

# YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 - 2023



The People's Music School



**The People's Music School is the largest completely tuition-free music school serving Chicago metropolitan area children, focusing on removing barriers to access for students who otherwise would not have the benefits of intensive music instruction.**

# Dear Community,

The first noun in our mission statement is access, the second is benefits, and music education comes third. Our mission requires us to be so much more than a free music school: We are an after-school provider, ensuring equitable access to high quality programming immediately after the bell rings. We are an education organization, with our program leading to gains in literacy, math and student engagement. We are a community institution, working with and empowering the families and communities we serve. Our students become so much more than musicians.

One of my favorite examples of our mission coming to life is the story of Bryce, a senior in our class of 2023. Bryce started as a seventh-grade tuba student in Fall 2018 at our Greater South Side site. Bryce grew steadily under Natalie Butler's skilled baton, blossoming over time into a promising young musician. In those first years, he built community, confidence, and skill.

In March 2020, everything changed. During the pandemic, his amazing mother Bertina worked as a caregiver for elderly individuals, a job that required her to work outside the home in a historically challenging moment. Bryce worked hard to stay engaged, but his mental health slumped. Seeing that he needed a boost, we changed Bryce's teacher to someone more adept at online instruction. With the encouragement and persistence of his mother and teachers, Bryce pushed through, entering the 2021-22 school year as TPMS's first honors SLAM student from our Greater South Side site.

Bryce has grown at TPMS not only as a musician but as a determined learner and self-advocate. In the words of his teacher, "If he didn't understand something, he would ask. And if he still didn't, he'd ask me to explain it again and again until he did." That growth mindset paid off: This year, Bryce was the only student at TPMS who advanced two music theory levels in a single year. This fall, Bryce enters Monmouth College on a music scholarship, scouted by a recruiter in the halls of TPMS. He hopes to study biology and become an ecologist.

Bryce's story illustrates our aspirations for our students fully realized. Because of our focus on eliminating all kinds of barriers to access, Bertina first found us in her own community and was able to circumvent the typical financial barriers to intensive music education for her son. Because of our focus on the benefits of a long-term journey, our faculty and staff never gave up on Bryce, doing everything we could to support his persistence. Bryce's musical training helped lead him to his chosen postsecondary path, where he will build a career in STEM. We are so proud of Bryce, and we can't wait to see where he goes from here.

In this annual report, you'll learn more about what makes our school one-of-a-kind for students like Bryce. You'll read about highlights from a tremendous year, including the breakthrough success of our new site at Hyde Park Academy High School. You'll learn about our leading-edge use of student data to inform our programmatic decisions, and our exemplary artistic partnerships. What I hope is clear from our stories is a laser focus on our mission: access to the benefits of transformational music education, for every Bryce in Chicago.

In service,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Miriam Owens".

**Miriam Owens**  
President & CEO  
The People's Music School



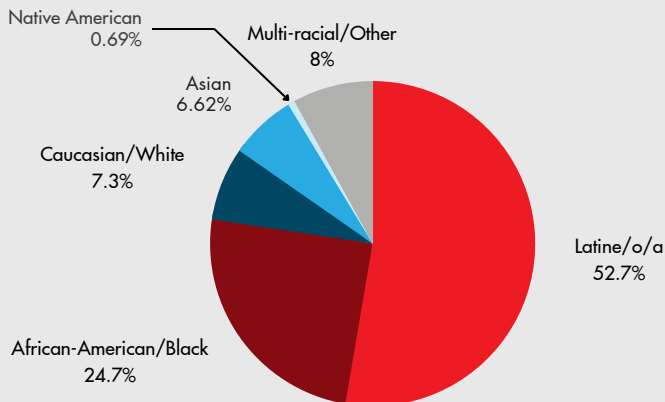
Bryce at the Gary Comer Youth Center, our Greater South Side site, in 2018



Bryce's Senior Photo

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to deliver access to the benefits of high-quality, tuition-free music education. Through intensive instruction and performance, our students achieve excellence in music that transfers to other areas in life. They grow musically, socially, emotionally and intellectually, and develop a foundation of responsibility, self-esteem, resilience and purpose.



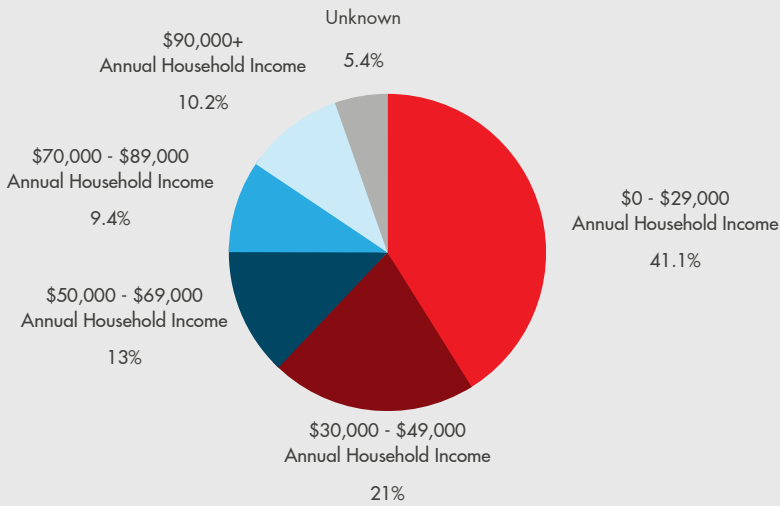
## RACIAL DIVERSITY

### OUR PROGRAMS

The People's Music School (TPMS) focuses our work where need is greatest, providing rigorous after-school music programming to 725 students who have financial barriers to access. TPMS's original community school in Uptown has persisted for 47 years. Over time, we have added partnerships with public schools in Chicago's underserved communities to expand student access and increase our portfolio of sites. Through the cultivation of musical learning and growth, our ultimate goal is to empower students with crucial life skills, support socio-emotional development, and provide transformational opportunities made possible through music education. By geographically working in the communities that we serve, TPMS also strengthens local communities and contributes to the transformation of Chicago's under-resourced schools.

Most students receive four hours of instruction weekly, including instrumental instruction, ensemble instruction, music theory, and performance opportunities. This degree of intensive music education produces valuable life skills, such as growth mindset, resilience, and improved literacy and math skills.<sup>1</sup> TPMS's intensive after-school music education programs are designed to drive these benefits and to eliminate barriers to access, including financial, geographic, linguistic, and cultural barriers.





## SOCIOECONOMIC DIVERSITY

Young students at The People’s Music School begin their musical journeys with **General Music**, a program that teaches the foundations of music designed for elementary students grades K-2.

**Music Theory** curriculum at The People’s Music School trains students to think critically and apply new tools for creative self-expression. All students take a rigorous annual theory exam to assess progress.

**Lessons**, both private and group, offer students the opportunity to refine their skills, nurture their creativity, and demonstrate musical excellence. All students participate in an annual solo jury assessment to assess their musical progression.

**Ensembles** offer our students the opportunity to collaborate as young musicians, learn from their peers, and perform for live audiences. Every student has multiple opportunities to perform annually.

Our **Service, Leadership, Artistry, and Mentorship (SLAM)** honors program gives advanced, older students the opportunity to build on their skills of discipline, teamwork, critical thinking and self-assurance and apply them as they face new challenges and experience new opportunities.

<sup>1</sup> “Music-based mentoring and academic improvement in high-poverty elementary schools. Journal of Youth Development.”; “Planting the Seeds: Orchestral Music Education as a Context for Fostering Growth Mindsets. Front. Psychol.”

**725** students enrolled

**90%** BIPOC students

**21** instruments taught

**1,500+** individual donors supporting TPMS

**7,600+** hours of service provided by families

**65+** teaching artists

**4** hours on average of weekly programming per student

**2,900+** learning hours per year

**100%** high school graduation rate

**100%** have financial barriers to accessing music education

2022-2023

# HIGHLIGHTS



In October, five honors students in the SLAM program had the honor of performing for President Barack Obama at the Obama Foundation's fundraiser for the Obama Presidential Center.

The People's Music School opened its new Greater South Side program at Hyde Park Academy High School (right), embarking on a new path for innovative school partnerships. Read more about the collaboration on page 10.



World-renowned violinist Hilary Hahn (below) led a chamber music masterclass at Uptown Academy, where SLAM students learned about artistry and self-expression through music.



In December, The People's Music School appointed Miriam Owens (left) its President and CEO. Read more about Miriam on page 12.



Students at our Greater South Side program (right) enjoyed a masterclass by Tia Fuller, saxophonist in Beyoncé's touring band and inspiration behind Dorthea Williams in Pixar's "Soul."



Longtime partners and Grammy Award-winning ensemble Third Coast Percussion brought their critically acclaimed performance *Metamorphosis* (below) to our Greater South Side site, with hundreds of Woodlawn-area elementary school students in attendance alongside Hyde Park Academy High School students.



TPMS students and families raised \$57,643.68 from over 1,200 generous community supporters in the annual student fundraiser, a new all-time school record!

Big Night Chicago In Harmony raised \$468,000, uniting supporters of The People's Music School who are committed to the transformative power of music education.



TPMS students closed out the year with Performapaloozathon (right), our annual school-wide music marathon, featuring exciting collaborations with Chicago Sinfonietta, JCC Chicago, and Violins of Hope.



TPMS welcomed 24 new alumni from the Class of 2023.



**80% of students  
who started with  
us in FY23 returned  
this fall.**

*Above: Oboe student Andrik has been a student at People's for seven years. He is a member of the Service, Leadership, Artistry, and Mentorship (SLAM) program at Back of the Yards and plays oboe in the SLAM wind ensemble led by Dr. Megan Robbins.*

## Retention

The benefits of intensive music education are most pronounced in the context of a multi-year student journey. Simply put, our data shows that the longer students remain in our program, the deeper and more sustainable the impact, in particular given the learning disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in our student community.

We use internal data and external research to inform program design and interventions necessary to support students in persisting in our program as long as possible, setting ourselves apart from typical after-school programming. Students that persist in our program through their senior year graduate high school and go on to attend college 100% of the time. However, even students that stay with us for two to three years see dramatic increases in growth mindset and grit. Our goal is to create the conditions that give every student that joins TPMS an opportunity to persist in a long-term journey of growth and progress in our program.



This past year, we invested time and analysis in better understanding the drivers of student persistence and attrition. We analyzed quantitative data and interviewed families about their needs, learning three powerful insights that transformed our programming decisions:

**Physical access is crucial:** Students at our Greater South Side site who received guaranteed bussing to programming had a 10% higher in-year retention rate than those who did not. At our North Side sites, we found that the farther away a student lives from our site, the higher their likelihood of attrition. This insight has led us to deepen our investment in student transportation for our Greater South Side site, and for our other sites, to narrow the geographic radius of our targeted recruitment efforts, focusing on building cohorts of students from schools in close proximity to our community sites and strengthening our partnerships with local school principals.

**Progression motivates:** We both saw in our data and heard from families that when students don't progress musically, their motivation flags, and they are more likely to drop. Students who have remained at the same instrumental level for two years are at significant risk of attrition, whereas students that progress more quickly tend to persist.

**Moments of truth matter:** Families reported that in their journey, specific moments in their program experience significantly impacted their ability to persist. Instrument matching matters: If a student matched with an instrument they were excited about, this impacted their excitement to stay. Also, when students are in moments of academic transition, for example moving from 5th to 6th grade or 8th to 9th, they are more likely to reassess their activities for the following year.

These three insights enabled us to better prioritize our outreach efforts to families by proactively identifying students at high risk of attrition and intensifying our interventions in ways that motivated more students to persist. In this past year, we developed a dashboard analyzing these critical factors against all of our students, facilitating our Program Managers' ability to identify and intervene for the students most at risk of dropping the program during the year. In one example, we identified a 6th grade student that had multiple risk factors for leaving the program (6th grade, below average attendance, lack of progression). This student struggled to engage with our virtual programming during the COVID-19 closures, and these attendance and engagement challenges continued with the return to in-person programming. These challenges hindered his ability to progress musically and contribute to his ensemble. With this in mind, we initiated an in-person meeting with his family, and also designed a learning plan tailored to his needs, in particular focusing on incentives and rewards to keep this student engaged, motivated to progress, and connected to his community of peers. With these interventions, the student not only remained in the program for the year, but also grew into a leader within his ensemble.

This year, over 80% of the students who started last year with us re-enrolled this fall. We see this as not only a strong indicator of families' and students' interest in and dedication to our programming, but also a success of our own data-driven and community-centered efforts. 🎵

# Spotlight On: School Partnerships



*Above: Morgan, clarinet student at Greater South Side, speaks on stage at the winter concert about her experience being in the SLAM program at Greater South Side.*

TPMS continues to invest deeply in partnerships with Chicago Public Schools in Chicago's underserved communities, repurposing underutilized spaces on school campuses for high-quality after-school programming. In this past year, we increased our enrollment by 20% at our community sites, serving over 350 students across three sites - Hibbard Elementary (Albany Park), Lara Academy Elementary (Back of the Yards), and Hyde Park Academy High School (Woodlawn).

TPMS collaborates with school principals, faculty, and other community-based organizations to strengthen and augment the school and community with high-quality, whole-child after-school music programming at each of its partner sites. The mission behind this approach is simple - **we believe that bringing our programming to where students are reduces barriers to access and allows our programming to reach students who otherwise would not be able to participate.**

We are particularly excited about the launch of our new school partnership for our Greater South Side community. After outgrowing our previous space at Bronzeville Classical Elementary School (another tremendous community partner with which we still collaborate), we launched a new partnership site this past year at Hyde Park Academy High School in the Woodlawn community of the South Side of Chicago. In July of this year, TPMS moved into the space at Hyde Park Academy High School, partnering with Chicago Public Schools and the school administration to transform the previously dormant 6,000 square foot music space on the campus into a thriving music and arts hub.

In launching this site, TPMS has forged connections with school leadership and local community groups, including the Woodlawn Children's Promise Community organization, to build out its vision of a community hub. Our goal is to be more than just a programming site. We seek to partner closely with the school and broader community to help connect local schools to the neighborhood high school, expanding access to our intensive programming.



Above left: Hyde Park Academy High School in Woodlawn. Right: GSS Discover String Ensemble rehearses in one of the new classrooms.

This initial vision came to fruition this year, with the site serving nearly 130 students in its first year and drawing attention from community and school leaders. The year culminated with a cutting-edge artistic performance by Grammy Award winning group Third Coast Percussion. The program, *Metamorphosis*, combined groundbreaking choreography by Jonboogz and Lil Buck of Movement Art Is with new music by Jlin and Tyondai Braxton, as well as Third Coast Percussion’s critically-acclaimed arrangements of Philip Glass’s *Aguas de Amazonia*. The performance, hailed by the Chicago Tribune as “one of 2023’s most inspiring cultural events so far,” brought 700 students to Hyde Park Academy from five schools across the community - the first time such schools had been brought together collectively at that site for an event.

We continue to build upon the momentum from this first year in Woodlawn, and are expecting significant enrollment growth again at the site next year. We are building new partnerships with surrounding schools, forging pathways to opportunity through after-school intensive music education. 🌸



Above: Artists Trent Jeray and Cameron Murphy are joined by Third Coast Percussion on stage for *Metamorphosis* at Hyde Park Academy High School. Photos courtesy of Matt Perlish Photography.

<sup>1</sup> Hannah Edgar, “Review: Third dancer’s the charm in unforgettable collaboration between Third Coast Percussion and Movement Art Is,” *Chicago Tribune*, March 3, 2023.

# Miriam Owens, President & Chief Executive Officer

In December 2022, The People’s Music School appointed Miriam Owens as its President and Chief Executive Officer. Miriam had served on the organization’s leadership team since August 2021, joining as Chief Operating Officer. She became Chief of Development and Operations in April 2022, expanding the organization’s fundraising footprint while driving operational improvements.

Miriam entered the role with a wealth of senior leadership experience in the social and private sectors. Her career roots are in driving equitable outcomes in public education: she was a 5th grade science teacher in Brooklyn with Teach for America and a Program Manager at Raise Your Hand Texas, an education advocacy organization. Prior to joining The People’s Music School, Owens was a consultant at McKinsey and Company for eight years, where she was an Associate Partner. A leader in the firm’s Organization practice, Miriam served clients in areas including strategic planning, large-scale reorganization, professional learning at scale, talent management transformations, and inclusion and diversity.

A native Texan and proud Latina, Owens is also a lifelong musician. She studied piano from grades K-12, and at Harvard spent four years in the women’s a cappella group The Radcliffe Pitches, serving as Music Director and Stage Manager. She is currently the lead singer in the rock cover band Model-J. She holds an AB from Harvard University, an MS in Education from Teacher U at Hunter College (now Relay Graduate School of Education), and an MBA



Top: Miriam speaks at People’s annual fundraising gala, Big Night. Below: Miriam (right) at the Uptown Academy winter concert with percussion SLAM student Nico and his mother.

from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. In her first year as President and Chief Executive Officer of The People’s Music School, she became a member of the Economic Club of Chicago and a Fellow in Leadership Greater Chicago’s 2024 cohort. When she’s not at People’s or rocking out with her band at Montrose Saloon, Miriam is at home, probably gardening, with her two sons Abe and Andy and husband Robert. 🌸



# Voice Student Avril Finds Community at People's



Scan to watch a vlog of Avril's Summer Ambassador experience at Berklee's Inspire: Five Week!

**"I've seen a radical change in her as a person and a musician: a complete transformation."**

- Laura Peñuelas, Avril's mother

Class of 2023 honors voice student Avril De la Cruz showcases excellence in every sense of the word. She participated in The People's Music School's SLAM advanced voice program, performing at the annual Big Night gala. Her outstanding musicianship sent her to Berklee College of Music's Aspire: Five Week, a prestigious summer program for the country's most talented young musicians. This fall, Avril will begin her journey as a Biochemistry student on the pre-med track at the University of Illinois Chicago and plans to sing in the school's choir.

Seven years ago, at the beginning of her People's journey, Avril was a very different person. "Music found me at a time when I was at my lowest: elementary school," she says. Seeing their daughter struggling to find confidence and community in school, her parents decided to enroll her in free music classes at TPMS. After a year in the program, things started to change for Avril. "Her voice teacher asked her if she would rather sing or play an instrument," says Laura. Choosing voice, Avril's "love for music was born."

"Throughout the seven years I was a part of this program," says Avril, "I found a community of people that supported me in all of my endeavors. I worked with teachers who were inviting, treated me with respect, and nurtured my creativity. Most importantly, I found my spark. Singing became my escape: my outlet for self expression."

Avril has not only grown as a musician at The People's Music School, but she has grown as a person. At TPMS, "I was able to regain the confidence I had lost in my youth and further develop other skills I now use in my everyday life," says Avril. Her mother sees the transformative impact, too. "Avril is now a person with a high self-esteem," says Laura. "She is someone who is motivated and strives for excellence in everything she does."

Avril thanks the music education she has had for getting her where she is today. The People's Music School "allowed me to find my second family; the friends I care for most, and the mentors who have guided me through the long journey into young adulthood," she says. "The impact music has had on my life is unimaginable, and I will always be eternally grateful for it." 🎵

# Forming Bonds through Music: The SLAM String Quartet



*SLAM String Quartet meets with Hilary Hahn backstage at Symphony Center, April 2023*

When a student enrolls at The People’s Music School, they embark on a transformational musical journey. For violin student Yeimi, viola student Joselyn, and cello students (and siblings) Julia and Kevin, this journey began at as young as 8 years old. As they grew up with The People’s Music School, each student advanced through our curriculum and earned a spot in our advanced SLAM program. This year, their journeys were marked by forming the SLAM String Quartet, as they earned several unique opportunities to perform and demonstrate true musical excellence as a group.

Yeimi, Joselyn, Julia, and Kevin met each week as a quartet and to practice and perfect Schubert’s iconic Cello Quintet in C Major. Coached by Senior Manager of Artistic Engagement David Sands, the quartet began rehearsals in the fall. “Based on the goals they set for themselves, it was clear that these four students were ready to embark on an advanced approach to performing chamber music,” says David.

Over the course of the year, the SLAM String Quartet earned incredible opportunities to perform and demonstrate true artistic excellence. In December, the quartet performed in a masterclass hosted at TPMS by

world-renowned violinist Hilary Hahn. A three-time Grammy award winner and one of our time’s greatest violin soloists, Hahn is currently an Artist-in-Residence at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. The quartet, joined by violin teaching artist Jonathan Hodges, worked with Hahn and learned about the many ways we can express ourselves through the music we play.

The SLAM string quartet returned in the spring with an outstanding performance of Schubert’s Cello Quintet, this time at Symphony Center. The group greeted attendees with their piece in the rotunda as a prelude to Hahn’s brilliant performance of Bizet’s Carmen with the CSO.

The group closed out the year with a virtuosic performance of Schubert at Performapaloozathon. This time, two sets of siblings graced the stage - Julia and Kevin (cello) and Yeimi and her brother and TPMS alumnus Jonathan (violin). The months of hard work on the piece was evident, and the group’s ability to communicate musically was palpable. For the quartet’s violist, Joselyn, the performance was truly special. “I may not have a sibling on stage right now,” she said in her pre-concert remarks, “but after the amazing year our quartet has had, I definitely feel that I have made friendships that feel like family.”

“At the beginning of the year, the quartet had the goals of learning to trust each other, bringing out dynamics, and demonstrating consistent eye contact,” says their chamber coach David Sands. “By the end of the school year, the quartet not only accomplished each of these goals, but they went on to serve as ambassadors of excellence, from which other TPMS students could learn and model themselves after.”

This fall, Julia and Joselyn will enter their freshman years at University of Illinois - Chicago, Yeimi will enter her senior year of high school, and Kevin will enter high school. While the quartet may be in different parts of their journey at People’s now, they will always have the unique shared experience of performing as a quartet and as a family. 🎻

*Below: Hilary Hahn’s chamber music masterclass at Uptown Academy, December 2022. Bottom: SLAM String Quintet composed of siblings Yeimi (violin) and Jonathan (violin), Joselyn (viola), and siblings Kevin (cello) and Julia (cello) performs Schubert’s Cello Quintet at Performapaloozathon.*



*Scan to watch the SLAM String Quartet's performance of the Schubert Cello Quintet!*



From top: SLAM musicians Julia, Kevin, Joselyn, and Yeimi during their first years at TPMS versus now.



# Spotlight On: Lohengrin Foundation

The People's Music School expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the Lohengrin Foundation for its unwavering and strengthened commitment to our Greater South Side program at Hyde Park Academy High School. Peter Ascoli, President and Founder of the Lohengrin Foundation, proudly acknowledges their investment in our mission to make music education accessible to all. "We are happy to partner with The People's Music School by supporting its commitment to expanding free music education to communities on the South Side of Chicago. The Lohengrin Foundation's partnership with The People's Music School exemplifies our commitment to arts education and leveraging the power of the arts for enjoyment, as well as to help youth build critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills, all of which are essential for success in many professions and activities," says Peter.

With the generous increase in financial support from 2022 to 2023, the Lohengrin

Foundation has opened doors to music education for over 127 students in our Greater South Side program, who otherwise would not have had access to such opportunities. This funding has allowed us to enrich the music education experience for these students significantly. Through state-of-the-art technology on class sets of laptops, students were able to engage in musical exploration and composition activities. Moreover, students had the incredible privilege of participating in a masterclass conducted by the Grammy-nominated saxophonist Tia Fuller. Such extraordinary experiences have become possible due to the continued and deepened support from the Lohengrin Foundation.

Thanks to the Lohengrin Foundation's generosity, The People's Music School has been able to enrich the lives of students in the Greater South Side, fostering their love for music, nurturing their talents, and providing them with opportunities they would not have had otherwise. 🎵



# Our Supporters

“The inspirational growth and development I've seen in our students, fostered by TPMS's unwavering dedication and passion, have opened new horizons of creativity, confidence, and personal growth. Their journeys have touched the lives of those around them, creating a ripple effect of inspiration and hope that is evident throughout our community. I wholeheartedly applaud the TPMS partnership for its unwavering commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a strong sense of belonging.”

## HILIANA LEON

Principal,  
Hibbard Elementary School



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“Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras is proud to continue our impactful collaboration with The People's Music School (TPMS). Over the years, CYSO has provided string workshops, audition masterclasses, and steelpan camps to TPMS students, and we have welcomed referrals by TPMS to bring TPS students into CYSO's onsite programming. As an audience member at their most recent Performapaloozathon, CYSO Community Engagement Manager Karen Mari and I enjoyed a day of high level performances by TPMS students. TPMS is an essential contributor to Chicago youth music education, and we look forward to many more years of connection!”

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Lucyna Skiba  
Luis Gonzalez  
Luis R Canino  
Luis Suarez  
Luisa Criollo  
Luisa Gonzalez  
Luke Mueller  
Luz Palaguachi  
Lydia Bell  
Lyndia Oliver Wyatt  
Lynea Fenderson  
Lynn Halcomb  
Mac Rechan  
Madalyne Tregellas  
Madison Sloane  
Maelen Thompson  
Maeva McMahon  
Marc Falkenberg  
Marcos Martinez  
Marcos Morocho  
Marcus Cheeks  
Marcus Johnson  
Marcus Morgan  
Margaret Murphy  
Maria Casanova  
Maria Cruz  
Maria Garcia  
Maria Gloria  
Maria Martinez  
Maria Ocampo  
Maria Rod  
Maria Rojas-Meza  
Maria Santacruz  
Maria Sauer  
Maria Tello  
Maria Ugarte  
Mariana Anaya  
Maricela Rufino  
Maricella Cervantes  
Marie Walz  
Mariela Sanchez  
Marilu Resendis  
Marilyn Williams  
Mario Banda  
Marisol Granado  
Maritza Sanchez  
Mark Kanter  
Marlen Antunez  
Marquiso Robinson  
Marsha Lowe  
Martha Abbott  
Martha Gonzalez  
Martha Mitchell  
Martin Corral  
Martin Martinez  
Marty Behn  
Marvin Glasper  
Mary Adeogun  
Mary Opoku  
Mary Rosario  
MaryEllen Sarria  
Matt Babuskow  
Matthew Pomilia  
Matthew Sutter  
Maureen Brekke  
Maureen Callaghan  
Mauricio Sosa Cardenas  
Maxine Karim  
Maynor Ovalle  
Mayra Garcia  
Mayra Gudiel  
Meagan Lasky

Megan Chartier  
Megan Wells  
Melissa Montalvo  
Mercedes Pomaes  
Michael and Tiffany  
Michael Jones  
Michael Kuhn  
Michael Rodriguez  
Michael Starks  
Michael Taylor  
Michael Thompson  
Michele Beaulieux  
Michele Soto  
Michelle Mancias  
Michelle Moseley  
Miesha Smith  
Miguel Montesinos  
Mikila Thompson  
Miriam Goldberg Owens  
Miriam Ortuzar  
Miriam Weller  
Mirwan Binbek  
Monica Colunga  
Monica Zamora  
Monica Zavala  
Monik Harden-Cubas  
Montel Bailey  
Morgan Thompson  
Murtala Binbek  
Mustapha Assour  
Myisha Davis  
Myriam Baca Martinez  
Myriam Martinez  
Nadia Gilkes  
Nancy Cervantes  
Nancy Clement  
Nancy Lee  
Nancy Ruiz  
Nariana Castillo  
Natalie Cruz  
Natalie Holz  
Natalie Svolo  
Natasha Walker  
Nate Grosso  
Nate Hill  
Nathalie Soto  
Nathan Waugh  
Neena Williams  
Nelida Alarcon  
Nelson Hercules  
Nestanet Kassa  
Nicheryl Akins  
Nicholas Adams and Ana  
Atanasio-Mendoza  
Nick DelMonte  
Nicole Bendush  
Nicole Elman  
Nikeshia Jones  
Nikkida Hart  
Nnana Mogongwa  
Nneka Rimmer  
Nolberto Cortez  
Noreen O'Reilly  
Norma Gonzalez  
Odessa Walker  
Ofelia Gomez  
Oner Trujillo  
Oreon Trickey  
Oscar Ramirez  
Otima Doyle  
Pamela Huet  
Paola Cervantes  
Paris Davis  
Patrice Walsh  
Patricia Smith  
Patricia Williams  
Paul Abbo  
Paul Schissler and Wilma David  
Paul Sierra  
Paul Zafer and Betty Lewis  
Paula Liebhaber  
Pedro Escobar  
Peggy Chun  
Peter Jackson  
Petra Ventura  
Phil Owusu  
Phillip Sutton  
Pierre and Pierre Henderson  
Pierre Velasquez  
Prisma Bustamante  
Rafael Medina  
Rafael Montesinos  
Rafiya Sorhiah  
Rahman Muhammad  
Ramon and Loida Matanguihan  
Rebeca Fernandez

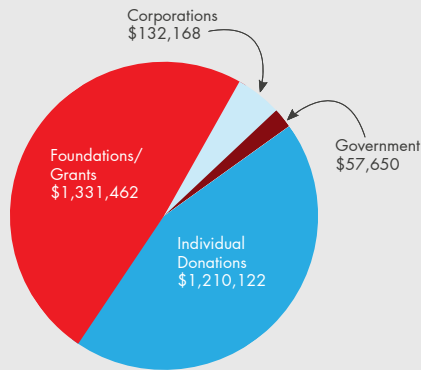
Regina Sims  
Reginald Brown  
Remi Love  
Rene Barraza  
Rene Martinez  
Restituto Miranda  
Reynonda Townsend  
Rhianna Hughes  
Ricardo Garcia  
Ricardo Martinez  
Richard Davis  
Rick Howard  
Rita Chang  
Roaa Hussien  
Rob Hamilton  
Roberta Angell  
Roberto Marquez  
Roberto Ramirez  
Robin Criniere  
Romeo Jurado  
Ronald Garrett  
Roniesha Copeland  
Rosa Cortez  
Rosa Espinoza  
Rosa Maria Corvera  
Rosa Quizhpi  
Rose Beal  
Rosie Delgado  
Rossana Rodriguez  
Rossman Palfrey and Megan  
Robbins  
Rotimi Olusanya  
Roy Torres  
Rudi Rodriguez  
Ruquiyah Wilson  
Ruth Rod  
Ryan and Elyse Gac  
Saeed Abbasi  
Sallie Mowles  
Sally Swiss  
Sam Bernstein  
Samantha Eastberg  
Samuel Santillan  
Sandra Barry  
Sandra Ramsey  
Sandra Rodriguez  
Sandra Ventura  
Santiago Gonzalez  
Sara Farias  
Sarah Christianson  
Sarah Kamara  
Sarah Sarpong  
Sarah Trax  
Sean Roberts  
Sean Walsh  
Sean Zhang  
Segundo Cambi  
Selena Roberts  
Selena Shaw  
Seniorities Bracey  
Shai Shemesh  
Shalia Johnson  
Shalonda Greaves  
Shannel Crump  
Shannon Redding  
Shannon Smith  
Shantiece Rodriguez  
Shaquan Dupart  
Shareeta Rent  
Sharon Samuels  
Sheila Quirke  
Sheila Thomas  
Shelby Oliver  
Shelly Taone  
Shenika Dupart  
Sherrill Tillis  
Sherry Anapol  
Shondra Siler  
Silvia Quito  
Simon Mendiola  
Slavica Simic  
Sonia Velasco  
Sonja Sumerlin  
Sophia Farias  
Stacy Ruffin  
Starsha Monroe  
Stefanie Alvarez  
Stefany Casales  
Stephanie Franklin  
Stephanie Jackson  
Stephanie Lata Sami  
Stephanie Maradiaga  
Stephanie Max  
Stephanie Nilson  
Stephanie Phuong  
Stephanie Ricoy  
Stephanie Winfield

Stephen Redenbaugh  
Steve Reinfrank  
Steven Gray  
Steven Velazquez  
Stormy Chartrand  
Suleiman Wadi  
Sunil Mathews  
Susan Ang  
Susan George  
Susan Graff  
Susan James  
Takeisa Sledge  
Tamara Steele  
Tamara Townsend  
Tammy Doerksen  
Tanisha Harris  
Tania Ciske  
TaNita Weathers  
Tanya Lovett  
Tara Pinto  
Tara Samuels  
Tashia Brown  
Tawana Williams  
Teresa Herrera  
Teresa Thompson  
Terrence Hardaman  
Thomas Hughes  
Thomas Pelgenl  
Thomas Trandel  
Tibisay Garcia  
Tiffany Moore  
Timothy and Kelli Bell  
Timothy Coukart  
Toinette Flowers  
Tom Crozier  
Tomica Jenkins  
Tony Santana  
Tracy Smith  
Travis Matics  
Trinece Lindsey  
Uel Kolesar  
Val Mosley  
Valentina Cordero  
Valerie Wadycki  
Valisha White  
Vanessa Owusu  
Vanessa Vidal  
Velanie Adams  
Veronica Bedolla  
Veronica Bonebrake  
Veronica Narvaez  
Vicky Pearlman  
Victor Somoza  
Victoria Santiago  
Victoria Watkins  
Victoria Williams  
Victoria Wittmer  
Viorel Haeman  
Viridiana Rojas  
Vivian Redwood  
Von Hernandez  
Wakako Sato  
Wannetta Brooks  
Wei Hsueh  
Wendy Aceituno  
Wendy Rodriguez  
Wendy Sanchez  
Whitley Howard  
Whitney Bright  
Wilbert Crutcher  
Willie Tiggs  
Winnie Chartrand  
Winnila Baldwin  
Wm Jason McInnes  
Wynn Root  
Ximena Ayala  
Yaritza Rodriguez  
Yasmarie Correa  
Yeanette Bernal  
Yei Narvaez  
Yeimi Alday  
Yelitza Valbuena  
Yessenia Barron  
Yidekhell Machado  
Yolanda Fernandez  
Yolanda Houston  
Yolanda Knight  
Yolanda Leon  
Yoliver Rodriguez  
Ysamali L Araujo  
Yvonne Flores-Garcia  
Yvonne Wang  
Zenabu Abdulla  
Zenaida Rivera  
Zenaido Velazquez and  
Rosa Paz

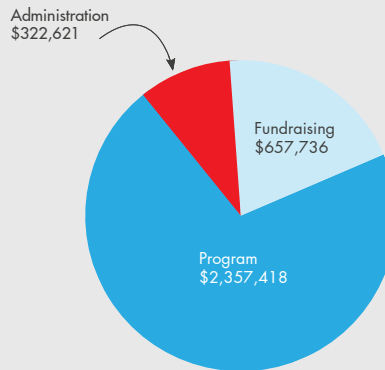
“This year, I had the opportunity to mentor the advanced students at the People's Music School and prepare them for a showcase performance at the Merit School of Music. The quality of the students and the level of preparation were very high. People's Music School is making a significant difference as they work to expand access to high-quality music education, and they are achieving remarkable results.”

**JAMES SANDERS**  
Violinist,  
Chicago Sinfonietta

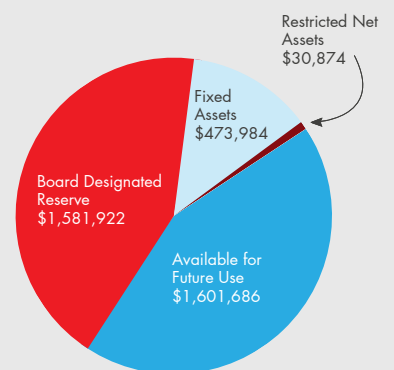
# Financials



**FY23 OPERATING REVENUE**



**FY23 EXPENSES**



**FY23 NET ASSETS**

## Our Board

**Juanna Blackwell**  
TRANSFIX

**Michael Buck\***  
Driehaus Capital Management LLC

**Uma Chandrasekaran**  
Seyfarth Shaw LLP

**Kevin Dolan,  
Secretary**  
Retired

**Ellen Feldman**  
Community volunteer

**Gary Hart**  
Mowery & Schoenfeld

**Emerald-Jane "EJ"  
Hunter**  
myWHY Agency

**Joe Idaszak**  
Brookfield Asset Management

**Carolyn Jaw**  
Federal Home Loan Bank

**Nalini Kotamraju**  
Salesforce

**Julie Lopez**  
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management

**Adam Lucas, Treasurer**  
Concentric Equity Partners

**Stephanie Macakanja,  
Vice Chair**  
BlackSheep General Store

**Nancy Power**  
Ariel Investments

**Steven Shaw,  
Board Chair**  
Verizon

**Peter Sheren**  
Goldman Sachs

**Laura Sutphen**  
The Golin Group

**Cecilia VanGetson**  
Community volunteer

**Rob Whiteman**  
Better Future Advisors LLC

**Cici Zheng**  
ParkerGale, LLC

\* indicates Lifetime Trustee

## Associate Board

**Yasmine Gordon**

**Ross Heilberg**

**Brian Kim**

**Hyunmin Kim**

**Dan Malnar**

**Eric Menna**

**Allison Payne**

**Micah Rensch**

**Allegis Sant**

**Natalie Teichman**

**Austin Terris**

**Heather Williamson,  
Associate Board Chair**

# Teaching Artists

**Carmen Abelson**  
**Alejandra Aquino**  
**Alexis Bennett**  
**Ashley Bennett**  
**Abby Black**  
**Joel Block**  
**Natalie Butler**  
**Anna Carlson**  
**Nico Carter**  
**Kathryn Cederborg**  
**Elizabeth Chun**  
**Jamaal Crowder**  
**Kelly Dennis**  
**Laura Duggan**  
**Anatolia Evarkiou-Kaku**  
**Kaitlin Foley**

**Ariel Garcia**  
**Omkara Gil Guaraco**  
**Simon Gomez**  
**Elena Grijalva**  
**Mark Haworth**  
**Miro Hernandez**  
**Dan Hickey**  
**Sam Hight**  
**Eric Hines**  
**Jonathan Hodges**  
**Jack Kartsotis**  
**Soo-Young Kim**  
**Ellie Kirk**  
**Grecia Landin**  
**Azalea Laredo**  
**Fabricio Lock Sotomayor**  
**Istvan Loga**

**Stephanie Londoño**  
**Bethany McKnight**  
**Julia Minkin**  
**Krystal Miranda**  
**Emily Munn-Wood**  
**Oliver Munoz**  
**Rossman Palfrey**  
**An Phan**  
**Felix Ponce**  
**Kenthaney Redmond**  
**Stephen Reinfranck**  
**Nicholas Ritter**  
**Megan Robbins**  
**Sandra Rowland**  
**Allison Rye**  
**Hugo Saavedra**  
**David Sands**

**Corey Sansolo**  
**Adam Shohet**  
**Julia Slater**  
**Anthony Stewart**  
**Nyle Taylor**  
**Kenni Ther**  
**Michael Thompson**  
**Felipe Tobar Blanco**  
**Lena Vidulich**  
**Serena Voltz**  
**Annamarie Wellems**  
**Wes Woodward**  
**Daniel Zheng**

## Staff

**Alejandra Aquino**  
Program Coordinator

**Natalie Butler**  
Dean of Learning and Teaching

**Kathryn Cederborg**  
Program Coordinator

**Kelly Dennis**  
Senior Manager of Student Data & Systems

**Ellie DePastino**  
Marketing & Communications Manager

**Jessica Esteves**  
HR Associate

**Ariel Garcia**  
Community Manager

**Caro Granner**  
Program Associate, Uptown Academy

**Elena Grijalva**  
Program Manager, Greater South Side

**Kasia Johnson**  
Chief of Finance

**Chelsey Jones**  
Institutional Giving Manager

**Jack Kartsotis**  
Program Coordinator

**Grecia Landin**  
Program Manager, Albany Park

**Stephanie Londoño**  
Program Manager, Uptown Academy

**Miriam Owens**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

**Jennifer Riskind**  
Director of Individual Giving

**Megan Robbins**  
Senior Manager of Learning and Teaching

**David Sands**  
Senior Manager of Artistic Engagement

**Michael Thompson**  
Development Coordinator

**Felipe Tobar**  
Learning and Teaching Associate

**Minji Will**  
Program Coordinator

**Marc Wilson**  
Chief of Strategy and Partnerships

# How to Get Involved



## **SPREAD THE WORD**

Tell a friend, follow and boost us on social media, or host an event! We always need more people to know about the great work happening here.

## **DONATE**

Every dollar you give to The People's Music School goes towards eliminating barriers to access in music education and enriching young lives in Chicago.

## **ATTEND AN EVENT**

Head to our website to see our calendar of upcoming concerts, recitals, community programming, and more. We can't wait to see you!

## **JOIN A COMMITTEE OR TASK FORCE**

Composed of expert volunteers, members of our People's community, and members of our Board of Directors, our committee and task force members serve as advisors and experts that guide our work. Learn more about our committees and how to inquire about involvement.

## **VOLUNTEER**

We have nearly 30 performing events per year, and we always need help! Volunteering at an event is a great opportunity to get to know our close-knit community.

**100% tuition-free.  
100% life-changing.**



The  
People's  
Music  
School

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(773) 784-7032 | [peoplesmusicsschool.org](http://peoplesmusicsschool.org)  
[@peoplesmusicsschool](https://www.instagram.com/peoplesmusicsschool)