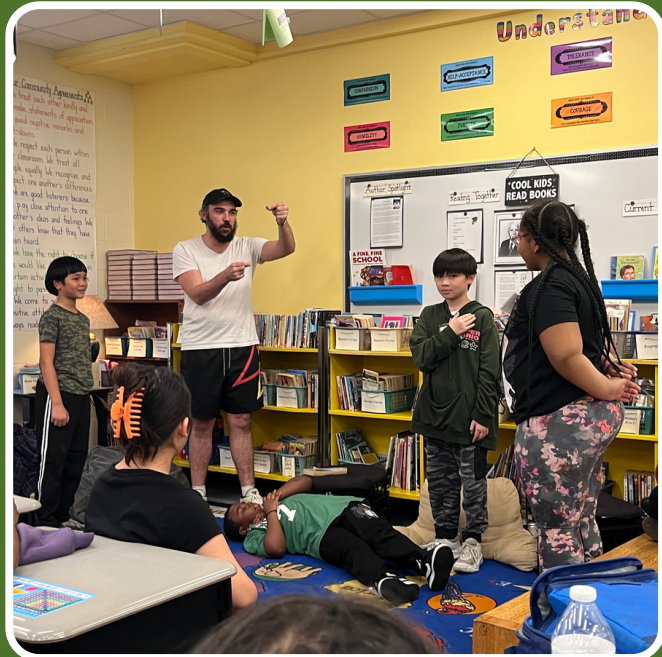




IMPACT REPORT 2024-2025

DEAR SUPPORTERS,



One day in early September, I took the quintessential Jamaica Plain neighborhood stroll. I stopped by the post office for Rehearsal for Life (RFL) business, chatted with board member Thalia McMillion, who was enjoying some JP Licks ice cream, ran into Urban Improv (UI) legend Merle Perkins outside the library, and finally connected with Head of UI, Faith Soloway, while buying dog treats at Polkadog Bakery. Reflecting on RFL's tight-knit community, I couldn't help but think about the impact our founder, Kippy Dewey, has had on me and the young people we serve.

From my first interview for the Program Coordinator position at Urban Improv almost exactly 19 years ago, I could tell what community meant to Kippy. We bonded over my previous internship for *Car Talk*, specifically because of Tom & Ray Magliozzi, two RFL community members who had appeared in countless *Banned in Boston* sketches. But what resonated most was Kippy's foundational belief that authentic youth development occurs when adults truly listen to what young people have to say and recognize their input as valuable perspectives and insights.

Whether it's students feeling like they can be themselves in our programs, empowering students to become peer leaders, or building authentic, supportive communities at Freelance Players, where the majority of the summer camp participants mentioned friendship, support, and community as what they liked most about the program, see what our kids are saying for yourself:

"Youth Unscripted is why I come to you as I am today, unapologetically, authentically. Youth Unscripted isn't just about singing, dancing and acting, it's where I found myself, my likes and dislikes, my sound and my voice."
– YU Participant

"When we had a full school community meeting, students unanimously decided to do a skit about inclusion. It was fully student led."
– Urban Improv Partner School Teacher

"I liked how Mary, Cooper and Charlotte cared and supported us." – Freelance Players Student

At a moment when anxiety and depression rates among young people are at historic highs, our programs offer something increasingly rare: spaces where thoughts, feelings, and creative expressions are celebrated as vital contributions. The skills we build—authentic self-expression, collaborative problem-solving, and confidence to take creative risks—are precisely what young people need to navigate an uncertain world.

Thank you for being part of our beautiful community and for supporting this work that honors both our roots and our continued growth. I hope to run into you on the streets of JP in the near future!

Jamie Ullrich
Executive Director



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.



2024-2025 Statistics:

- 302 Students
- 2,757 tickets sold
- 35 performances
- 375% increase in enrollment for Freelance Players Summer Program

Student Voices: The Impact You Can't Measure

"I learned that I can express my feelings here."

*"I learned that I have people who
love and care for me."*

*"I really learned how I should feel without there
really being a lesson. Like I don't have to
be afraid of failure."*

URBAN IMPROV



A 9-week series of school-day workshops for 4th through 8th-grade classrooms at six BPS partner schools. The program proposes realistic scenarios that invite students to use their minds, bodies, and creativity to resolve conflicts 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.

FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, 100% OF TEACHERS REPORTED:

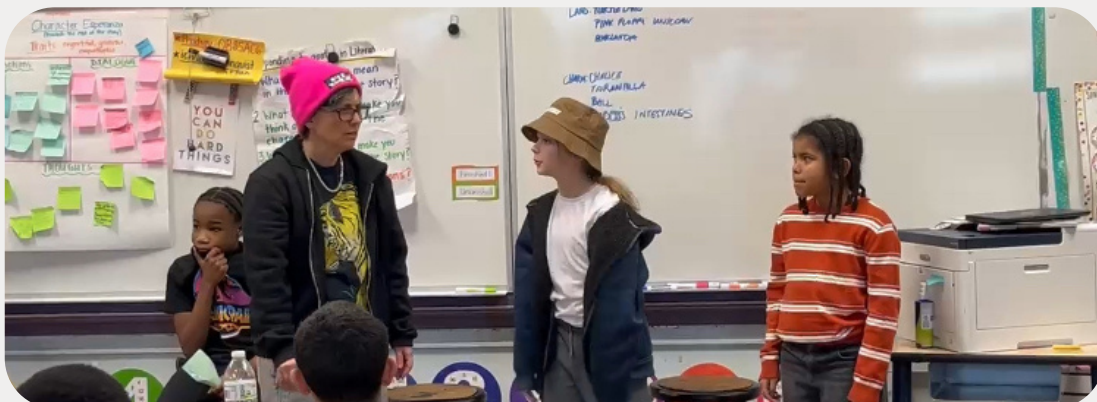
Urban Improv helped students improve in six key measures of Social-Emotional Learning & Growth: self-confidence, stress management, problem-solving, empathy, respect, & teamwork.

FOR THE NINTH YEAR IN A ROW, 100% OF TEACHERS REPORTED:

They would recommend Urban Improv to other educators.

2024-2025 Facts & Figures:

- 1,025 Students
- 50 Classrooms
- Scenes MOST like students real lives were: mental health, anxiety, peer pressure, big emotions and bullying
- Piloting of the new 3rd grade curriculum at the Conley Elementary School in Roslindale



URBAN IMPROV ASSEMBLIES



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

2024-2025 Facts & Figures

- 9 sites and 19.5 hours of programming
- Strong partnership retention with 8 returning sites
- Renewed interest in gender identity, bullying and online behavior

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.

2024-2025 Evaluation Results

- 100% of participants work better collaboratively
- 90% are more confident performing in front of audiences
- 100% have greater self-acceptance.



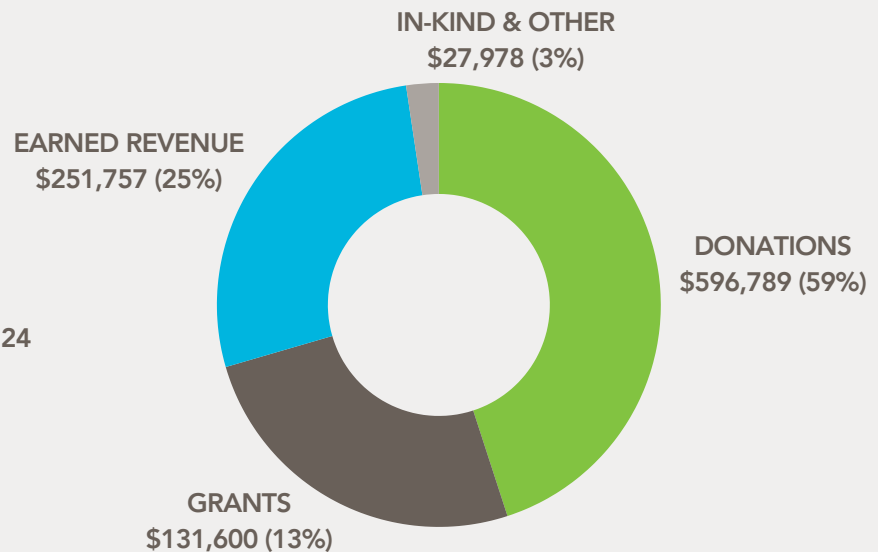
FINANCIALS



Thank you to the many individuals, organizations, and institutions that contributed to Rehearsal for Life this past year. It is due to your continued support that Rehearsal for Life has been able to consistently deliver high-quality programs for 50 years. This year's financial results reflect both challenges and strategic positioning for future growth. Our organization ended the fiscal year with a deficit, entirely attributed to the deferral of revenue from **(not quite) Banned in Boston**, required when the event was postponed due to weather in May 2025. Without this postponement, we would have ended the year with a surplus. While expenses remain concentrated in program delivery (75%), we've taken proactive steps to strengthen our financial position. We've implemented cost-saving measures that reduced total expenses by nearly \$275,000 compared to the prior year, while maintaining program quality. We remain committed to financial sustainability while delivering the high-impact programs our community depends on.

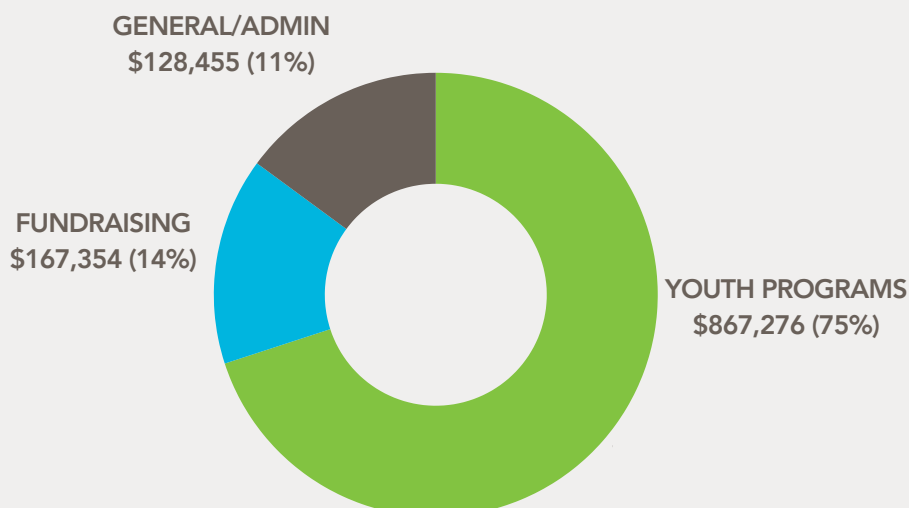
REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE \$1,008,124



EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,163,082



SUPPORTERS

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



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



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David V.N. Taylor
Madelyn & Jon Terbell
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Jeff & Martha Winokur



SPOTLIGHT:

Elliot Norton Awards
sponsored by the Boston
Theater Critics Association



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FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF

OUR MISSION