

A group of young girls are playing violins in a large hall. The girl in the center is wearing a black dress and is looking intently at her instrument. To her left, another girl is wearing a blue dress and glasses. To her right, a girl is wearing a pink and white patterned dress. In the background, other girls are also playing violins. The hall has a high ceiling and large windows.

BOSTON
MUSIC
PROJECT



HARMONY IN ACTION

ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020



Dear BMP Friends,

Our 2019-2020 season was full of highs and lows. Through it all, we stayed committed to our mission, values, and community.

We started the 2020 fiscal year with enrollment numbers increasing to 262 youth—the highest they have been since our founding in 2011. We introduced an eighth orchestra, expanded to a team of 28 teaching artists, and added a grant writer to our administrative team. Together our youth gave a total of 25 community performances before March 2020—originally we were on track to host 42 events around Boston by the summer! Our oldest youth explored various career pathways in music and we launched our first-ever adult orchestra, co-led by youth mentors and BMP teaching artists. We also expanded our footprint with new music partnerships and introduced our professional performance fundraising series featuring our teaching artists.

When we learned of the imminent school closures in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to show up for our students, families, and teaching artists. We pivoted to online learning for nearly 300 youth in a matter of days with a three-person admin team and eleven-member board. We leaned into social-emotional learning through music and demonstrated to our community what resilience, hope, and joy look like in the face of adversity. We enhanced our online teaching strategies through weekly team meetings, and introduced our first-ever spring-break music camp and creative summer program, serving over 80 youth—all virtually. We also underwent an organization rebrand and strategic planning process, both of which affirmed our commitment to bringing the power of music education to students across the Boston community and beyond.

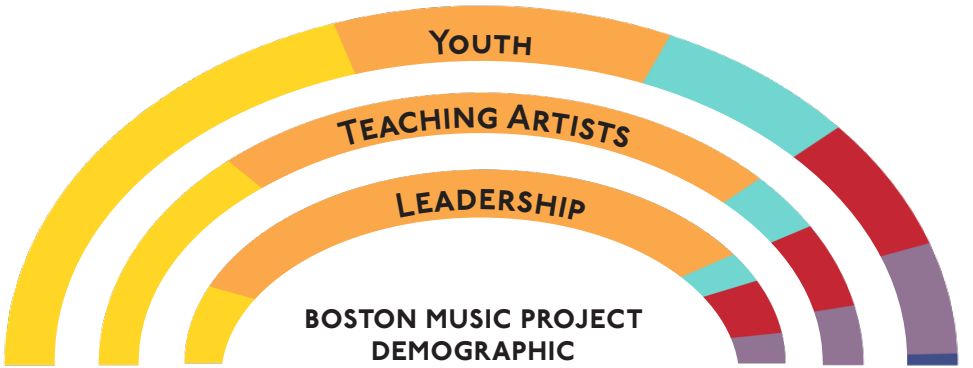
I invite you to read more about our journey in this year’s annual report and celebrate with our team as we reflect on our collective accomplishments and impact. Thanks to you, we are poised and ready for another successful year.

This is harmony in action. Together, we are the Boston Music Project.

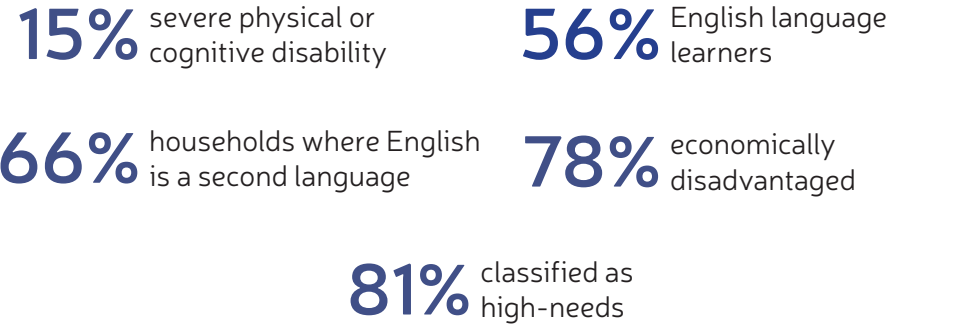
Thank you for your commitment,
Christopher Schroeder
Executive Director | Boston Music Project

OUR COMMUNITY

We are proud to have an exceptional team of teaching artists and leadership with diverse backgrounds that reflect the students and communities we serve.



262 YOUTH (PREK-7TH) 63% She Her Hers 37% He Him His	25 FACULTY 5 COLLEGIATE INTERNS 63% She Her Hers 37% He Him His	3 ADMIN 9 ENSEMBLE DIRECTORS 11 BOARD 70% She Her Hers 30% He Him His
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OUR MISSION

Boston Music Project is committed to ensuring the long-term social-emotional and musical success of children and youth by nurturing creativity, celebrating cultures, and developing civic engagement through quality music education and performance.



OUR VISION

BMP’s vision is to give every child an engaging and fun musical experience, performance opportunities to develop confidence and self-efficacy, high levels of musical proficiency, and a passion for learning that transcends all subjects.

We serve youth of all ages to ensure that the following long-term impact goals can become a reality for all students:

- MUSICAL PROFICIENCY —
- SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT —
- CIVIC ENGAGEMENT —
- CREATIVE SELF-EXPRESSION —

PLAYING WITH PURPOSE

Community performances and collaborations with professional musicians are key components of our students' success. Prior to March 16th, 2020, our students took part in 25 events in the local community aimed at developing confidence and self-efficacy, bridging connections, and strengthening their relationship with their community. Highlights include performances at The Boston Athenaeum, Boston Children's Museum, Tufts Medical Center, and Boston Public Schools' Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. These frequent "experiences of success" help students build their sense of pride and personal fulfillment. This focus on collaboration, rather than competition, fosters responsibility, sensitivity, leadership, and cooperative learning among children.



EXPLORING CAREER PATHWAYS IN MUSIC

While music performance is central to our work at BMP, we engage with local organizations and community members who can showcase a variety of pathways within music that go beyond performance. In the winter of 2020, middle school musicians from one of our Boston Public School sites spent a day at Sonos Boston headquarters in Downtown Boston. Our musicians toured the facilities with Distinguished Software Engineer Michael Agerbak and Acoustic Lab Technician Barry Kosherick. After learning about the process by which Sonos designs and fabricates their smart speakers, BMP musicians worked with Acoustical Engineer Tony Ferraro to build individual speakers made from cardboard, paper, and real Sonos hardware.



GROWING OUR ORCHESTRA COMMUNITY

As we kicked off our 2019-2020 season, we retained just over 94% of our students from the previous year and expanded our programming, serving a total of 309 students, up from 262 from the previous year. As a result of the retention and 18% net growth, our orchestra community expanded with the launch of an eighth orchestra. Our Newbold Orchestra, named after modern-day composer and conductor Soon Hee Newbold, is comprised of our top elementary-aged musicians. Ms. Newbold has contributed vast amounts of music to the youth orchestra community over the years and shares the same spirit and commitment to music education as our BMP team.



LEARNING AT ALL LEVELS

Each year, our 5th-grade musicians take part in our Youth Leadership Program. They spend the year developing their teaching skills, shadowing our Teaching Artists, and peer mentoring younger musicians during our Morning Music program. In November, we invited BMP parents to learn fundamental music skills and educate them on proper instrument techniques in an effort to support better home practice for their children in the launch of our first ever Adult Orchestra! BMP parents and Boston Public School academic teachers—18 in total—spent five months receiving weekly instruction from our teaching artists and youth leadership cohort in preparation for the debut performance in March 2020.



NURTURING INCLUSIVE INSTRUCTION

For the past three years, BMP’s Beethoven Ensemble has provided instrumental and general music lessons for special education classes at Josiah Quincy Elementary School with support from the Boston Public Schools Arts Expansion Fund through EdVestors, the Ramlose Foundation, and the Liberty Mutual Foundation. Each class receives two 30-minute blocks of music instruction that includes a focus on general music, rhythm, singing, creativity, music technology, and expression. Students participate free of charge, and have the opportunity to perform alongside the morning orchestra during the year.



EXPANDING OUR FOOTPRINT

In the fall, we launched a new Early Childhood Music Enrichment program at United South End Settlements, providing preschool-age students (2 to 5 years) with general music classes focused on learning and singing songs, developing gross- and fine-motor skills, and fostering social-emotional skills as a music ensemble. They showcased their work in a ‘Celebration of Learning’ for families to take part in and our middle school youth orchestra gave a special performance and instrument petting zoo.



“Watching my daughter take the stage and perform with the orchestra made my heart sing. She loves it and we could not be more proud of her!” - BPS Parent



REACHING NEW AUDIENCES

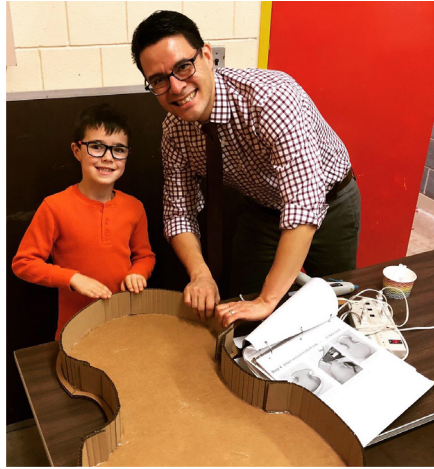
Last fall, we launched our “Salon Series,” a professional performance series featuring our teaching artists and students in intimate concert settings. Audiences had the opportunity to learn more about BMP and experience firsthand the talent of our teaching artists and students through live music performances in inspiring spaces throughout Boston. Thank you to our friends at National Development, Ink Block, Revolution Hotel, and Capital One for their support in this series.

THE POWER OF PAPER

Between September and January each year, our kindergarten musicians go on a journey to become a real string orchestra by exploring fundamental music concepts, developing their vocal and language skills, refining gross-motor techniques required to hold their instruments and bow, and gaining formative social-emotional skills needed to perform alongside their peers in a full orchestra—all while playing a paper instrument. In January, the BMP community celebrates their accomplishments with a Paper Orchestra Graduation at the Boston Children's Museum, where the young musicians perform, receive their certificate of completion, and their real string instrument.

Each year, our team works to build upon the paper instrument tradition from Venezuela's El Sistema program. In many parts of Venezuela, resources to acquire real instruments are limited. As a way to keep young children engaged in the music at a young age, they make paper instruments to begin learning basic musicianship skills until a real instrument becomes available.

This year, our BMP Mozart team and executive director worked with middle school students and staff from the Beaver Country Day School to build upon last year's laser-cut cardboard instruments. Beaver students met three times per week with Beaver design coaches to create paper instrument kits, deliver them to BMP, and help our students and families in the assembly of the paper instruments.



BRIELLA AND HER BASS

For the past nine years, our Paper Orchestra program has provided kindergarteners with the foundation for music success and social-emotional growth. What is equally impactful is the way this program brings together our orchestra musicians and families as our kindergartners begin their musical journey with BMP.

We took a moment to hear from one of our newest families, Briella and her mother Déanna, about the impact that BMP and the Paper Orchestra program has had on them.

Déanna, what has the experience been like for you and Briella in BMP?

"I was thrilled for Briella to have the opportunity to play an instrument at such a young age. She has always loved art and performance. I really enjoy the concerts and how they showcase the different skill levels of students in the program."

Briella, what do you love most about the bass?

"I'm strong enough to play a big instrument!"

Déanna, how has being a musician of BMP impacted Briella and her family?

"Playing an instrument has made Briella even more confident, patient, and gentle. Her family is very proud of her and looks forward to attending upcoming concerts."

What has been a highlight for both of you so far?

"The highlight so far this year for Briella has been getting her real bass. On her first day, Briella felt nervous and shy. Now she is so excited to get to practice every morning."

SHOWING UP WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

At the Boston Music Project, we believe in the power of music to build community and serve as an anchor of certainty in challenging times. Staying true to this belief, two days following the COVID-19 school closures our administration launched an online learning platform that enabled our team to provide a safe and nurturing space for our students to stay connected and continue with their music studies from home.

Within the first week of the school closures, over 250 Greater Boston youth in our program had access to music literacy worksheets, curated music playlists, tuning and instrument care videos in four languages, synchronized morning music classes five days a week, creative composition, and a weekly private lesson.

It was equally important to us that we continue to compensate our 28 teaching artists. We instituted weekly staff meetings, crafted new online music lesson plans, developed creative composition projects, and leaned more heavily on key aspects of social-emotional learning. Through these efforts, combined with our “Couch Concert” series, Spring Break and Creative Summer programs, we supported the students and families we serve in our virtual reality without missing a beat. Here are some of the highlights.

198

198 BPS youth who continued to receive daily music enrichment and social connections during the school closures.



84

84 youth from across greater boston who took part in our first ever Spring Break and Creative Summer programs.

10

10 virtual orchestra collaborations with local dance and music non-profits



62

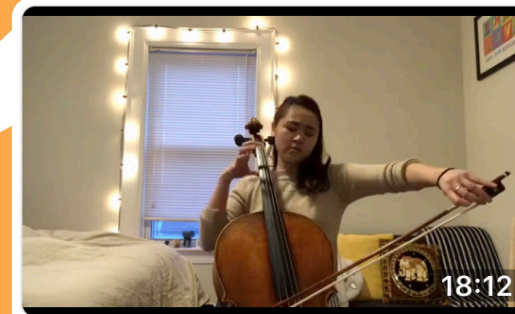
62 Special Education youth taking part in weekly online music classes

5.5

5.5 hours of weekly small-group virtual music rehearsals for all BMP musicians

8

8 creative composition projects featured in our Virtual Summer Showcase



Our next JQOP Couch Concert features Teaching Artist,...

4.2K Views

You and 78 others

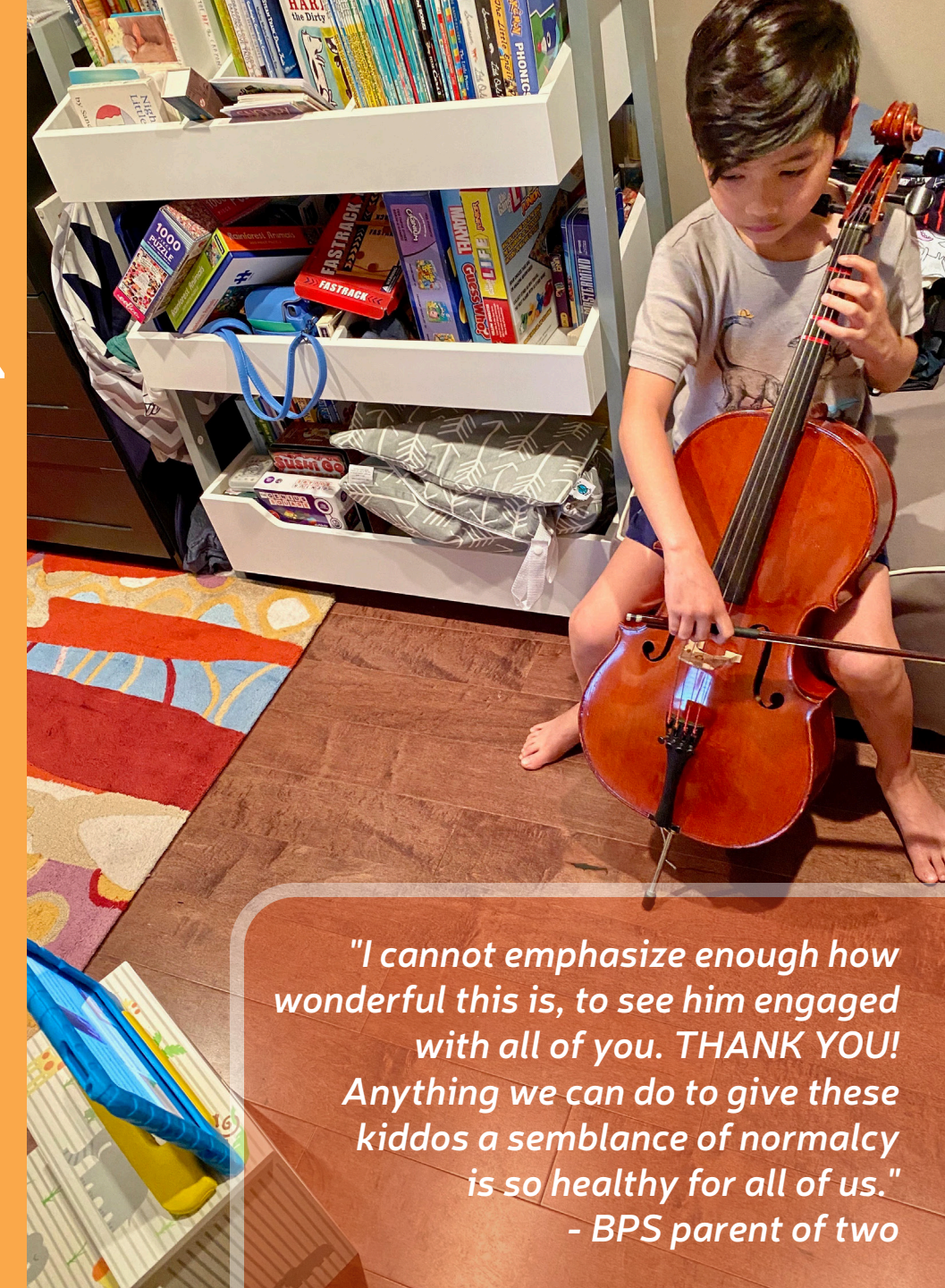
FROM MARCH THROUGH JUNE ALONE

20

20 hours of staff meetings and professional development between March and June

15

15 Couch Concert fundraisers featuring teaching artist and student performances



"I cannot emphasize enough how wonderful this is, to see him engaged with all of you. THANK YOU! Anything we can do to give these kiddos a semblance of normalcy is so healthy for all of us."
- BPS parent of two

CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT IN ACTION

In March 2020, our team adapted our daily in-person program to embrace distance learning and launched BMP Online to provide a sense of community and support to our youth and families during the COVID-19 school closure. The need to pivot our programming during this crisis allowed our team to find new ways to deliver high-quality creative youth development programming. Part of our adaptive process included the formation of youth and family sounding boards that ensured their ideas were part of reimagining our virtual ecosystem.



92% OF BMP STUDENTS AGREE THAT THEIR WEEKLY GROUP CLASSES AND PRIVATE LESSONS ARE HELPING TO IMPROVE THEIR INSTRUMENT SKILLS

YEAR-END STUDENT ASSESSMENTS DEMONSTRATED THAT **96%** OF OUR STUDENTS IMPROVED THEIR MUSICAL SKILLS FROM THEIR MID-YEAR ASSESSMENTS IN JANUARY.

“As music and education has undergone a seismic shift in program delivery [due to Covid-19] the Boston Music Project has taken a leadership role in taking effective steps to continue to carry out their mission by keeping front of mind an essential idea - things are moving fast, but there is time for thoughtfulness and there is time for collaboration. They have utilized the artistic and educational expertise of the staff, young people and the community to create an online learning environment that is defined by its assets and not what is lacking.”

Erik Holmgren | Massachusetts Cultural Council



STRENGTHENING THE CULTURE IN THE COMMUNITY

86% OF STUDENTS AGREE THAT THEY FEEL MORE CONNECTED WITH THEIR PEERS THROUGH OUR GROUP MUSIC CLASSES

90% OF STUDENTS ENJOY THE INCLUSION OF ACTIVE LISTENING AND CREATIVE COMPOSITION IN OUR VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING

95% OF PARENTS SAY THAT THEY WOULD RECOMMEND BOSTON MUSIC PROJECT TO FELLOW PARENTS



Letter from Boston Public School Principal

“BMP builds a strong foundation for musical skills, while nurturing social-emotional growth. It provides instruction every day with the same group of students and teaching artists, offering a platform for relationship building. In addition, learning a musical instrument stimulates the brain, increases memory, and can relieve stress. It gives them a sense of pride and accomplishment that is palpable for the students and all those able to watch them perform. **We also believe that this program has had a positive effect on academic success, has helped to combat chronic absenteeism, and has improved our school culture.**

As our school continues its journey towards becoming the first International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme school in Boston, we are reminded of the IB Learner Profile and that BMP helps our students to become communicators. **Our students participating in BMP are equipped with the tools to express ideas and information confidently and creatively in more than one language and in a variety of modes of communication.**

Boston Music Project has brought the JUICE to our school and we believe it is fully in line with BPS Goals of Raising the Bar, Providing High Quality School in Every Neighborhood, and Getting Students Ready. The effects of this program can be seen on an individual student level as well as a community level.

Cynthia Soo Hoo | Proud Principal of Josiah Quincy Elementary School



ENSURING EQUITY FOR ALL...

One of the core values of the Boston Music Project is that quality music education should be affordable and accessible to all children. We offer sliding scale tuition that ensures cost never impedes a child from participating in our program.

Your support covers 54% of program costs, ensuring every child receives **a musical instrument and 5.5 hours of weekly music education in small-group lessons (6:1) across 36 weeks of the academic school year.** During our 2020 fiscal year, 47% of families qualified for financial assistance and our average annual tuition cost per child was \$906.

SLIDING SCALE TUITION

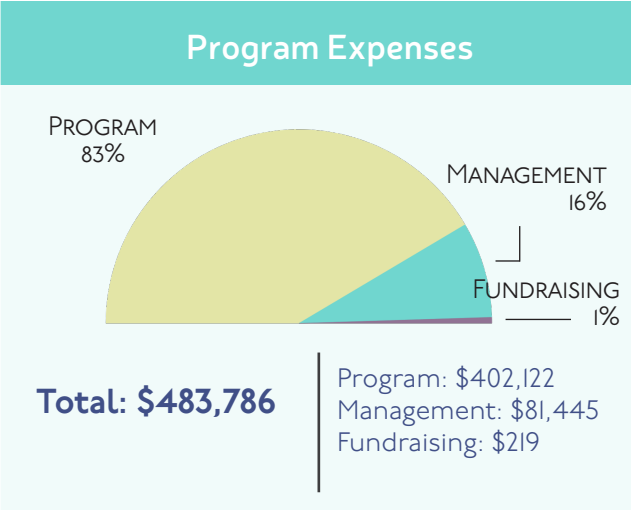
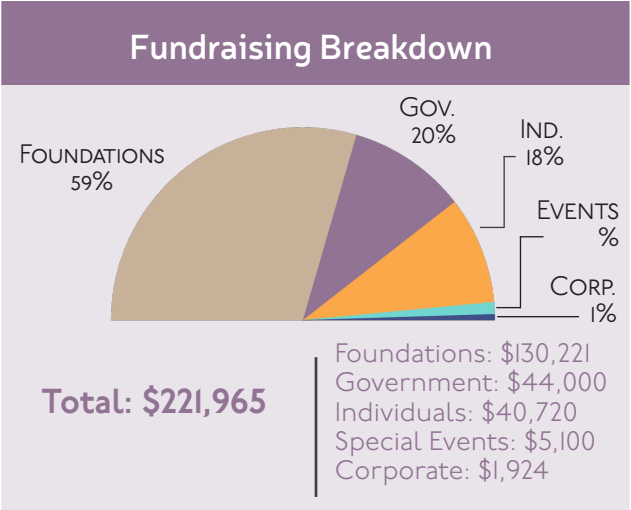
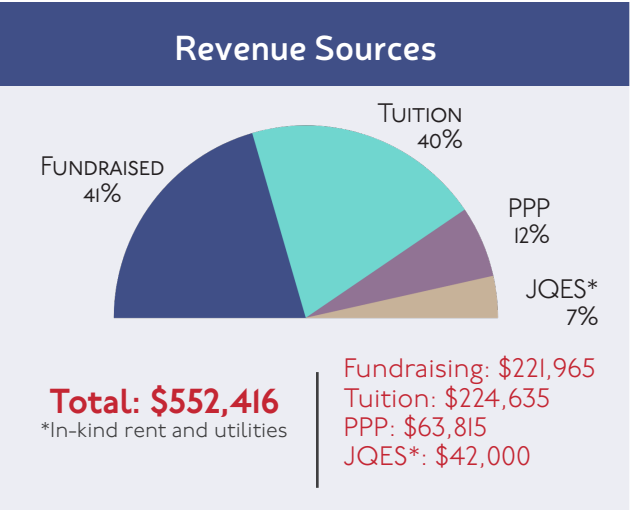


**WE KEEP EXPENSES LOW
SO YOUR SUPPORT CAN HAVE
THE GREATEST IMPACT.**



While our average annual tuition is \$906 per child, it costs **\$3,150 per child to deliver our programming.**

FINANCIAL SUMMARY



...ALL THANKS TO YOU!

July 1, 2019– June 30, 2020

\$35,000 and above Anonymous	\$500-\$999 Liz and Peter Cipparone Alison and Javier Flores Kathryn Friedman and Steve Kurland Harvard Pilgrim Aaron Johnson Christine McCue Ali and Kirk McWhorter Monika and Chris Schroeder
\$25,000 - \$34,999 Liberty Mutual Foundation Massachusetts Department of Education & Secondary Education	\$250-\$499 Sarajane Dolinsky Amy Fitzgibbons Richard Fullam Jane Peterson Maren Peterson Jaimie Rooney The Benevity Company
\$10,000 - \$24,999 Lincoln and Therese Filene Foundation Massachusetts Cultural Council Rowland Foundation	\$249 and under Ruth Aaron Davina and Darron Adams Amazon Smile Kate Armstrong Christina and Mason Astley Jamie Ater Robin Baker Chelsea Beatty Daryl Belock Samantha Bettendorf Jehanne and Stig Bjornebye Graciela Briceno Geju Brown Silvia Buonamici and Brenton Mar Ellen Calkins Kelsey Cosby Jim DeGrandi Kane Dennis Rekha Drew
\$5,000-\$9,999 Barbara Lee Family Foundation Boston Cultural Council The Montrone Family East Boston Savings EdVestors Barbara Fitzgerald Ramsey McCluskey Foundation Schrafft Charitable Trust	
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<i>The list above includes gifts and grants received through June 2019. BMP aims to acknowledge accurately each of our valued supporters. If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please contact us.</i>	

OUR 2019-2020 TEAM

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Amanda Roth, Inventory Specialist

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Amelia Sie, Teaching Artist

Lok Wu Tsang, Teaching Artist

Matthew Vaeth, Teaching Artist

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Crescendo! Program Teaching Fellow

Eunice Kim, Boston Philharmonic Crescendo!
Program Teaching Fellow

Angela Theresa Ryck, Tufts University School of
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Isabelle Zheng, Smith College, Volunteer
Teaching Artist



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-  **MAKE A DONATION!**
-  **TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF OUR MUSIC CLASSES!**
-  **LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR BOARD MEMBERSHIP!**
-  **ATTEND A VIRTUAL COMMUNITY CONCERT!**
-  **ENGAGE WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!**
-  **ASK YOUR COMPANY ABOUT SPONSORSHIP & MATCHING DONATIONS!**

WE ARE MORE THAN MUSIC

At Boston Music Project we stand committed to ensuring all children have the opportunity to experience the joy and power of music...

...BUT OUR MISSION GOES FAR BEYOND JUST MUSIC!

