



Annual Report

2022

Brooklyn
Conservatory
of Music

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We are celebrating the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music's 125th anniversary at a time when our organization has never been stronger, our reach broader or our work truer to our ambitious mission: transforming lives and building community through the expressive, educational and therapeutic powers of music.

This past year, we welcomed over 1,300 students and clients into our building each week for individual and group music therapy sessions and for music lessons, classes and ensembles led by our world-class faculty. We served an additional 6,000 students and clients at 77 schools, community centers and other sites across New York City.

We deepened our efforts to make BKCM a truly inclusive organization under the leadership of Uton Onyejekwe, our first Director of DEI, and our Board of Trustees (which is more representative of our diverse constituencies than ever). We distributed record amounts of financial aid and laid the groundwork to raise those numbers further in 2023.

We connected and dazzled our growing community at 200-plus events in our building and citywide, in partnership with dozens of organizations, ranging from the New York Philharmonic to the Brooklyn Museum to Women for Afghan Women to the Chinese-American Planning Council. We continued our campaign to invest in our people by raising wages and adding support staff. With enrollment surging, we secured an agreement to rent overflow space in the nearby Roberts Field School every weekend as a short-term solution. While this has provided some temporary relief, we continue to work towards a longer-term plan for our critical space issues.

We enriched and expanded all four of our longstanding flagship programs: the Community Music School, Suzuki, Music Partners and Music Therapy. And you'll see that we've added a fifth pillar to our Annual Report: the first BKCM Community Music Center (CMC), which grew out of our 20-year partnership with the Cypress Hills Community Development Corporation.

Since the CMC opened last fall in Brooklyn's Cypress Hills and East New York neighborhoods, we have provided up to six hours a week of free or low-cost music education—including free private lessons—to 100 students, ages 1-13. We see incredible potential to scale this model, allowing us to provide New Yorkers in historically marginalized communities with rich offerings that parallel what we're able to deliver in our Park Slope home.

This is no easy undertaking. But as we saw throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, BKCM is capable of incredible things. Thank you for your ongoing support, as we work together to enrich and elevate the lives of all New Yorkers through the power of music.



CHAD COOPER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BKCM

LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

The incredible accomplishments described in this 2022 Annual Report would not have been possible without each and every one of you. Our talented, committed faculty and staff continue to burnish our reputation for excellence by going above and beyond to meet the evolving needs of our students, clients, families and community. Our Board of Trustees has worked diligently to chart our future and ensure that we're on track to meet the ambitious goals outlined in our five-year strategic plan.

Our vibrant, growing BKCM community—children and adults of all ages and abilities, from neighborhoods throughout New York City—have entrusted us with guiding their musical journeys and contributed their time and energy to make BKCM the supportive, thriving organization we are today. Our generous donors have allowed our organization to flourish amid economic uncertainty—not simply continuing our work but meaningfully expanding it, most notably by opening our first BKCM Community Music Center in Brooklyn's Cypress Hills and East New York neighborhoods.

When I first encountered BKCM as a parent looking for a place for my son to immerse himself in the Suzuki method, I was immediately impressed by the gorgeous building and stellar teachers. The more I learned about the organization, the more enamored I became. I hadn't realized that the popular jazz program at my son's public school was run by Music Partners—let alone that Music Partners serves thousands of students at schools, youth centers and senior centers citywide. I hadn't realized that BKCM's Music Therapy program was a distinguished provider in this important field, and I certainly hadn't seen our music therapists' life-changing work up close.

One of my chief motivators for joining the Board of Trustees, and leading it as Board Chair, has been BKCM's genuine, abiding commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. This commitment infuses everything we do, including our unique funding model—in which onsite programs subsidize our offsite work. I'm encouraged by the early success of our effort to amplify this impact through our first BKCM Community Music Center and optimistic about the prospect of scaling this innovative model.

When we look back at BKCM's 125th year, I believe we'll see it as a pivotal moment in our history—a point where, having laid the foundation for growth, we set in motion a vision for shaping BKCM's next era. There's much work ahead of us. I invite you to join us, however you can, in further supporting and strengthening this dynamic organization.



DEDE LEE-MOORE
BOARD CHAIR, BKCM

BOARD & STAFF

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SENIOR LEADERSHIP

Chad Cooper, Executive Director
Michaela Mechlovitz, Director of Administration
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Shameeza Chandarpal, Director of Finance
Uton Onyejekwe, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Julianne Carney-Chung, Director, Suzuki Program
Brian Drye, Director, Community Music School
Dorothy Savitch, Director, Music Partners
Toby Williams, Director, Music Therapy

OUR MISSION

The Brooklyn Conservatory of Music aims to transform lives and build community through the expressive, educational and therapeutic powers of music.

OUR VISION

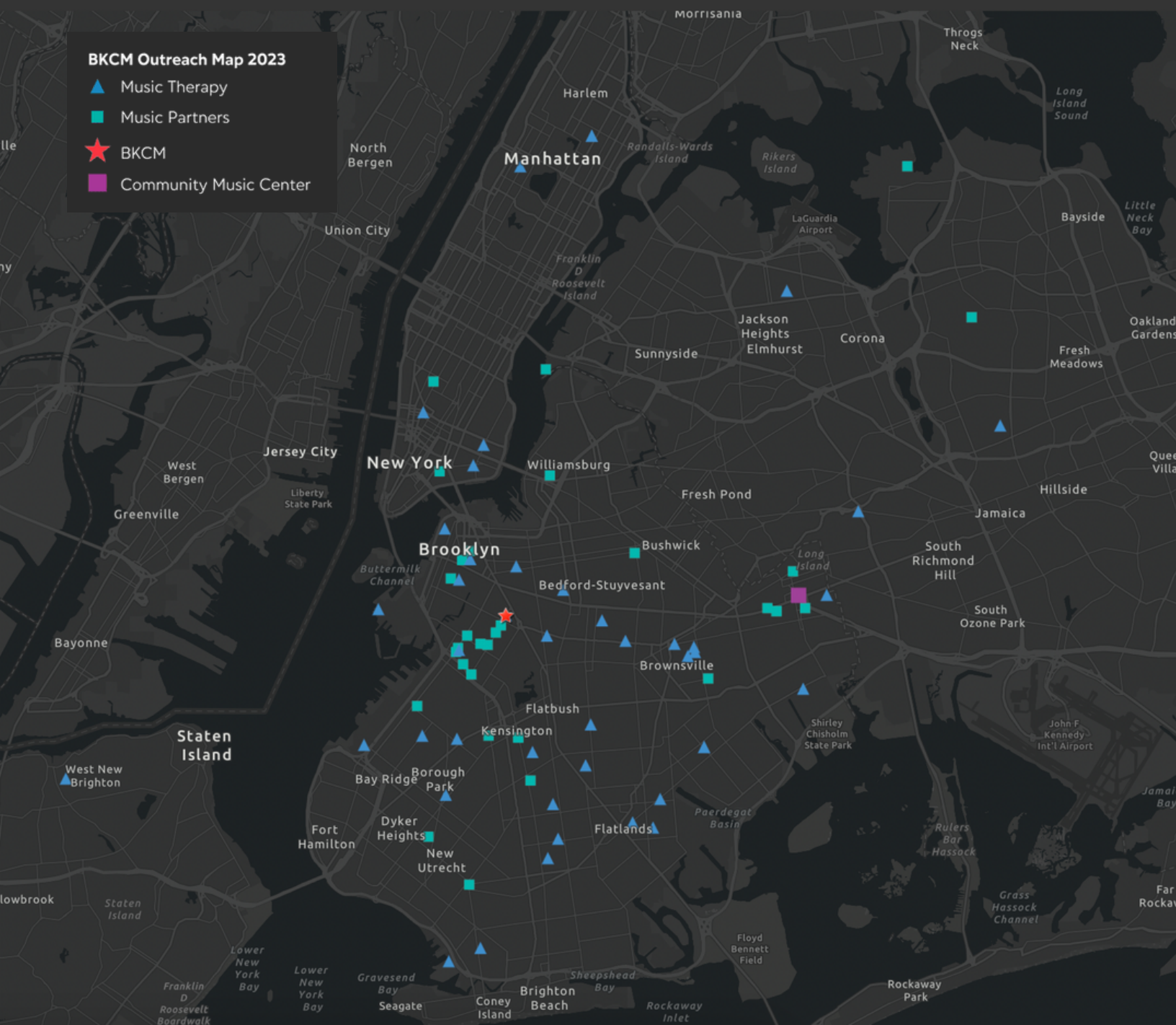
We envision a world where every New Yorker, regardless of age, income or level of ability, has access to high-quality music instruction and music therapy. We believe that neighborhoods traditionally under-served by New York City cultural institutions need and deserve hands-on musical experiences, and that by creating these opportunities we are building a more vibrant, interconnected city.

Brooklyn
Conservatory
of Music

Our Presence in New York City

For 125 years, the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music has served our community by cultivating rich music education opportunities. BKCM reaches more than 7,000 students and clients through our community outreach programs. These programs operate in all five boroughs of New York City. BKCM provides music education and music therapy programs at 77 partner sites, including public schools, senior centers and other community and faith-based organizations—empowering students with tools and experiences unique to BKCM.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR INTERACTIVE MAP](#)



Music Partners

Music Partners served more than 3,500 students across New York City in 2022 by placing skilled teaching artists in public schools, senior centers, childcare centers and other community settings. Programs are tailored to suit each partner site's needs, with offerings including bucket drumming, recorder, early childhood music and movement, band, strings, guitar, ukulele, chorus, songwriting and film scoring. In a prime example of Music Partners' collaborative approach, BKCM teaching artist Tahira Clayton is working closely with the M.S. 50/El Puente Community School history department to integrate the school's civil rights curriculum into BKCM music classes, by teaching songs from the era and the Black American choral tradition. In 2022, Music Partners also presented concerts and lecture series at partner locations, including a panel discussion on careers in the music industry and a Lunar New Year musical celebration.

VIDEO: M.S. 50 STUDENTS PERFORM "AIN'T GONNA LET NOBODY"

VIDEO: P.S. 118 WINTER CONCERT

LEARN MORE



“BKCM and my trumpet teacher, Mr. Pablo, have helped me bond with music. Playing an instrument is basically a part of me now and I don't know what I would do without it. Since I'm part of Music Partners, I see so many people in my school have so much fun learning music and playing their instruments. And the concerts are so much fun for everyone.”

-LEO H. , MUSIC PARTNERS STUDENT

MUSIC PARTNERS IN 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

3,519

STUDENTS SERVED

33

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITY
CENTERS

49

TEACHING ARTISTS

13

PROFESSIONAL TEACHING
ARTIST PERFORMANCES

Music Therapy

BKCM is proud to serve as an esteemed provider of music therapy, a psychotherapeutic practice in which clinically trained professionals use music as a tool to promote the developmental and social-emotional growth of clients of all abilities. In 2022, 20 credentialed BKCM music therapists worked with clients at our Park Slope home and 44 community outreach sites citywide. We reached nearly 2,200 clients—more than ever—through private and group sessions. BKCM curated new opportunities for clients to collaborate, perform and express themselves. Through our new “Rock Band” partnership with Extreme Kids & Crew, neurodivergent teens come together to jam with peers. Music Therapy is crucial to our organizational DEI efforts; in fall 2022, BKCM Music Therapy Director Toby Williams led a full-staff workshop centered on disability justice and anti-ableism.

VIDEO: CLIENT DELILAH PERFORMS AT OPEN STAGES 2022

VIDEO: CLIENT NKECHI PERFORMS AT HER RECITAL

LEARN MORE



"The Brooklyn Conservatory's music therapy class is the highlight of our son's week. Despite his verbal apraxia, he sings without abandon, and connects to his inner joy, all while practicing social skills he doesn't even realize he's addressing."

TEVI, PARENT OF MUSIC THERAPY CLIENT

MUSIC THERAPY IN 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

2,178

CLIENTS AT OUTREACH
SITES CITYWIDE

105

CLIENTS ONSITE

20

CREDENTIALLED
MUSIC THERAPISTS

\$198,656

IN DIRECT & INDIRECT
FINANCIAL AID

Community Music Center

IN EAST NEW YORK/CYPRESS HILLS

In November 2022, we launched our first BKCM Community Music Center (CMC): a promising new model for nourishing young New Yorkers' creative expression. As part of our partnership with the Cypress Hills Local Development Corporation, the CMC operates inside a new mixed-use building that includes a community center. In short order, our classes were enrolled to capacity—prompting us to expand our programming for parents and preschool-aged children. By year's end, 45 young children and their caregivers were enrolled in early childhood classes, while 49 elementary and middle school students were receiving up to six hours a week of high-quality music education—including private lessons and a Saturday Band Academy. These students represent 18 neighborhood schools, including five where BKCM also provides music education during the school day. Through the CMC, we are realizing our vision for creating a continuum of school-based and after-school music education for young people citywide.

VIDEO: EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMMING

VIDEO: PRIVATE CLARINET LESSON

LEARN MORE



“One special memory is seeing my son transition to different learning stations in class. He had never been to school, so seeing him transition in a class setting with no issues was truly amazing.”

-NADINE, PARENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASS

CMC IN 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

7

BKCM STAFF
MEMBERS ONSITE

18

CLASSES OFFERED

100

STUDENTS

45

CARETAKERS IN EARLY
CHILDHOOD CLASSES

18

LOCAL SCHOOLS
REPRESENTED

Community Music School

In 2022, our Community Music School (CMS) continued to serve as a musical home for students of all ages, abilities and skill levels. Each day of the week, year-round, our Park Slope home was filled with the sounds of private lessons, group classes, ensembles and workshops for music-makers ages 2 to 83. Our CMS offerings and community grew substantially in 2022, with 81 new private lesson students, two new instruments taught (banjo and tuba) and five new courses. Throughout this impressive year of growth, our students and faculty were guided by CMS' core values: joy, community, perseverance, quality and creativity.

VIDEO: BKCM JAZZ PROGRAM: BEGINNER ALL GIRLS/NONBINARY ENSEMBLE

VIDEO: WIND IN THE PINES BLUEGRASS ENSEMBLE

VIEW OUR CLASSES



"BKCM is an amazing place to learn and perform. I've been having lessons there since kindergarten, and it never gets old. In my Music Theory class, BKCM has taught me things about music that I would have never fathomed the existence of a couple of years ago. In piano lessons, I've learned how to work my fingers so much that for a couple of pieces, it kind of looks like my fingers are flying. BKCM was one of the only things that kept my spirit alive during the pandemic, and now it's one of the buildings my life is based around. My house, my school and BKCM! "

JONAH BREITZER, COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL STUDENT

MUSIC PARTNERS IN 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

423

STUDENTS IN
PRIVATE LESSONS

376

STUDENTS IN
GROUP LESSONS

74

FACULTY MEMBERS

19

DIFFERENT
INSTRUMENTS TAUGHT

60

CLASSES &
ENSEMBLES

Suzuki

Since 2006, BKCM has offered families the chance to train in the Suzuki method: a nurturing pedagogy based on the concept that all children have the ability to master the language of music. In 2022, our Suzuki program engaged 228 students in the study of violin, cello, bass, guitar, flute and piano. Suzuki parents are uniquely involved in their children's musical growth, as they learn alongside their children in initial classes. Students are immersed in group classes as they advance, and they participate in ensembles and workshops to supplement their learning. This past year, our robust Suzuki Strings Ensembles grew to 37 students, and cello/bass students attended a workshop with world-renowned bassist and improviser William Parker. BKCM's Suzuki program also continued to enrich its curriculum with supplemental repertoire from a diverse array of composers and adopt creative strategies for raising scholarship funds, including a joyful Practice-athon.

VIDEO: PIANO'WEEN DUET

VIDEO: GUITAR CONCERTO

LEARN MORE



"Suzuki is a safe space to develop our children's musical talents. Over the past year, we've noticed the development of mature attitudes and a growing interest in a variety of musical genres. This year each child set their own goals for their music education. It's been extraordinary watching the children collaborate on duets. They chose their music, scheduled their practice, experimented with techniques and asked for feedback."

JUNIE CHARLOT-JOHNSON, PARENT OF TWO SUZUKI STUDENTS

SUZUKI IN 2022 BY THE NUMBERS

228

STUDENTS ENROLLED

6

INSTRUMENTS

31

FACULTY

\$55,173

IN FINANCIAL AID
DISTRIBUTED

32

CHILDREN AGES 0-4
ENROLLED

Financial Aid

We continue to expand our pool of financial aid each year, to attract and retain students and clients from a broad range of backgrounds and income levels. In 2022, we directly (through scholarships and subsidies) or indirectly (by helping families access government aid) provided nearly \$400,000 in financial assistance to more than 220 students and clients across our five divisions. We are on pace to distribute even more financial aid in 2023.

226

STUDENTS BENEFITTING FROM
FINANCIAL AID ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

\$389,412+

IN FINANCIAL AID DISTRIBUTED



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

Our ongoing DEI work is one of our organization's most important undertakings. To make BKCM a welcoming, inclusive home for all New Yorkers interested in high-quality music education and music therapy, we have been examining every aspect of our organization through the lens of DEI—including our leadership, marketing, curriculum, hiring practices, recruitment efforts, individual program cultures and broader institutional culture. Students, parents, faculty, staff and the BKCM community are involved in this work, which is led by our first Director of DEI: veteran Music Partners teaching artist Uton Onyejekwe.

Guided by the feedback from our 2021 organization-wide DEI survey, in 2022 we made meaningful progress toward our goal of becoming a more diverse, equitable and inclusive institution.

- Veteran Music Partners teaching artist Uton Onyejekwe was named our first Director of DEI.
- We launched the development of our 2023 DEI survey, designed to assess progress since 2021 and identify areas for improvement.
- Project teams were formed to investigate four organizational practices through a DEI lens: hiring practices, recruitment, repertoire and events.
- We distributed nearly \$400,000 in financial aid to students and clients, including direct aid (subsidies and scholarships) and indirect assistance (helping families access government benefits).
- Melvis Santa and Jasmine Wilson were invited to join the second cohort of the Jazz Leaders Fellowship (JLF), which aims to support the careers of Black women and nonbinary jazz musicians.
- Intentional outreach and recruitment resulted in our Board of Trustees becoming more diverse and representative of the communities we serve.
- All BKCM staff and faculty participated in a three-part training workshop on developing culturally responsive and culturally sustaining teaching practices.
- BKCM's events calendar included a student-led concert series celebrating Women's History Month, a Lunar New Year celebration and an art and music showcase featuring Watermark Memory Care Unit residents' work.
- We opened our space to activists and politicians for events including a reproductive justice teach-in hosted by City Council Member Shahana Hanif.
- The launch of our new BKCM Community Music Center (CMC) is the first step towards ensuring all New Yorkers—regardless of zip code—can enjoy high-quality music education in their neighborhoods.

BKCM Events

Over 245 in-person, hybrid and virtual events in 2022 celebrated, united and inspired our community.

BKCM prides itself on creating events with four core tenets:

- Diversity: Programming that follows our DEI goals, is open to different ages, and gives a space for the wide range of cultural celebrations in NYC.
- Accessibility: Offering our events free or at low cost. Widening our offerings to different neighborhoods in the city.
- Support: Creating opportunities for professional musicians to have paid performances. Creating more performance opportunities for our students to shape their craft.
- Partnerships: Connecting with local communities, other nonprofits, and musicians to create cross-disciplinary programming.



2022

BKCM FINANCIALS

OPERATING STATEMENT

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total Earned Revenue & Public Support	\$5,740,000	\$ 5,171,000	4,577,000	\$ 4,439,000	\$ 3,853,000
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 5,551,000	\$ 4,793,000	\$ 4,508,000	\$ 4,038,000	\$ 3,582,000
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 189,000	\$ 378,000	\$ 69,000	\$ 401,000	\$ 271,000

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS

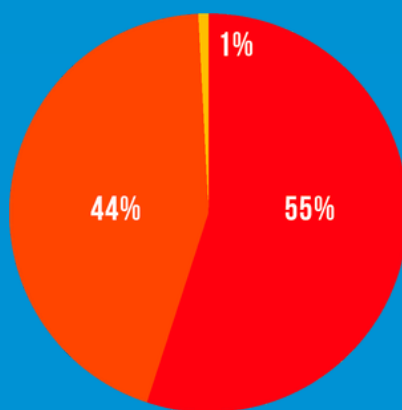
Cash	\$ 2,070,000	\$ 2,113,000	\$ 1,784,000	\$ 1,179,000	\$ 573,000
Accounts Receivable	\$ 652,000	\$ 1,105,000	\$ 398,000	\$ 560,000	\$ 993,000
Fixed Assets	\$ 2,169,000	\$ 2,147,000	\$ 1,208,000	\$ 1,171,000	\$ 1,231,000
Total Assets	\$ 4,891,000	\$ 5,365,000	\$ 3,390,000	\$ 2,910,000	\$ 2,797,000

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accruals	\$ 371,000	\$ 188,000	\$ 192,000	\$ 213,000	\$ 135,000
Loans*	\$ 1,281,000	\$ 2,057,000	\$ 1,066,000	\$ 311,000	\$ 372,000
Deferred Revenue	\$ 1,008,000	\$ 1,078,000	\$ 469,000	\$ 791,000	\$ 1,096,000
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,660,000	\$ 3,323,000	\$ 1,727,000	\$ 791,000	\$ 1,603,000
Total Net Assets	\$ 2,231,000	\$ 2,042,000	\$ 1,664,000	\$ 1,595,000	\$ 1,194,000
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$ 4,891,000	\$ 5,365,000	\$ 3,391,000	\$ 2,910,000	\$ 2,797,000

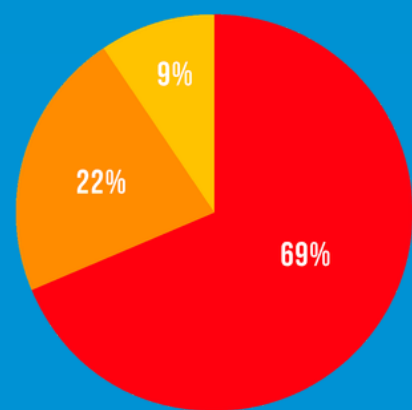
* Loans – In FY20 & FY21, \$765K of PPP loans were included each year. Both loans were forgiven.

SOURCES OF FUNDS



EARNED REVENUE \$3,289,537
 CONTRIBUTIONS \$2,629,870
 OTHER \$34,268
TOTAL \$5,953,675

USES OF FUNDS



PROGRAMMING \$3,943,569
 ADMINISTRATION \$1,249,652
 FUNDRAISING \$537,131
TOTAL \$5,730,352

THANK YOU TO OUR GOVERNMENT SUPPORTERS

BKCM is grateful for the generous support of the following New York City and State elected officials and governmental agencies:

Current and former Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams and Antonio Reynoso

Current and former New York City Council Members Alicka Ampry-Samuel, Alexa Avilés, Justin Brannan, Fernando Cabrera, Jennifer Gutiérrez, Shahana Hanif, Crystal Hudson, Rita Joseph, Peter Koo, Brad Lander, Stephen Levin, Darlene Mealy, Carlos Menchaca, Mercedes Narcisse, Sandy Nurse, Chi Ossé, Vickie Paladino, Lincoln Restler, Pierina Sanchez, and Sandra Ung

New York City Council

New York City Department of Cultural Affairs

New York City Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment

New York State Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon

New York State Council on the Arts

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

\$100,000+

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- Vero and Insoo Suh
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\$1 - \$499

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- Adam and Kathleen Vane
- Adriana Rovers
- Akiko Iwakawa-Grieve and Andy Grieve
- Akua Elias
- Alan Skarsky
- Aleasa Annan
- Alex Franklin
- Alex Weiss
- Alexa Bell
- Ali Kang and Annie Seaton
- Alice Vogt
- Alisa Bruza and Christopher Koch
- Alison Chang
- Amy Costler
- Amy Held
- Amy Mayer
- Amy Mirisola
- Amy Walfish
- Amy White Graves and Martin Graves
- Amyliz and Monty Pera
- Andrea Kihlstedt
- Andrea Taro
- Andrea Whitaker
- Andrew Bartrop
- Andrew Butters and Nahid Siamdoust
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- Anika Bhandari
- Anita Wilson
- Ann Kaslow
- Anna Luft
- Anna Tunkel and Yacov Ruthenberg
- Anna-Lise Santella
- Anne Hoerning
- Anne Townsend
- Anonymous
- April Gu
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- Archana Ayer
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