Dear Friends,

This year has been a year of transition at Rehearsal for Life— from our extraordinary first 30 years to entering our next 30 with collective leadership. Doing things in an ordinary way is not how we got here. Please take a moment to reflect on the past year with pride in what has been accomplished and with thanks to the donors and friends listed in this report.

It was among the most distinguished school years in our history, which is a credit to the loyalty and generosity of our supporters, and the dedication and artistry of the Rehearsal for Life staff. The work in the classrooms and in the community is what excites and ignites us all. We have never been more energized by what we see happening throughout the organization.

Conventional wisdom might suggest that in challenging times such as these we should temper the idiosyncrasy of our work. Many would suggest the risks are too high to take chances; however, in our minds and in our actions, by not taking risks, we risk the loss of our distinction.

With a growth mindset, and leaning into our strengths in improv, community building, and creating safe and brave spaces, we have sharpened our image, enhanced our programs, and are more imaginative in our pursuit of resources. You have helped to make these efforts possible and we can’t thank you enough.

As an organization working toward a socially just and inclusive society through youth enrichment and empowerment, we uphold these values: Creativity, Empathy, Respect, Cooperation, Empowered Self-Expression, Diversity and Inclusion, and Positive Social Change.

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My best,
James Benenson, Chair

Mission: To strengthen young people’s social and emotional skills for every stage in life, through dialogue, creativity and performance.

Vision: Empowered youth building diverse and inclusive communities where all voices are heard.

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Rehearsal for Life
IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022
Together We Stand

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For the full story, visit REHEARSALFORLIFE.ORG/IMPACTREPORT2022

Photo credits: Kelsey Tidball, Jamie Ulrich, Mary Torpey, Fredo Durand

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“To view the entire report, visit rehearsalforlife.org/impactreport2022
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Kristen Sherman, Head of Development & Finance
Faith Soloway, Interim Artistic Director, Urban Improv
Kelsey Tidball, Marketing & Development Assistant
Mary Torpey, Head of Program & Creative Director, Freelance Players
Jamie Ulrich, Head of Urban Improv & Community Partnerships

REHEARSAL FOR LIFE TEACHING ARTISTS 2021-2022
Julian Almuy, Urban Improv
Sally Campbell, Troupe Director, Newton
Narcissa Campion, Music Director, Brookline Troupe
Mike Casey, Urban Improv
UJ Chan, Urban Improv
Cooper Evelo, Urban Improv/Free Players
Allisa Danta, Assistant Troupe Director, Jamaica Plain
Kippee Dewey, Troupe Director, Brookline
Ujjal Gomes, Urban Improv
Mike Healey, Music Director, Newton
Madeleine Hurley, Troupe Director, Jamaica Plain
Ella Jensen, Choreographer
Jackson Janda, Associate Director, Urban Improv
Zaenia Kollas, Urban Improv/Free Players
Merle Perkins, Urban Improv
Holly Tarnower, Lead, Youth Unscripted
Olivia Shane, Assistant Troupe Director, Brookline

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022
James Benenson, Chair
Lisa Schmid Alvord, Co-Vice Chair
Sally Campbell, Co-Vice Chair
Levin H. Campbell, Treasurer
Katie Kolluski, Clerk
Lisa Cana
Ted Clark
Kendrick Terrell Evans
Yujing Li
Kristina Hare Lyons
Skye Morrison Kramer
Thalia McMillon
Lillian Gomes
Tara Murphy, Chair, Freelance Players, Advisors
Thomas O’Rourke
Skye Morrison Kramer
Maryam Rahmani

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Follow Us
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To view the entire report, visit rehearsalforlife.org/impactreport2022

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Skye Morrison Kremer
Thela McMillan, Chair, Freelance Players, Advisors
Thomas O’Rourke
Lisa Pierpont
Maryam Rahmani

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@rehearsalforlife - urban improv
@rehearsal4life
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“...we simply can’t thank you enough. These efforts would never have been possible without the support and trust of all of you. We are privileged to be part of this work and this community—a living, breathing, evolving community that is full of potential and possibility. I am so grateful to be a part of this community and its mission to help our young people find their voices and advocate for themselves and their collective voices to be heard.”

– Kaori Urayama, Co-Lead, Bigelow Middle School Chapter at Families Organizing for Racial Justice

Rehearsal for Life
IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022
Together We Stand

1,419 students served
35 neighborhoods represented
275 new students served
51 teachers supported
500+ songs sung
1,020 scenes acted
17 teaching artists employed

To view the entire report, visit rehearsalforlife.org/impactreport2022

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Our Programs
Our kid-centric theater programs embody the following Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Key Measures: Creative Self-Expression, Empathy, Conflict Resolution, Relationship building, community, Diversity & Inclusion.

Urban Improv
9 week residencies in 6 BPS partners (BTU School, Conley, Hale, Haley, Mission, Mission Hill) and one Boston parochial school: Mission (Grammar School).

51 classrooms—approximately 1,200 students, grades 4-8
Our teaching artists create realistic scenes about topics such as bullying, peer pressure, racism, and healthy relationships. At a pivotal moment, the facilitator calls “FREEZE!” Students jump into the scene, using their minds, bodies and creativity to resolve the conflict, and experience their choices first hand. This year, the ensemble piloted curricula surrounding microaggressions and gender identity.

Re:Action Assemblies
Interactive assemblies juxtapose healthy dialogue on challenging topics at schools and community groups in New England and beyond. This year, in collaboration with Families Organizing for Racial Justice in Newton, we piloted a city-wide middle school assembly series on Microaggressions. We also created an interactive workshop for pediatric residents at the Boston Medical Center & Boston Children’s Hospital, using the Urban Improv method to allow the residents to practice having challenging conversations with co-workers and patients. This work will be expanded to the staff at Mass General Brigham next year.

Freelance Players
Our after school, tuition-based musical theater program fosters imagination, self-expression, empathy, and community. Our young thespians worked hard to present a mix of classic Freelance shows and brand new titles, including two original pieces devised in collaboration between Director Sally Campbell, Music Director Mike Healey, and the members of the Newton Freelance Players troupe.

The Troupes and The Shows
Driscoll: Claim’s Casino & Mything Links
Jamaica Plain: Mystery at the Muse Segretto & Shakespeare’s Daughters
Needham: Shakespeare’s Daughters & So Many Stories
Newton: Stand By… & The Rash at Ohio State
Spotlight: Red Hats & Hamletta

“I will not believe the conversations and action you inspired amongst the residents that will surely continue and impact our clinical work. The scenes felt so realistic, injected with a sense of comfort and comedy to help temper the difficult nature of these real life circumstances. Literally every resident was so impressed and saying what a powerful workshop it was.”
— Sabrina Karin, Resident Physician at Boston Children’s Hospital & Boston Medical Center

Shavorie Sings It!

“Of all the teachers are incredibly kind, dedicated, really motivating, and they have been incredible for my self-esteem. I look back and I think ‘Wow! Three weeks ago, I couldn’t sing a single word in this building, and now I’m singing entire songs.’ I’m doing a lot of the things I didn’t have the confidence to do before.”
— Shavorie, Youth Unscripted participant

Youth Unscripted
Our after school program for Boston teens builds self-awareness, community and confidence through creative exploration of themselves, their communities, and social justice.

Thank you to the many individuals, organizations, and institutions that have contributed to Rehearsal for Life in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. You are the reason we can continue to serve and spur on integral social and emotional learning with our youth programming. You are the reason Rehearsal for Life and our programs are thriving today.

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The Kippy Dewey Service Award
Ann Hall and Lisa Alvord
This year the board of directors and staff were proud to honor founding supporters Lisa Schmid Alvord and Ann Hall with the inaugural Kippy Dewey Service Award. In recognition and celebration of their leadership, loyalty and generosity, which they have embodied since the first days Urban Improv. They have positively impacted thousands of young people, inspiring creativity and community. Volunteer service is a crucial part of how Rehearsal for Life sustains its mission, representing one of the largest building blocks of our success to date. Lisa and Ann’s life work in support of Rehearsal for Life is a call to action for us all.

Banned in Boston went back to school
Virtual Banned in Boston was a smashing success! Over 300 guests tuned in on April 14, 2022 and helped to raise $560,000 in support of our youth programs. Our continued gratitude goes to Faith Soloway for telling a story with heart and humor and for crafting the music, script and lyrics, and to director Ian Brownell for going above and beyond! And, as always, we could not have done it without our amazing cast, including our superb guest stars, the indomitable Jane Lynch and Tim Meadows!

Welcome to the Board, Class of 2023
Maryam Rahmani, Grade 5 classroom teacher, Pianca Elementary School, Brookline, MA

Surplus: $132,378

Revenues

Philanthrophy: $370,607
Grants/Donors: $883,742
Earnings: $5,530
Earned Revenue: $301,266
ERCI Employee Retention Credit: $206,933
FY22: $1,406,070

Expenses
Youth Programs: $960,723
Funding: $223,405
General & Admin: $95,644
FY22: $1,273,792

ERC (Employee Retention Credit): $206,933
Our Programs
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Re:Action Assemblies
Interactive assemblies juxtapose healthy dialogue on challenging topics at schools and community groups in New England and beyond.

Youth Unscripted
Youth Unscripted (YU) was piloted at 4th grade schools in Jamaica Plain & Needham, and at the Newton Free Library.

Youth Programs
Youth Programs were offered at: Clam’s Casino & Mything Links, Jamaica Plain; Stand By… & The Rash at Ohio State, Columbus; and The Kippy Dewey Service Award, Boston.

Our young thespians worked hard to present a mix of classic and new titles, including two original pieces devised in collaboration between Director Sally Campbell, Freelance Players troupe. and Mike Healey, our Music Director.

Youth Unscripted partici-pant, conquered stage fright to sing a solo in “We Deserve.”

Shavorie Sings It!

“You will not believe the conversations and action you inspired amongst the residents that will surely continue and impact our clinical work. The scenes felt so realistic, injected with a sense of humor and comedy to help temper the difficult nature of these real-life circumstances. Literally, every resident was so impressed and saying what a powerful workshop it was.”
— Sabrina Kamin, Resident Physician at Boston Children’s Hospital & Boston Medical Center

“A lot of people don’t have accepting families so it’s actually really nice and really helpful to have a place like this where there are other people who can freely express themselves.”
— Shavorie, Youth Unscripted participant

Financials
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Youth Unscripted
Our after school program for Boston teens builds self-awareness, community and confidence through creative exploration of themselves, their communities, and social justice.

This year, 19 high school students from across the Greater Boston Area presented “We Deserve,” an evening of original visual art, music and food. The students gathered each week to explore their culinary prowess, experiment with different visual arts, and write original music in preparation for the production. Along the way, they learned new ways to use their voices to affect change in themselves, their communities, and our world.

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Class of 2023
Maryam Rahmani, Grade 5 classroom teacher, Pierce Elementary School, Brookline, MA
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51 classrooms—approximately 1,200 students, grades 4-8

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**Re:Action Assemblies**

Interactive assemblies jumpstart healthy dialogue on challenging topics at schools and community groups in New England and beyond.

This year, in collaboration with Families Organizing for Racial Justice in Newton, we piloted a city-wide middle school assembly series on Microaggressions. We also created an interactive workshop for pediatric residents at the Boston Medical Center & Boston Children’s Hospital, using the Urban Improv method to allow the residents to practice having challenging conversations with co-workers and patients. This work will be expanded to the staff at Mass General Brigham next year.

**Freelance Players**

Our after school, tuition-based musical theater program fosters imagination, self-expression, empathy, and community.

Our young thespians worked hard to present a mix of classic freelance shows and brand new titles, including two original pieces devised in collaboration between Director Sally Campbell, Music Director Mike Healey, and the members of the Newton Freelance Players troupe.

**The Troupes and The Shows**

Driscoll: Clam’s Casino & Mything Links

Jamaica Plain: Mystery at the Museu Segretto & Shakespeare’s Daughters

Needham: Shakespeare’s Daughters & So Many Stories

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Spotlight: Red Hats & Hamletta

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**Shavorie Sings It!**

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Youth Unscripted participants learned new ways to use their voices to affect change in themselves, their communities, and our world.

Youth Unscripted

This year, 19 high school students from across the Greater Boston Area presented “We Desire,” an evening of original visual art, music and food. The students gathered each week to explore their culinary prowess, experiment with different visual arts, and write original music in preparation for the production. Along the way, they learned new ways to use their voices to affect change in themselves, their communities, and our world.

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“Star, Youth Unscripted participant, conquered stage fright to sing a solo in ‘We Desire.’

“You will not believe the conversations and action you inspired amongst the residents that will surely continue and impact our clinical work. The scenes felt so realistic, injected with a sense of comfort and comedy to help temper the difficult nature of these real-life circumstances. Literally every resident was so impressed and saying what a powerful workshop it was.”

– Sabrina Karim, Resident Physician at Boston Children’s Hospital & Boston Children’s Hospital

“Conflict, and experience their choices first hand. This year, the ensemble piloted curricula surrounding microaggressions and expanded on race, gender and identity.

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This year, 19 high school students from across the Greater Boston Area presented “We Desire,” an evening of original visual art, music and food. The students gathered each week to explore their culinary prowess, experiment with different visual arts, and write original music in preparation for the production. Along the way, they learned new ways to use their voices to affect change in themselves, their communities, and our world.

Youth Unscripted

“You will not believe the conversations and action you inspired amongst the residents that will surely continue and impact our clinical work. The scenes felt so realistic, injected with a sense of comfort and comedy to help temper the difficult nature of these real-life circumstances. Literally every resident was so impressed and saying what a powerful workshop it was.”

– Sabrina Karim, Resident Physician at Boston Children’s Hospital & Boston Children’s Hospital

“Conflict, and experience their choices first hand. This year, the ensemble piloted curricula surrounding microaggressions and expanded on race, gender and identity.

Re:Action Assemblies

Interactive assemblies juxtapose healthy dialogue on challenging topics at schools and community groups in New England and beyond. This year, in collaboration with Families Organizing for Racial Justice inNewton, we piloted a city-wide middle school assembly series on Microaggressions. We also created an interactive workshop for pediatric residents at the Boston Medical Center & Boston Children’s Hospital. Using the Urban Improv method to allow the residents to practice having challenging conversations with co-workers and patients. This work will be expanded to the staff at Mass General Brigham next year.

Freelance Players

Our after school, tuition-based musical theater program fosters imagination, self-expression, empathy, and community.

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Mission, Vision, Values

**Mission:** To strengthen young people’s social and emotional skills and creativity for every stage in life, through dialogue, creativity and performance.

**Vision:** Empowered youth building diverse and inclusive communities where all voices are heard.

**Values:** As an organization working toward a socially just and equitable society through youth enrichment and empowerment, we uphold these values: Creativity, Empathy, Respect, Cooperation, Empowered Self-Expression, Diversity and Inclusion, and Positive Social Change.

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Kristen Sherman, Head of Development & Finance
Faith Sadoway, Interim Artistic Director, Urban Improv
Kelsey Tidball, Marketing & Development Assistant
Mary Torpey, Head of Program & Creative Director, Freelance Players
Jamie Ulrich, Head of Urban Improv & Community Partnerships

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Julian Arroyo, Urban Improv
Sally Campbell, Troupe Director, Newton
Narcissa Campion, Music Director, Brookline Troupe
Mike Casey, Urban Improv
Liz Chan, Urban Improv
Cooper Evello, Urban Improv/Freelance Players
Allisa Datta, Assistant Troupe Director, Jamaica Plain
Kippy Dewey, Troupe Director, Brookline
Ulfan Gomes, Urban Improv
Mike Healey, Music Director, Newton
Madeline Hurley, Troupe Director, Jamaica Plain
Elle Jensen, Choreographer
Jackson Ard, Associate Director, Urban Improv
Zaenia Kolah, Urban Improv/Freelance Players
Merle Perkins, Urban Improv
Holly Tarnower, Lead, Youth Unscripted
Olivia Shure, Assistant Troupe Director, Brookline

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Dear Friends,

This year has been a year of transition at Rehearsal for Life— from our extraordinary first 30 years to entering our next 30 with collective leadership. Doing things in an ordinary way is not how we got here.

Please take a moment to reflect on the past year with pride in what has been accomplished and with thanks to the donors and friends listed in this report.

It was among the most distinguished school years in our history, which is a credit to the loyalty and generosity of our supporters, and the dedication and artistry of the Rehearsal for Life staff. The work in the classrooms and in the community is what excites and ignites us all. We have never been more energized by what we see happening throughout the organization.

Conventional wisdom might suggest that in challenging times such as these we should temper the idiosyncrasy of our work. Many would suggest the risks are too high to take chances; however, in our minds and in our actions, by not taking risks, we risk the loss of our distinction.

With a growth mindset, and leaning into our strengths in improv, community building, and creating safe and brave spaces, we have sharpened our image, enhanced our programs, and are more imaginative in our pursuit of resources. You have helped to make these efforts possible and we can’t thank you enough.

My best,

James Benenson, Chair

"I felt privileged to be a part of something so empowering, uplifting and validating not just for our Bigelow students but for myself as a BIPOC who’s had to struggle my way through in enabling myself to speak up in a white-dominated workplace... I was simply blown away by how so many students energetically leaned in (despite it being such a sensitive topic), eager to listen & speak up, and showing willingness to advocate for others.”

– Kaori Urayama, Co-Lead, Bigelow Middle School Chapter at Families Organizing for Racial Justice