

ANNUAL REPORT



2024



Wake Forest Community

Youth Orchestra



www.wfcyo.org



919-948-0244



Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2024, we are filled with gratitude for the incredible growth, achievements, and impact of the Wake Forest Community Youth Orchestra. This year has been a testament to the **power of music** to **unite, inspire, and transform lives** in our community.

With **439 students enrolled from four counties**, we've witnessed an extraordinary expansion in participation, signaling the growing reach and accessibility of our programs. From offering free private lessons to students in need to providing instruments and supplies to rural and Title-I schools, we remain steadfast in our mission to ensure that every child has the opportunity to experience the joy and discipline of music.

We are proud to share that **100%** of our **graduating seniors** pursued higher education or trade school, continuing their journey as lifelong learners. Our students excelled in competitions, gained recognition in regional and all-state ensembles, and broke barriers in representation with programming that featured works by BIPOC and women composers.

This year, our commitment to community engagement reached new heights with **12 free concerts and 4 outreach events**, all aimed at bringing the beauty of music to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. These performances not only enriched the cultural fabric of our community but also celebrated diverse traditions through special events like Black History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month.

Our accomplishments are made possible through the **unwavering support** of our *donors, partners, teaching artists, and volunteers*. Together, we have created a space where students can grow as musicians and as individuals, gaining resilience, teamwork, and communication skills that will serve them for a lifetime.

As you read this report, I hope you'll feel the profound impact of your contributions. Thank you for believing in the **transformative power of music** and for joining us in this remarkable journey.

Here's to another year of harmony, growth, and shared success in 2025!

With gratitude,

Dr. LaSaundra Belcher

Dr. LaSaundra Belcher
Founder/Executive Director
Wake Forest Community Youth Orchestra

439

TOTAL ENROLLMENT

FRANKLIN COUNTY



176

8

WAKE COUNTY

207

48

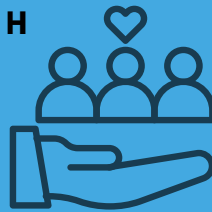
VANCE COUNTY

DURHAM COUNTY

100%

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE MAINTAINED WITH ALL SENIORS PURSUING COLLEGE OR TRADE SCHOOL

4

 OUTREACH EVENTS

85%



OVER 90% OF GUEST TEACHING ARTISTS ARE BIPOC, ENSURING REPRESENTATION AND MENTORSHIP FOR DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATIONS

EXPANDED STUDENT ENROLLMENT TO SERVE OVER 350 STUDENTS ANNUALLY, REFLECTING GROWING INTEREST AND ACCESSIBILITY.

350

100

VOLUNTEER HOURS CONTRIBUTED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS THIS YEAR.

17

INSTRUMENTS WERE DONATED TO OUR PROGRAM



60%



OF THE REPERTOIRE FEATURED WORKS BY BIPOC AND WOMEN COMPOSERS, THUS EXPOSING STUDENTS AND AUDIENCES TO UNDERREPRESENTED VOICES IN MUSIC.



STUDENTS WON OUR VIOLIN GIVEAWAY

2



Wake Forest Community Youth Orchestra

WE SAW RECORD BREAKING NUMBERS IN ATTENDANCE. ALL CONCERTS WERE AT CAPACITY AND SOLD OUT!

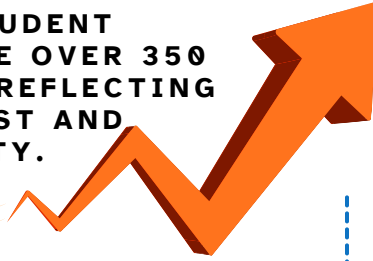
12

FREE CONCERTS HOSTED

CELEBRATING INCREASED ENROLLEMENT

STUDENT IMPACT

WE EXPANDED STUDENT ENROLLMENT TO SERVE OVER 350 STUDENTS ANNUALLY, REFLECTING GROWING INTEREST AND ACCESSIBILITY.



2024 ENROLLMENT TOTAL

439

Durham County - 8

Vance County - 48

Franklin County - 176

Wake County - 207



ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

COMPETITIONS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The WFCYO Sponsored student participation in local and national music competitions, covering ALL FEES and achieving high rankings and special recognitions

Congratulations to

Caron Jin, and *Trinity Williams*, who made senior all-state. Congratulations also goes to *Henry Martyn*, *Anna Durant*, and *Joy Jin* who made junior regional all-state.

We have maintained a **100%** high school graduation rate, with all Seniors pursuing college of trade school.



CONCERTS & OUTREACH EVENTS

We hosted **12 free concerts** and **4 outreach events**, ensuring that music is accessible to the entire community, regardless of income.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

contributed **100** volunteer hours this year! We also gave away **2 violins** while **17 instruments** were donated to our company!



COMMITMENT TO INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY

In 2024. Over **85%** of guest teaching artists were **BIPOC**, ensuring representation and mentorship for diverse student populations. Our **Diverse Programming** featured works by BIPOC and women composers in 60% of the repertoire, exposing students and audiences to underrepresented voices in music. We **supported Rural and Title-I Students** by providing free instruments, expert instruction, tuition, and music supplies at no cost. Our partners included East Wake Charter Academy, Wake Forest iSTEM Elementary School, Casa Esperanza Montessori Charter School, Franklin County Schools, and Vance County Schools. WFCYO uses a **holistic education curriculum** integrating literacy and social-emotional learning to enhance students' communication skills, resiliency, and critical thinking while fostering deeper musical expression and stronger peer connections. WFCYO hires **local teaching artists and musicians**, ensuring that WFCYO contributes to the local economy.





JOB CREATION
WE HIRED LOCAL TEACHING ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS, CONTRIBUTING TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY.

COMPETITIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS
CARON JIN AND TRINITY WILLIAMS MADE SENIOR ALL-STATE, ANNA DURANT, HENRY MARTYN AND JOY JIN MADE JUNIOR REGIONAL ALL-STATE.

HOLISTIC EDUCATION
INTEGRATED LITERACY AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING INTO THE CURRICULUM, ENHANCING STUDENTS' COMMUNICATION SKILLS, RESILIENCY, AND CRITICAL THINKING WHILE FOSTERING DEEPER MUSICAL EXPRESSION AND STRONGER PEER CONNECTIONS.

INCLUSION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
CREATED AN INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, TAILORING SUPPORT TO THEIR NEEDS

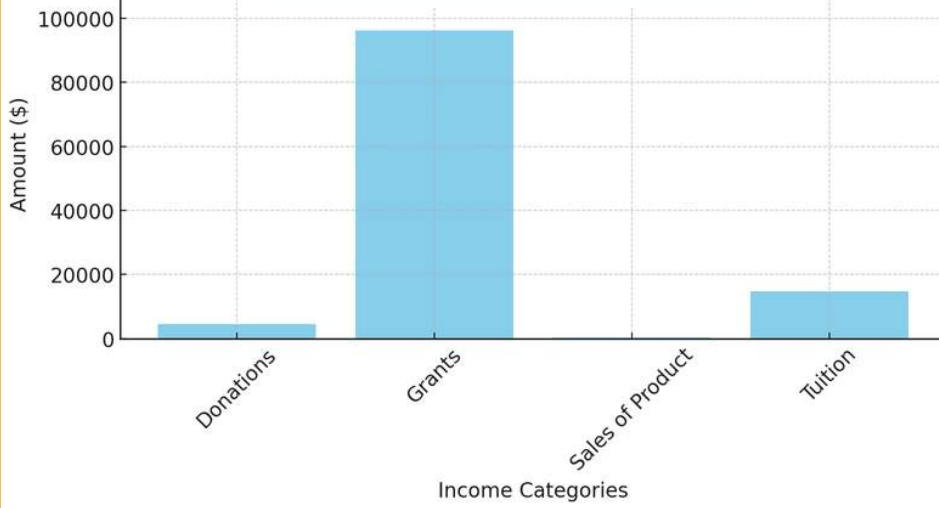


2024 Financials

INCOME

- Donations \$4,527.17
- Grants \$96,202.23
- Sales of Product Income \$379.00
- Tuition \$14,735.00

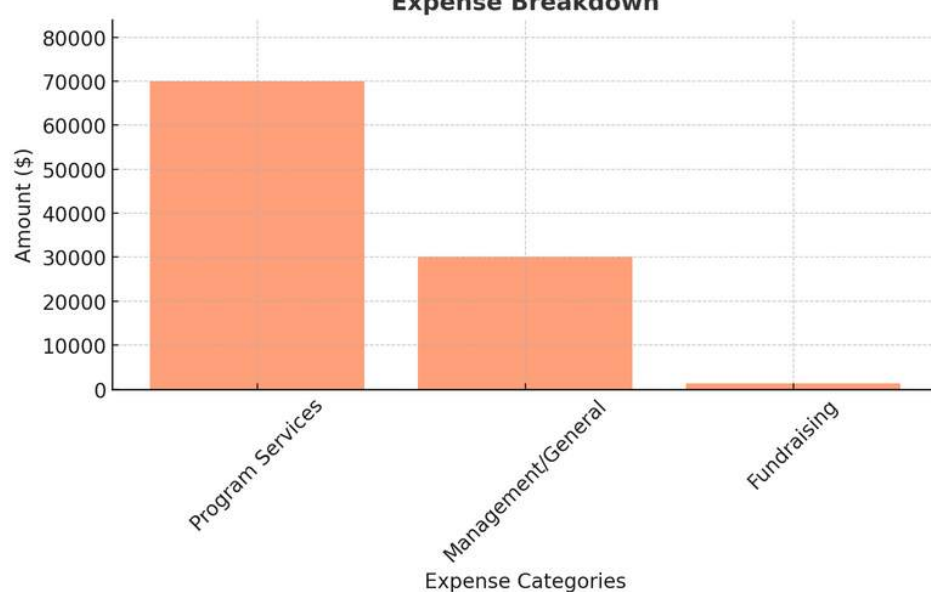
Total Income \$115,843.40



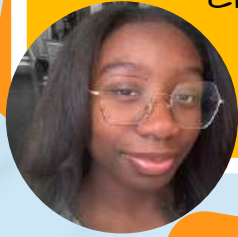
EXPENSES

- Program Services \$69,985.15
- Management/General \$30,097.96
- Fundraising \$1,380

Total Expenses \$101,463.1



I joined the WFCYO when I was 8. My skills have grown, I've reached goals and found a love for classical music!



Aryanna B.

Playing the violin for the WFCYO allowed me to make friends with amazing people, create powerful performances that move people to feel happiness and joy



Rachael J.

I joined the Wake Forest Community Youth Orchestra at 6 years of age and have benefited greatly from the guidance and opportunities provided by being part of this amazing organization.



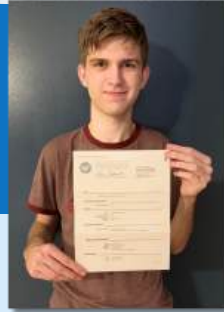
Henry M.

I Love being a part of WFCYO because it channels my high spirited energy and demands focus!



Olivia R.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WFCYO STUDENT AYDEN WHO RECIEVED A COPYRIGHT FOR HIS ORIGINAL COMPOSITION.



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The generosity of our donors, sponsors, and grant partners makes it possible for the Wake Forest Community Youth Orchestra to provide high-quality music education, instruments, and performance opportunities to students in our community. We are deeply grateful for the individuals, businesses, foundations, and faculty whose contributions help us inspire the next generation of musicians. Thank you for being an essential part of our mission!



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- NC Arts Council
- United Arts of Raleigh & Wake County
- Triangle Community Foundation
- NC Community Foundation
- Mary Duke Biddle Foundation
- National Endowment for the Arts
- PlayUSA

WFCYO programs were supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

WFCYO is supported by United Arts Wake County as well as the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

WFCYO receives support from the R & S Endowment, a fund administered by the North Carolina Community Foundation.

WFCYO receives support from the Triangle Community Foundation.

WFCYO programs were supported with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.



- Wake Forest Library
- Wake Forest Chamber of Commerce
- WCPE Education Fund
- Wake Forest Baptist Church
- Casa Esperanza Montessori

- East Wake Charter Academy
- Franklin County Schools
- Vance County Schools
- Executive Services Corps of the Triangle

