

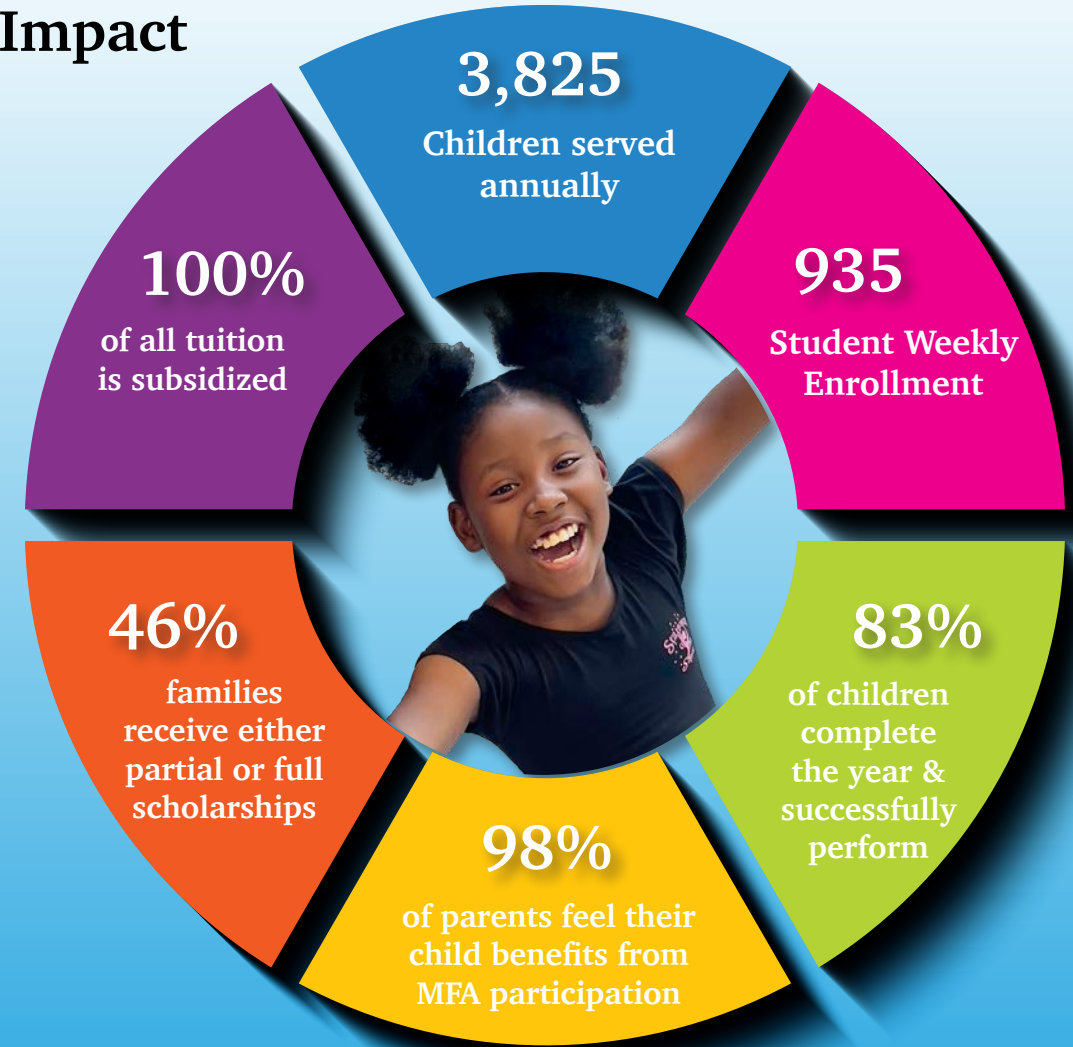
# Find Your Magic



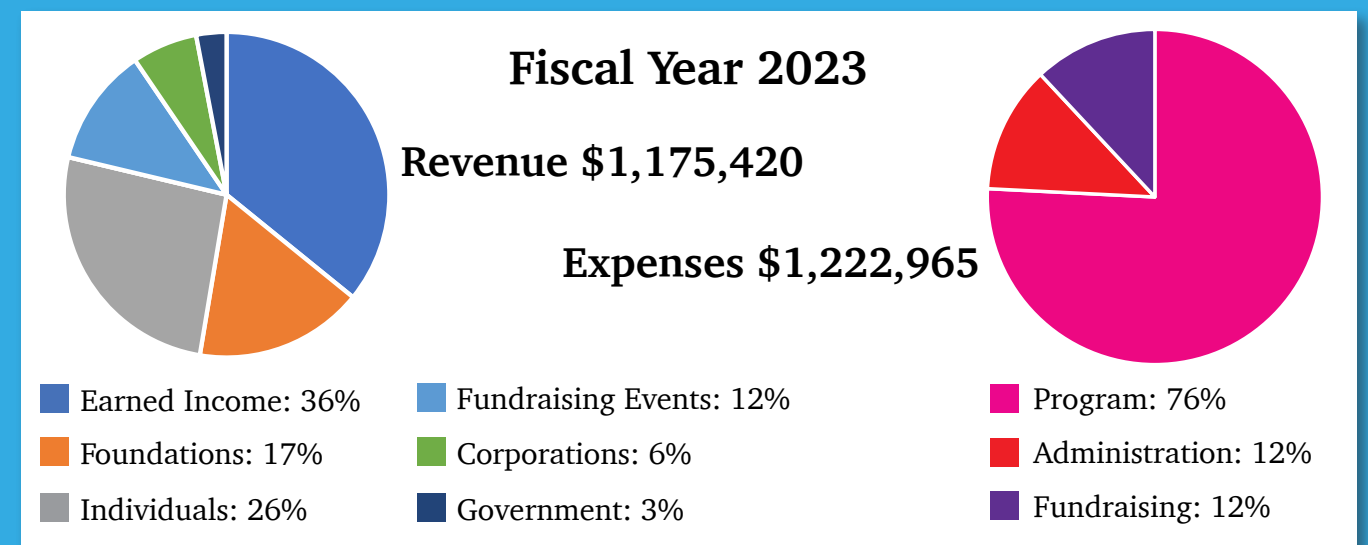
maywood fine arts

## Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report

### Our Impact



### Financial Overview



MFA is proud to maintain a wide mix of support, this year with growth in individual and earned income. The FY23 deficit is due to depreciation as a result of improvements to the Fine Arts Building. MFA has strong financial reserves, with FY24 currently 10% over budget.

Comments from Maywood Fine Arts 2023 Parent Satisfaction Survey

*“I love the opportunity to better our community with arts and I love how passionate and serious the teachers are about arts education.”*

*“My child is happy to go and would go everyday if permitted. Her face lights up every time she walks in the building.”*

*“My family is only able to afford MFA because of the scholarship opportunities and we are grateful that this is available.”*

*“I'm really impressed with the level of the shows and hope that my child wants to stick with it to gain the talent demonstrated by the older kids.”*

*“I love that MFA is so affordable compared to other programs. I also think it's beautiful to see how every child is accepted and encouraged to participate. This creates an environment where kids feel comfortable to be themselves and is exactly the type of environment I want my kids to be a part of.”*

*Dear Friends of Maywood Fine Arts...*

We say it every year, but we say it because it is true – Maywood Fine Arts would not be here providing arts and learning experiences for thousands of children if it weren't for all of the contributors, families, friends, audiences, and community leaders who support us throughout the year! In this report for our fiscal year 2023, we highlight the many ways that we come together to make a difference in children's lives, and in supporting their growth, creative expression, and spirit of teamwork.

As stewards of the Maywood Fine Arts experience, our commitment stems from knowing that everything we do will benefit the children we serve and have an impact on their lives now and in the future. MFA's Board of Directors has adopted Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that inform our planning and provide goals to meet these commitments in critical areas. On the first page of this Annual Report, we've illustrated just where and how this impact occurs and is measured.

To realize this impact on our students' lives each year requires a tremendous effort by our amazing team of teachers, staff, and board, as well as donors, parents, and community volunteers. Our robust enrollment demonstrates parents' confidence in the role MFA plays in their children's lives. In this report, we are thrilled to spotlight an MFA family, alumnus, teacher, and donor, each of whom tell their story and why MFA is important to them.

For so many reasons that will be presented in this report, and for all the ways you have played a part in “making the magic happen,” we are grateful.

*Lois Baumann*  
Executive Director

*Nancy Payne*  
President, Board of Directors



# Making the Magic Happen!

Maywood Fine Arts didn't just survive the "COVID Years." We learned from them, we grew, and exceeded expectations. In fact, those challenging experiences helped us strengthen the trust that our parents, community, staff, and supporters have in what we do. And here's a brief look at why...

## Dedication to Students and Families

Enrollment has steadily grown over the last three years with MFA returning to pre-COVID numbers in FY23. We continue to bring quality learning experiences and are proud to make available to our families a wide variety of arts and fitness programming. As many of our families are among the hardest hit by inflation, all of our tuition is subsidized and we take distinct pride in the fact that we have not increased tuition for the past 15 years.

## Key Performance Indicators Measure Our Impact

In FY23, MFA worked to create Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that provide a guide to MFA board and staff in meeting specific critical goals for our programs, revenue, reserves, and fundraising. These indicators inform our planning for the future to ensure that MFA meets its commitment to students, families, and the community to remain a thriving organization. *Check out our program KPIs on the first page of this report.*

## Recruiting and Retaining a Dedicated, Professional Staff

To ensure a quality teaching environment, MFA increased benefits for full-time staff and worked specifically to increase supportive measures, such as wellness and financial support resources for our 20 part-time teachers.

## Community Engagement and Support

MFA is committed to its long-term partnership with Maywood School District 89 that brings students and teachers to our Classical Ballet each year. This year, the partnership expanded to include 300 pre-school children from the district and their parents who attended workshops held at MFA in dance and tumbling.

## Growth and Development of MFA's Board of Directors

A critical part of MFA's organizational success as a non-profit is the leadership of our Board of Directors. This year, the Board increased from 7 to 10 professionals with key experiences across business, education, and public sectors. Adding to its current governance committees of Board Development, Finance, Fundraising, and Facilities, the Board added a fifth committee focused on Communications.

## The Fine Arts and the Stairway of the Stars Buildings

One of MFA's strengths as an organization and as a community presence is in the two buildings we own and maintain at Fifth and Lake streets in downtown Maywood. These buildings are not just bricks and mortar to our students and families...they are "home." In fact, 88% of our space is dedicated to MFA's classes and programs.



## Family Spotlight - The Burns Family

Assel Kozhakhmetova and her children, Ora (12), Zara (8), Kai (6) and Alan (5) Burns are collectively taking a dozen classes at MFA. They are a wonderful example of what is possible at MFA where 52% of families have children who take more than one class.

Assel is passionate about providing her children with the benefits these classes offer – knowledge, skills, discipline, and a chance to form social connections – all of which can benefit them in life. Plus, as she points out, MFA is "very affordable" which is an important factor in why she brings her children here and continues to add classes.

As for her children Ora, who is taking karate, violin, piano and drum classes, would like to pick up guitar next while Zara would choose visual arts classes over all others in a heartbeat.

The two youngest, Kai and Allan, come out of their classes "all smiles."

Assel stated emphatically, "I love that this is a complete community where you feel like you're a part of something big...I feel understood."

## Alumni Spotlight - Kelauni Jasmyn

Kelauni Jasmyn is no stranger to the spotlight. As a Maywood Fine Arts alumna and one of the original *Get Off the Street and On Your Feet* (GOTS) youth leaders, she cut her teeth performing during her fourteen years as a student. Acting, singing, dancing, tumbling – you name it, she did it all!

And she's still doing it all as the Founder and Executive Director of the non-profit, Black Tech Nation, whose goal is to gather Black tech entrepreneurs and professionals from across the nation to educate, support and fund the next generation of "Black Unicorns" within the tech industry.

When asked to explain MFA's impact on her, Kelauni said that it's hard to state because it was such an integral part of her life growing up. Most definitely, being in a safe environment where people looked like her and cared about her well-being profoundly affected her, particularly in building her confidence.

With pride in her voice, Kelauni recounted a memory from her days as a GOTS youth leader. She and her fellow team members had to fully choreograph a dance routine to Gwen Stefani's "Hollaback Girl" with no outside help or counsel. She says that this experience perfectly encapsulated the life skills she gained as a GOTS member, namely the ability to collaborate with one's peers and how to successfully negotiate as a member of a team. Plus, she says with a grin on her face, most of the steps for that dance routine ended up being her own!

Kelauni is also incredibly proud of her business which has surpassed all of her expectations. Being able to gather and empower black techies so that they don't feel like they are the only ones in the room is a mission that resonates with MFA.

Kelauni finished by stating how vital it is for children to grow up surrounded by adults who support them as she had at MFA and with her parents. Hearing people all her life say that she can do anything has resulted in her believing them.



## Teacher Spotlight - Carter Luke



Like a wandering minstrel, Carter Luke has had a well-traveled life as a musician. Music has taken him from California to Michigan; it has even led him as far north as Alaska, when he worked as a piano player on a cruise ship. Fortunately, his longest stop has been at Maywood Fine Arts where he has worked as a music teacher since 2001.

It was a stroke of luck which delivered Mr. Carter (as his students call him) to MFA's door. His wife Amy spotted MFA tumblers at a festival in Oak Park and they discovered that MFA had recently opened a music school. Thus, a musical partnership took root and has flourished over twenty years (and counting).

Carter's career as a professional musician has included gigs with Les DeMerle, the Kevin Purcell Blues Band and as a solo pianist for the Green Mill Poetry Slam in the 90s. His most memorable gig was with the Hollywood actress Martha Plimpton at Second City. Carter proudly states, "we killed it!"

But it is his work as a music teacher which has had such a profound impact on so many children over the years. These children include Nathaniel Wilkerson who came to Carter at the age of 8 and is currently touring the country as the Assistant Musical Director for *MJ, the Musical*. Whenever Nathaniel is back in town he always makes time to jam with his favorite music teacher!

Carter stated, "Having that first good music teacher is so critical, and has such an impact. If you can get them interested, engaged, it can keep them going" for the rest of their life.

## Donor Spotlight - Dawn Bennett

Dawn knows it all when it comes to Maywood Fine Arts and that's because she has served the organization in every capacity—as a student, teacher, parent, alumnus, and donor!

At the age of 5, Dawn distinctly remembers seeing Lois Baumann and her students not just marching in the Maywood Bataan Day Parade but doing cartwheels. This combination of joy, fun and artistic skills made Dawn immediately beg her mother to sign her up for classes!

She's been a part of MFA ever since, truly treasuring her time as a student and the long-lasting friendships she made with other MFA alumni.

When she became a mother, it was a no-brainer that she would bring her children to MFA; in fact, her youngest, Maya, was a GOTS Youth Leader. To explain her reason for bringing her children there for dance and tumbling training, "Why settle for less than the best? And Maywood Fine Arts is the best!"

Dawn learned an infinite number of things from her years at MFA, such as what it means to give back to a community, how to think creatively as well as how to help others feel comfortable within their own skin. But most importantly, she says, is the fact that they made her a better person and they continue to brighten this world. For this reason, she gladly makes recurring donations to MFA via automatic payroll deductions.

Dawn is an absolute *GEM* - willing to "Give (back) Every Month", ensuring that children have the same opportunity she did to grow and thrive through the arts!



## Thank You for Being a Part of the Magic!

Maywood Fine Arts would like to thank all of our 2023 Fiscal Year (August 2022 - July 2023) donors and supporters

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