



IMPACT REPORT 2023-2024

HELLO RFL STAKEHOLDERS,



“Rehearsal for Life is helping our kids practice values in action as individuals, they’re building ensembles that use the power of shared art making to cultivate interdependence, and they’ve built an organizational structure that represents care at scale. That is the kaleidoscopic vision of life that I want our kids rehearsing for.”

This quote from new RFL Board Member, FLP Alum and current FLP parent Jonathan Adler is my new obsession. So much so I want to get it printed on refrigerator magnets and bumper stickers! It was especially fitting that this message was part of his remarks at the Freelance 50th Celebration Event this past October. (*Read his full speech on our website.*) The event was brimming with reflections of the intentional scaffolding set up by founder Kippy Dewey to support community building and SEL growth (although that term didn’t even exist at the time) of participants.

Oh and hello there! Some of you may recognize my name from my roles at the Urban Improv program over the last

18 years but this past June I was overjoyed to accept the role of Executive Director at RFL. Backed by a skilled and passionate team including long-time staff members Mary Torpey, Cooper Evello, Faith Soloway, Merle Perkins and all our incredible Teaching Artists, we are busy honoring our roots and spotlighting forward momentum for the next 50 years of dynamic, creative youth development programs at Rehearsal for Life.

There has never been a more exciting time to be a part of Rehearsal for Life. This past year Freelance Players expanded to include a summer program, Youth Unscripted students performed a moving setlist of original music, dance and cover songs in a showcase titled “Monomyth” and Urban Improv continued to build stronger connections with students and school communities through weekly residencies while also reaching hundreds of student at revenue-generating assemblies.

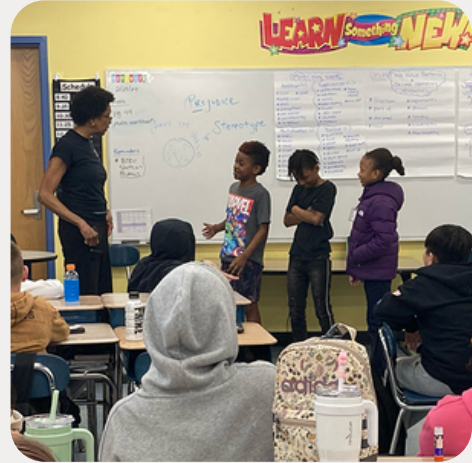
We could not have provided these spaces for young people without your support and we hope this Impact Report gives you a comprehensive look at our organization in 2023-2024. Thank you so much for showing up for the young people we serve!

Jamie Ullrich
Executive Director



MISSION

Rehearsal for Life programs 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 respected.



VALUES

Rehearsal for Life values Creativity, Empathy, Respect, Cooperation, Empowered Self-Expression, Diversity & Inclusion and Positive Social Change.



FREELANCE PLAYERS



A transformational musical theater program rooted in emotional growth, the creative process and the cultivation of a meaningful and empowered youth community. Dedicated to artistic spirit and self expression, it is our goal to create a space where students feel celebrated for who they are and gain the awareness, confidence and skills to create positive social change.

Freelance was the most influential learning experience I've ever had. Through the program, I learned not only how to act, improvise, and sing, but also how to manage stress, navigate social conflict, and make friends.

-FLP Alum

2023-2024 Facts & Figures:

- 47% growth in tuition revenue
- 295 Students
- 2,527 tickets sold
- 2 New Plays
- 29 performances
- Launched *Freelance Players Summer Program* in July 2024



URBAN IMPROV



A 9-week series of school-day workshops for 4th thru 8th grade classrooms at six BPS partner schools. The program proposes realistic scenes where students are invited to use their minds, bodies, and creativity to resolve conflict and explore solutions to real-life situations. Urban Improv is a vehicle for students to develop social-emotional skills and build a stronger classroom community.

2023-2024 Facts & Figures:

- 1,100 Students
- 53 Classrooms
- 9 new scenes devised by the UI Ensemble
- Student's favorite topics included: roasting, cyber-bullying, changing home life, prejudice and imagination
- Initial research and design of 3rd grade curriculum (to be piloted in spring 2025)

100% OF TEACHERS

agree that Urban Improv helps students increase important SEL skills like: empathy, teamwork, self-confidence & problem-solving.

78% OF STUDENTS

reported that Urban Improv helped them better recognize emotions' role in conflicts.



URBAN IMPROV ASSEMBLIES



Stand alone or multi-part workshops using the Urban Improv model that jumpstarts perspective-taking and dialogue on challenging topics.

2023-2024 Facts & Figures

- 1,715 participants
- 3 bookings for adult audiences
- 14 sites
- 5 topics including microaggressions and cyberbullying

YOUTH UNSCRIPTED

After-school program for high-school students that develops an inclusive community focused on music and dance. Students develop skills like teamwork and self-efficacy through collaboratively planning a culminating showcase.

2023-2024 Facts & Figures

- 17 Students
- 87 Hours of Programming
- 16 pieces performed at showcase titled "Monomyth"
- 52 lighting cues



FINANCIALS



Thank you to the many individuals, organizations, and institutions that contributed to Rehearsal for Life this past year. It is because of your continued support that Rehearsal for Life has been able to continuously deliver high-quality youth programs for 50 years. While our organization is pleased that revenue continues on a positive trajectory towards diversification and expenses are concentrated in program costs, this year's deficit reflects a combination of broader economic pressures and workforce transitions. Like many nonprofits, we're navigating significant increases in operational costs due to inflation. We're responding proactively with a robust financial plan that includes implementing cost-saving measures while maintaining the high quality of our programs.

REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE \$1,155,016

EARNED REVENUE

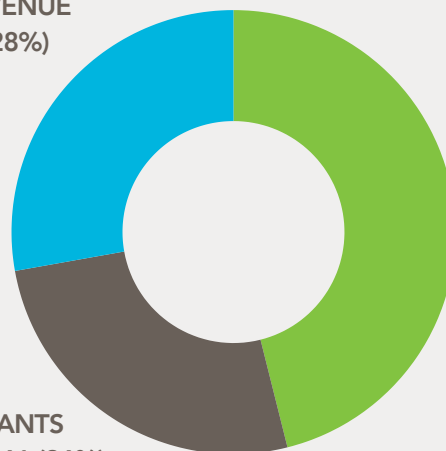
\$321,146 (28%)

DONATIONS

\$532,309 (46%)

GRANTS

\$301,561 (26%)



GENERAL/ADMIN

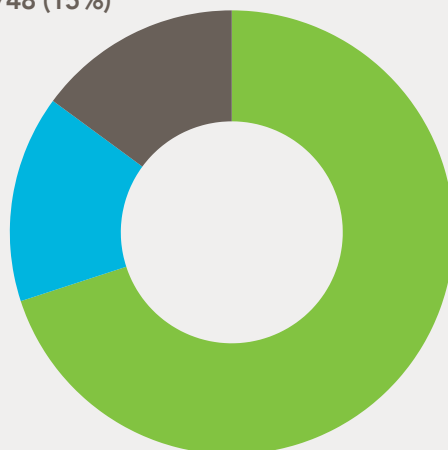
\$215,748 (15%)

FUNDRAISING

\$218,568 (15%)

YOUTH PROGRAMS

\$1,012,567 (70%)



EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,446,883

SUPPORTERS

Thank you to everyone below for their generosity this past year!



Jonathan Lewis and Jonathan Adler
Josef and Anni Albers Foundation
Harlyn Aizley
Lisa Schmid Alvord and Joel Alvord
Holly and David Ambler
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Shwetha Anandan
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Anonymous
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Hope Lincoln Baker
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Doreen Beinart
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Ted and Laurie Hollander
Kenna Hoyer
Emily W. Hughey
Heidi Hughey

SUPPORTERS

Thank you to everyone below for their generosity this past year!



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in honor of Kippy Dewey
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WE THANK YOU

FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF

OUR PROGRAMS