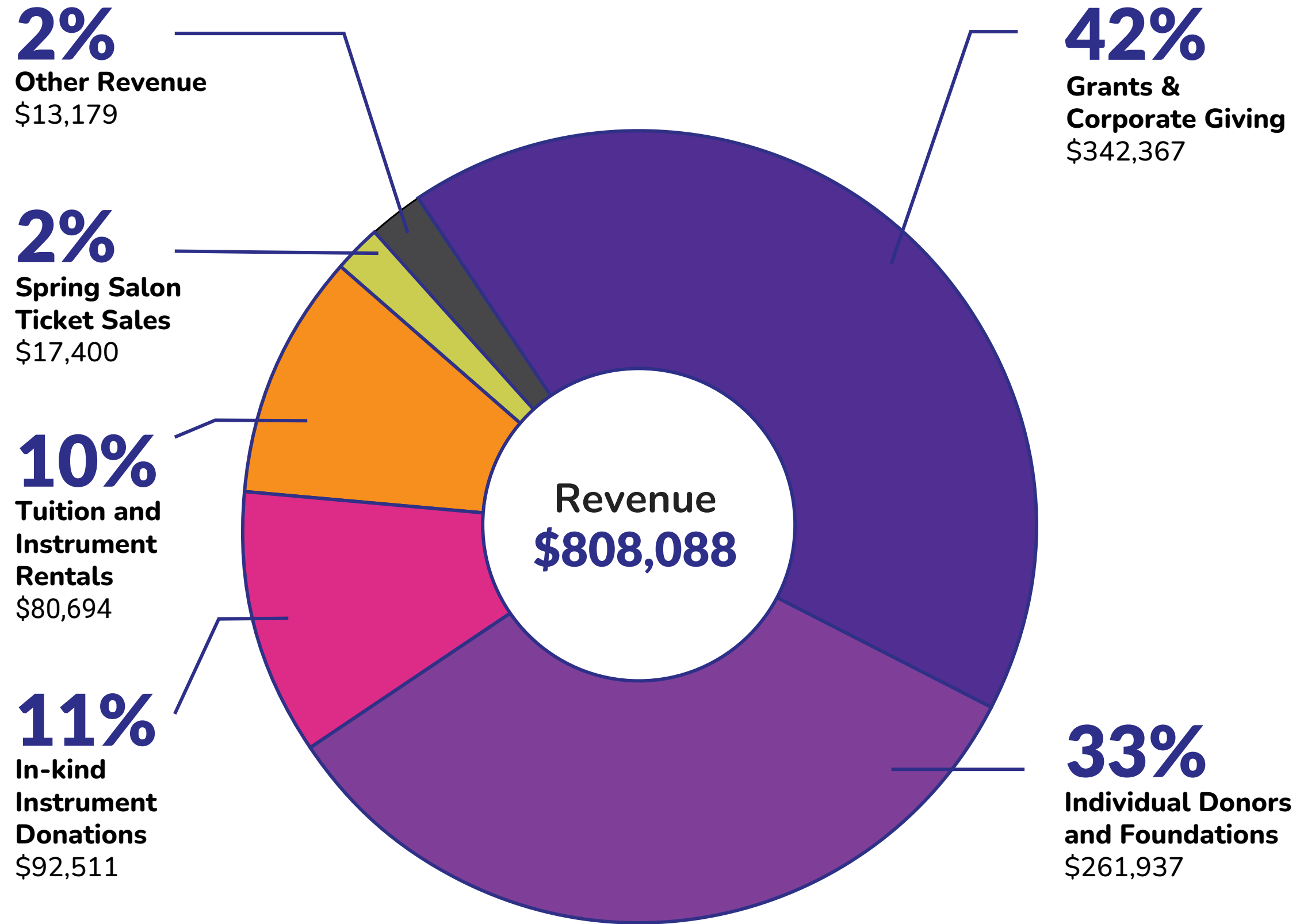
Individual Donors: **\$ 261,937**
Grants & Corporate Giving: **\$342,367**
In-Kind Instruments: **\$92,511**
Fundraising Income: **\$17,400**



2023–2024 Earned Revenue Totals

Tuition: **\$79,683**
Instrument rental: **\$1,011**
Other: **\$13,179**

Financials



Thank you for your support!

\$100,000+

King County
Pitch Your Peers Seattle

\$20,000 - \$99,000

Children Count Foundation
City of Seattle
Classical KING
Dr. Quinton Morris
Patricia Marie Davis
Peter Drury

\$10,000 - \$19,000

Ellen Ferguson
Jaison and Jaime Robinson
Family Fund
John and Ellen Hill
Nesholm Family Foundation
Stephanie Ellis-Smith and
Douglas Smith
Van Zandt Violins

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Amy Lester
Anonymous in memory of Rose
and Lisa Yoshizumi
Arlene and Stephen Cohen in
memory of Amy Madigan
ArtsFund
Bonnie and Alan Steele
Chau and Chad Robertson
Christine and Mike Goodner
Climate Pledge Arena
Community Fund
David Flynn
Inman Foundation
Stacie and Garrett Kang
Susan and Richard Harmon

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Alan Garrett
Alex Diaz and Jillian Mochnick
Diaz
Alicia Talley and Allan Smith
Andrew Johnson

Ann and Nelson Collin
Anonymous (2)
Bassetti Architects
Beth Donofrio Memorial Fund
Renton Regional Community
Fund
Brighton Jones
Calandra Childers
Carol Maurer
Chamber Music Guild
Chris Tugwell
Craig Sheppard and Gregory
Wallace

Denise and Gerrard Mamaril
Diana Carey
Dr. Erik Torgerson
Dr. James Kuan
Eric and Shawna Hills
Frank and Ellen Mitchell
Foster Garvey PC
George Griffin
Integrus Architecture
James Duncan
Dr. Jameson Natwick
Jon and Bobbe Bridge
Jon Rosen
Kravas Family Fund
Kristan Parks
Liz Simonds
Marsha Wolf and Ken Linkhart
Matthew and Teresa Byers
Mr. Calvin and Darline Gasaway
Pamela and David McDonald
Paula and Will Borhauer
Robert H. Simonds and Louise

Alexander
Roger Wolfson
Shemaiah and Justo Gonzalez
Starkie Lutherie
Susan Smith Leland and Rod
Leland
Viesta Morris
Washington Women's
Foundation

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous
Anthony Ives
Ashley Glovier
Barbara Thomas
Benita Thomas
Carla Cross
Chris Thalman and Melissa
Anderson
Clark Kokich
Clyde and Kathleen Wilson
Colleen Davis
Colleen Reilly
Constance Phelps
Dale Rogerson
Dave Davison
Donald Swisher
Dr. Brenda Barnes
Dr. Holly Ferraro
Eatible Delights
Gordon Alexander
Gustavo Basualdo
Jay Kenney

JoAnn Mills
Leslie Aungst
Marcie and Dave Stone
Margaret and Jim Paynton
Mark Fishbain
Meredith Perlman and Robert
Green
Pamela and Mike Teal
Rafael Carrabba Violins
Regina and Chris Thomas
Family Fund
Robert Murphy
Ruby Greene Golden
Sally Terpilowski
Sharon Harvey Hughes
Tamara Michel
Tanya and Mohammed Quraishi
Vivian Phillips
W.H. "Joe" Knight

\$250 - \$499

Annika Swenson
Anonymous
Asa Tate
Becky Nickels
Cedrick Bridgeforth
Christine Dinsdale
Christopher Hjort
Dale Almlie and Ann Jones
Almlie
Davida Ingram
Donna Bender
Dorothy Mann

\$250 – \$499 (cont.)

Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange and
Kip Lange
Elisa Barston
Erin Chung
Gail Erickson
Hammond Ashley Violins
Janelle Turner
Janice Lloyd
Jason Starkie
Jonelle Johnson
Lance Moore
Liechty/Quinn Fund
Linda Schwartz
Mark Church
Mary Okocha
Mele Miller
Michele Hasson
Minnie Collins
Paula Caballero
Peter and Lisa Nitze
Robert Pillitteri
Sarah and Cisco Cole-Daum
Seth Parker Woods
Steven Reeder
Susan K Peterson/Paul Taub
Fund
Tamisha Cooper
Ursula Beaumont
Zabrina Jenkins

\$100 – \$249

Adrienne Kerr
Alan Harrison
Andrew Boscardin
Andy Post
Bijan Cole
Cecilia Matta
Clayton Matheson
Danielle Kuhlmann
Darrel Anderson
Dave Law
David and Mary Anne Madsen
Diane Burkhammer
Dr. Jeffrey Evans
Dr. Joy Sherman
Dr. Robert Killian
Dr. Robert McCroskey
Dr. Vera Risdon
Gina Herrmann
Jamale Schubert
Jeanne Peterson
Jerome Olivarez
Jesslyn Budiman
Johanna Jacobs
John Burkhardt
John Zoltek
Jon Glastra
Judith Coryell
Karen Roberts
Karlyne Iwata
Kenton Hill
Kimberly Hollingsworth
Leah Baltus
Lisa and Jack Mochnick

Lisa Burkett
Lora and Scott Poepping
Lorenzo Singletary
Lynn Dietrich
Maria Bianco
Michael Donner
Michelle Terry
Michi Nair
Mike Kochanski
Rebecca Chow
Rita Boyle
Roberta Oancia
Robert Turner
Sarah and Cisco Cole-Daum
Sarah Parkhurst
Schwanda Taylor
Sharon Nyree Williams
Stacey Frantzen
Susan Peterson
Terry Seaman
Trubee Davison
Valerie Berberoglu and Iskendar
Berbergolu
Zachary Slaton

\$1 - \$99

Aloysia Friedmann and Jon
Kimura Parker
Amanda Walker
Anita and Steve Tucker
Ann Stickney
Anonymous
Anshul Khirbat

Bob Hasegawa
Carolyn Burger
Charis Wilson
Colleen Basaydin
Colleen Maloney
Geoffrey Liu
Give Lively Foundation
Gwendolyn Baird
Jacqueline Helfgott
Janean Parker
Janet Cantelon
Jeffrey Lewis
Joel Glovier
Kaie Wise
Kellen Cribbs
Kirsten Roth
Kristine Baxter
Kristin Edlund and Hugh
Rosenow
Laura Skelton
Laurice Riecki
Matt Feldmeyer
Megan Barry
Melkie Mengistu
Nancy Nole
Nancy Talner
Olivia Weigl
Pam Guntrum
Paula Farier
PayPal Giving Fund
Peter Alaimo
Randy and Pamela Rutledge
Ronald Tribble
Tavona Givens
Thea Albert

Tina Lu
Vikki Torrence

Corporate Matching

Alaska Airlines
Blue Snap
DocuSign
Gates Foundation
Liberty Mutual
Microsoft
New Relic
Nordstrom
Salesforce
T-Mobile

**Thank you for your
generosity!**

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, 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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Being a part of Key to Change taught me accountability, self-discipline, and, most importantly, that I could be successful. Music became my path forward. It wasn't just about learning an instrument—it was about learning how to believe in myself. The more I practiced, the more accomplished I felt, and that feeling pushed me to work harder in every area of my life.

Malak Ali, Key to Change alumna



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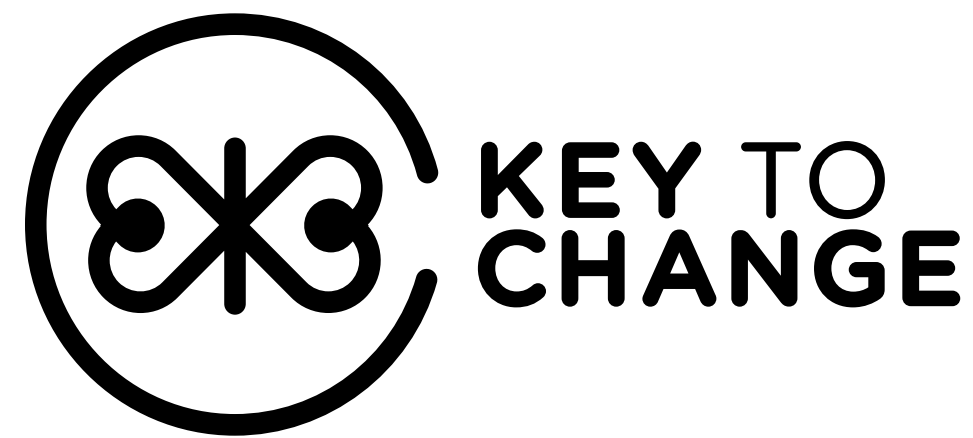
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