



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

VE MUSIC. CHANGE LIVES.





Our Mission

Harmony Project harnesses the transformative power of music to increase access to higher education for underserved students by removing the systemic barriers to achievement through academic and social support.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Lisa E. Delgado, Esq.

Dear Friends and Supporters,

What an evolution Harmony Project has experienced in the short span of 12 months. The past few years have presented challenges that none of us could have ever imagined, but I am proud to be part of an organization that has not only persevered, but emerged from the pandemic stronger and more innovative than before.

> That innovation carried us through nearly two years of fully virtual programming and allowed us to reach students in new ways. We enrolled students who previously faced geographic constraints, connected them virtually to professional musicians from across the country, and paired high school seniors with volunteers who offered guidance through the college application process.

Though the virtual realm has been vital to our work, the highlight of the last year was undoubtedly coming back together in person – including our students and teaching artists in the classroom, our staff collaborating with one another in our beautiful new office building, and our community of supporters at our annual luncheon. Last year was our first step forward and I am ecstatic to have the opportunity to help shape Harmony Project's future as we work to reach more young people.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the individuals who have worked tirelessly to ensure this past year was a successful one. I send heartfelt and sincere gratitude to my fellow board members, our staff members and teaching artists, our students and their families, and of course you—the growing community of Harmony Project supporters. You lift us up and propel us forward. Without you, none of the magic would happen.

With Gratitude,

Jusa O Delado

Lisa Edwards Delgado

Dear Harmony Project Family,

The COVID-19 pandemic brought upon many unforeseen challenges that Harmony Project and the communities we serve contended with on a daily basis. Things that many of us take for granted such as a warm meal or reliable internet connection became urgent needs.

As a result, we developed and implemented a Restorative Re-Entry plan earlier this year. It not only prioritized our return to in-person programming, but also accounted for the health, safety, and mental well-being of our students, staff and teaching artists. In addition, Harmony Project was able to once again provide an important component of our formula that was notably absent: **connection and community.**

Now for the first time in a very long-time things feel like they are finally returning to normal. The joyful sounds of practice have returned; friendships are flourishing; and parents/ guardians are beaming with pride as they gather patiently to greet their children after rehearsals.

These interpersonal relationships that develop organically through the shared experience of music are critical to our mission. Music connects us to one another, provides a common purpose, and serves as the foundation for an expanding community of inquisitive learners that yearn for creative expression.

I thank you all for supporting Harmony Project this past year. Due in large part to your generous financial contributions, each of our program sites has rebounded from the COVID-19 pandemic. Most importantly, you've helped us prove to ourselves as an organization that in times of crisis, together we have the capacity, capability, and compassion to meet the moment.

In Harmony,

Natalie Jackson

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Natalie Jackson



Our New Home

Harmony Project received a generous contribution from the Banchik Family Foundation, which was used to purchase a building that is now serving as our administrative headquarters.



HARMONY PROJEC

Increased Space

INUAL REPORT 2022

Coming in at 5,490 square feet, our new home is larger than any space Harmony Project has previously occupied.

A AR BA

Improved Capacity

We will have the capacity to host several programmatic elements, including group lessons, ensemble rehearsals, and informational workshops.

Long-Term Benefits

The purchase of this building offers us increased stability, autonomy over our space, and improved staff collaboration.

Our Community

Harmony Project has established an equitable and inclusive learning environment that aims to elevate the voices of our most underserved and vulnerable students. Annually, we serve more than 3,500 students in Los Angeles County/Orange County and over 1,000 students through our national affiliate programs.



GENDER

54% Female

46% Male

ETHNICITY & RACE

A MINING T

68% Latinx 3% Caucasian

8% African American

3% Biracial/Multiracial

4% Asian/Pacific Islander

14% Other

100%

Students who attend a Title 1 school and/or are enrolled in the National School Lunch Program



Our Approach

Harmony Project combines music education with a robust social support network to empower a generation of creative thinkers and confident learners to thrive as leaders in their communities.

Harmony Project Provides Every Student

Musical Instruments

Every student receives an instrument to take home and practice on.

Music Lessons

4-5 hours of weekly music instruction from a teaching artist at nearby school sites and recreational centers.

Orchestras & Concerts

Students perform music with their peers at iconic venues such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall and Hollywood Bowl.

"Harmony Project has been an inspiring and motivating force in my life."

— Jose, Percussion

Holistic Social Support

Our team of counselors, social workers, and therapists help students and their families navigate challenges at home and school.

Peer Mentoring

Advanced students support their peers through one-on-one mentoring.

Social Support

Students have access to tutoring services that help ensure they excel in the classroom.

College Attainment

Access to year-round workshops and counseling help ensure our students remain on track during the college admissions and financial aid process.

College Scholarships

We provide funding to support the college aspirations of our high school students.

Alumni Network

Alumni remain connected to Harmony Project through regular check-ins, internships, and paid music performance opportunities.



Our Impact

7.5 YEARS

Average time a graduate spent at Harmony Project.

Academic & Social Emotional Learning Outcomes

97%

College Acceptance Rate

86%

First-Generation College Student

53%

Graduates Pursuing STEM Degrees

<mark>94%</mark>

Students who know an adult at Harmony Project "believes in me"

84%

Students who increased their ability to "keep going" when faced with difficulties

2021-2022 Harmony Project Survey Data

CHANGE LIVES

PROJEC

83%

Students who felt "confident" or "sure of themselves"

"They helped me expand my knowledge and reach new potentials I didn't know I had."

— Isai , Clarinet

Our Dedication

The lasting connections forged between our students and teaching artists play an integral role in helping Harmony Project achieve our mission. How each of our students responds to these interpersonal relationships ultimately shapes their long-term experiences with us.



⁶⁶ I like that she supports me and makes me feel good.⁹⁹

— Alexander , Age 11

⁶⁶ Ms. R is nice. She is very patient with me. I like working with her.⁹⁹

— Christopher, Age 12



⁶⁶ My teacher helps me understand things better.⁹⁹

— Jasmine, Age 7





What Our Students Say



⁶⁶ She is kind and very fun and I'm happier when she's here. I always wait for Wednesday when I get to see my favorite teacher. She's amazing! ⁹⁹

— Steve, Age 13



⁶⁶ Ms. S is really nice and when I make a mistake, she says it's ok and helps me.⁹⁹ ⁶⁶ He's a great listener, he supports me, and helps me with my homework if I'm stressed.⁹⁹

— Elena, Age 16



College Access Spotlight

Interview by Leilani Hurtado Harmony Project Alumna, 2015

Rachelle Hernandez has been a part of Harmony Project since she was 7 years old. Rachelle was on the cusp of graduating from high school when she first met Christine Truong, who became a lifeline for her and helped pave the way to a postsecondary future filled with limitless possiblities.

Christine guides each graduating senior through the college application process.

Christine Truong

College & Alumni Manager

How long have you known Rachelle and what college access support did you provide?

The essay-writing phase was the beginning of our time together, and I was there [virtually] when she submitted her CSU and UC applications. I offered advice on financial aid as her offers came in, and we worked through comparing a few scenarios. We also strategized ways to get acclimated on campus, like joining clubs geared toward first-year students. Together we looked into the college mariachi band, and now Rachelle serves as a teacher for the same group.

What about Rachelle stood out to you?

Rachelle was always interested in diving deeper and she was willing to be vulnerable. She also has such good energy. Any time Rachelle is in a room with her peers, she really helps liven up the space. Something that is unique to working with young people who have a background in music is that they're really great at receiving feedback and integrating it into their work. They're also used to doing things that other high school students aren't, like scheduling a meeting, asking for what they need, and managing priorities.

What support are underserved students most in need of as it relates to college access?

In many ways, one's success in college hinges on their ability to find a sense of belonging. This is especially true for historically minoritized youth and students of color who are low-income, and/or the first in their families to go to college. Breaking through imposter syndrome is the number one issue we try to tackle before and during their college journey.

What is your favorite part of what you do?

Working with young people is the best part of the job. One, they're hilarious. They also have great observations about people and the world. They're extremely passionate and empowering if you allow them the space to speak in an uncensored way. I learn from every student I work with each and every day. This generation is so well-informed and mobilized.

Rachelle Hernandez

Harmony Project Alumna, 2021

When did you meet Christine?

During quarantine, which happened to be during my senior year, we got to know each other well. She became a prominent part of my life and helped me during the college application process.

What kind of support did you receive from the Harmony Project?

Christine would periodically check in with me and she encouraged me to apply to a four-year program. She helped me a lot in my personal statement writing process, in getting all the jumbled thoughts into a cohesive and structured essay. She listened to me talk about my experiences and helped me see the value I bring to the table. Christine allowed me to speak about certain traumas in an enlightening way and validated my experiences.

What about Christine allowed you to open up?

Christine has a very calming and reassuring presence. She made me feel like it was normal not to know everything about college. It relieved some of the pressure I felt to ask for help. There were a lot of moments where my vulnerability with her brought us closer. It allowed her to get a sense of my personality and who I was.

How are things currently going for you at **Cal Poly Humboldt?**

I've found a community here at school. I feel like I'm surrounded by people of color who have knowledge of their backgrounds and their tribes, and they've taught me so much. I can't wait to go to Mexico this summer so I can ask my grandma and family more questions about our history.

Rachelle (Age 17) is now a first year student at Cal Poly Humboldt.



"Music became an anchor for me during periods of adversity and hardship. My music lesson classroom felt like a second home."

- Rachelle, Cello



Highlights July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



JULY

Summer Programming

Across a three-week summer series, 556 students created special musical projects and showcased their work in a culminating performance. Harmony Project also produced three "Blue Couch" virtual concerts featuring alumni and teaching artists.



AUGUST

Hollywood Bowl Family Night

Hundreds of students and family members came together at the Hollywood Bowl to see Gustavo Dudamel lead Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony and Anne Akiko Meyers perform the world premiere of Arturo Márquez' violin concerto, Fandango.



SEPTEMBER

In-Person Programming

After a year and a half spent online with one another, students, teachers, and staff were thrilled to be back together again. Harmony Project implemented a hybrid model and transitioned group rehearsals to outdoor venues.



JANUARY

Staff Training

Harmony Project participated in a three-day virtual training with Creative Praxis to explore traumainformed approaches and how best to integrate them within our music education programming and social support services.



FEBRUARY

Super Bowl Celebrations

A select group of program participants had the opportunity to perform "Lift Every Voice" at Superbowl LVI with the Grammy award-winning duo, Mary Mary. Our students also performed at Adidas' "Rally To New Heights" event, which featured D-Smoke and Roddy Rich.



MARCH

Scholarship Interviews

Volunteers interviewed Banchik Scholarship applicants to learn more about their experiences at Harmony Project, while also providing each student an opportunity to practice their interviewing skills in a safe environment. "Harmony Project provided me with opportunities that I would not have access to otherwise. Along with music, I found community and a sense of belonging, leadership experience, rewarding relationships, and development of confidence."

— Tawshia, Violin



OCTOBER

Teaching Artist Training

Harmony Project launched a year-long professional development program for teaching artists focused on growth-mindset, culturally responsive pedagogy, and unit/lesson planning. This was largely made possible by a grant from the California Arts Council.



NOVEMBER

College Essay Workshops

High school seniors received one-onone support from volunteers as they wrote personal essays for their college applications. Harmony Project also provided individualized support to help students prepare and submit their college applications.



DECEMBER

Winter Recitals

Students of all ages and skill levels showcased their hard work at our end-of-semester recitals. These events included a mixture of in-person and virtual performances based on the safety protocols in place at each of our sites.



APRIL

5th Annual Concerto Competition Harmony Project hosted its fifth annual concerto competition for current students and alumni. Participating is a pivotal milestone as each young musician must perform an entire movement for a panel of adjudicators.



MAY

Graduation Ceremony

This annual in-person event celebrated the dedication of 79 graduating seniors from the Class of 2022. It featured impassioned speeches and amazing musical performances from studentled ensembles.



JUNE

Masterclass With Quetzal

Students took part in a Masterclass by Grammy Award-winning band, Quetzal, who led students in an immersive learning experience that highlighted the power of improvisation, collective group writing, and community music performances.

Our Reach

Since 2001, Harmony Project has focused on serving students living in economically and socially disadvantaged neighborhoods that lack access to tuition-free music education.

Over the past 21 years, our organization has expanded its reach to 19 Los Angeles County and Orange County-based community hubs and six affiliates located across the United States.

COMMUNITY HUBS

Altadena **Boyle Heights** Compton Crenshaw Hawthorne Hollywood Koreatown La Habra Lawndale Leimert Park Lennox Long Beach Lynwood **Nickerson Gardens** Paramount Pasadena South Los Angeles West Athens Wiseburn



National Affiliates

Our success within Southern California enabled us to establish an expanding network of affiliate programs located throughout the United States. They are independently operated under their own 501(c)(3) designation, Board of Directors, and Executive Leadership.

Harmony Project of Ventura Est. 2011

Harmony Project of Tulsa Est. 2014 Harmony Project of Hudson Est. 2015

Harmony Project of Kansas City Est. 2015 Harmony Project of Phoenix Est. 2015

Harmony Project of San Francisco Est. 2015





2022 Gala Luncheon

Harmony Project hosted our annual gala luncheon in person on May 1, 2022. We honored Jerome L. Levine, Esq. for his longtime commitment to our organization and celebrated the accomplishments of our students.

Since 2014, Jerry has served as a member of our Board of Directors, contributing his time as both a legal advisor to Harmony Project and as a mentor to our students. The beautiful afternoon witnessed amazing musical performances and inspirational speeches from members of our graduating Class of 2022.

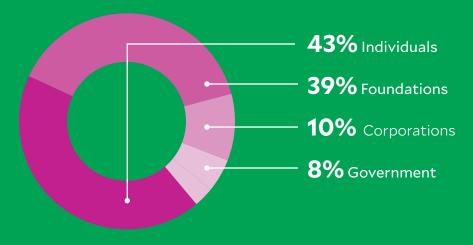
Total Raised: \$1,620,378



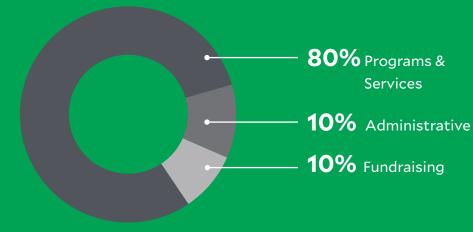
Financial Analysis & Donors

Financial Breakdown

REVENUE: \$6,254,932



EXPENSES: \$5,190,198





Conductor's Circle

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JULY 1, 2021 - JUNE 30, 2022

\$250,000 and Above

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\$100,000-\$249,999

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"The lessons I learned at the Harmony Project, both inside and outside of the classroom, will stay with me far beyond my time as a student."

— Ignacio, Guitar

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