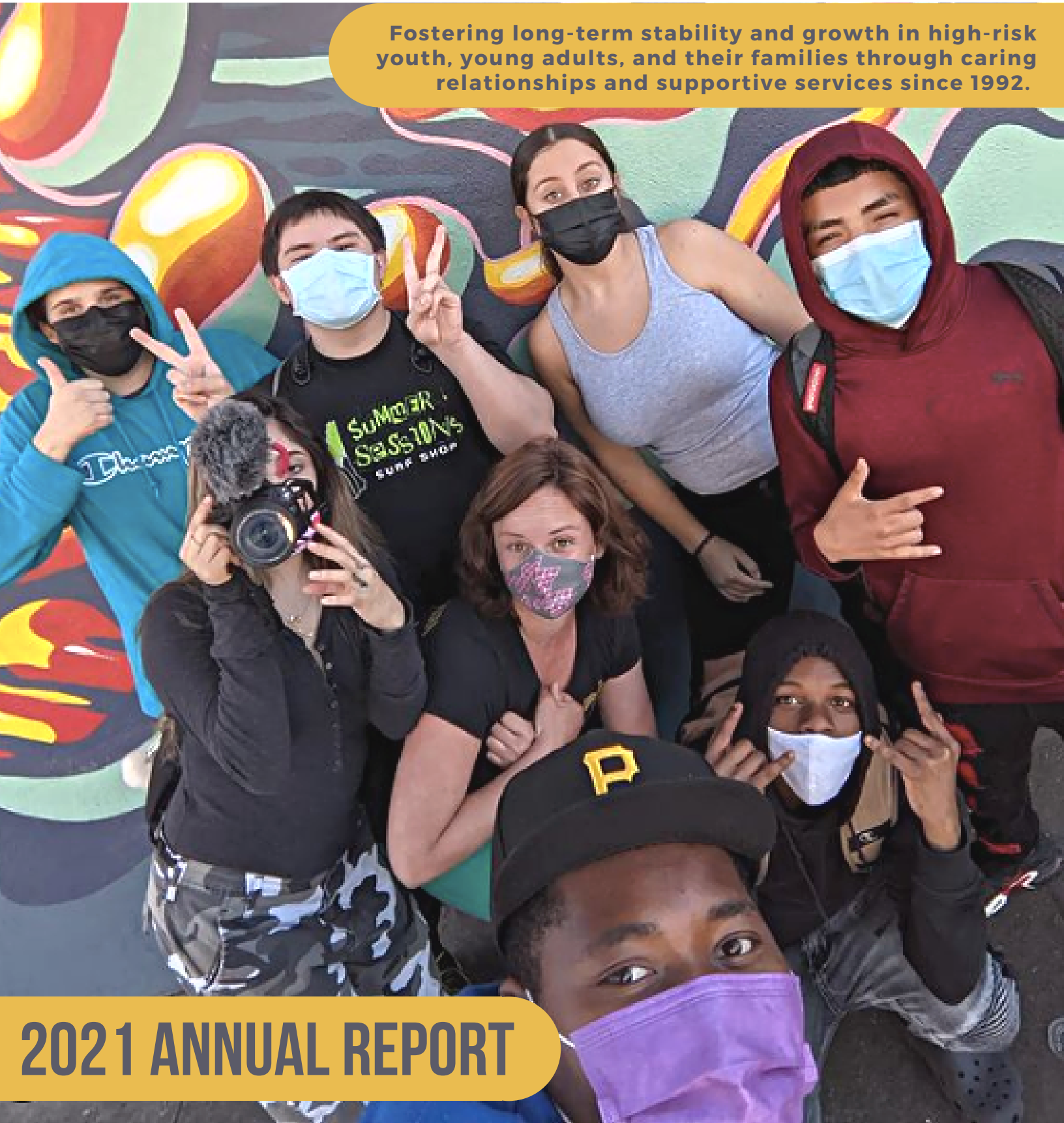




# Sunset Youth SERVICES

Fostering long-term stability and growth in high-risk youth, young adults, and their families through caring relationships and supportive services since 1992.



2021 ANNUAL REPORT



## YEAR IN REVIEW

Friends,

The first half of 2021 was spent living through the adjustments and evolving reality of COVID. Thankfully, by the publication of this report—businesses have reopened, students are back at school, and even the mask mandate is no longer in effect. But our fiscal year (July 2020-June 2021) was a doozy. We were still in the thick of the shut-down with grim COVID spikes at the holidays and ongoing concerns about when we would ever safely reopen.



It was a year of firsts and a lot of resourcefulness. Faithful volunteers built our inaugural parklet to expand our COVID-safe meeting spaces. We were asked to be the lead agency for the city of San Francisco's Community Hubs initiative—offering COVID-safe learning pods for K-8 children through the end of the school year. We started a community diaper bank and offered baby formula and crisis support to low-income young parents and families. And we learned how to pull off a benefit gala from a parking lot! All was made possible by unwavering partners who wanted to do their part and were happy to get creative with us.

We also enjoyed several milestone partnerships! Our youth were invited to perform at the Kronos Festival after several years of collaboration with the award-winning and groundbreaking Kronos string quartet. And we celebrated 10 years of Triple P—a 12-week positive parenting workshop that has helped us support and equip hundreds of SF parents, children, and teens.

Happily, in June—thanks to generous donors, partners, and the state of California—we reopened our youth center and resumed in-person programming. We are grieving the absence of young people we've lost this year and are scarred by our losses—but we are dancing and singing because we are in community, in the same physical space once more, and can freely hug again!

You've been a vital part of this journey and our ongoing commitment to see young people and their families thrive. Thank you for seeing the value of these precious lives and joining us in this good work!

With love,

*Laura*

# WHO WE SERVE

**We support the most vulnerable and disconnected youth in the city.**

**MOST SYS YOUNG PEOPLE EXPERIENCE:**



poverty



childhood trauma, abuse, abandonment, or neglect



unsafe neighborhoods

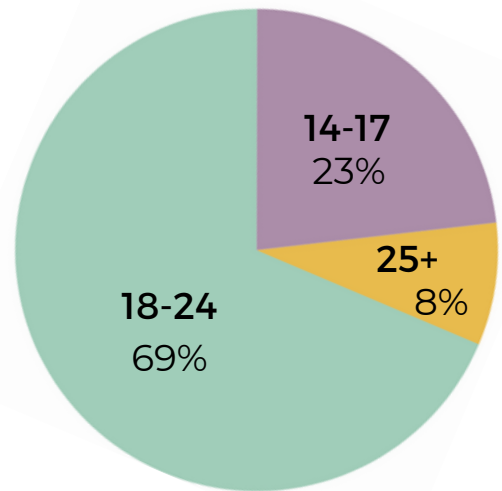


school suspension or expulsion

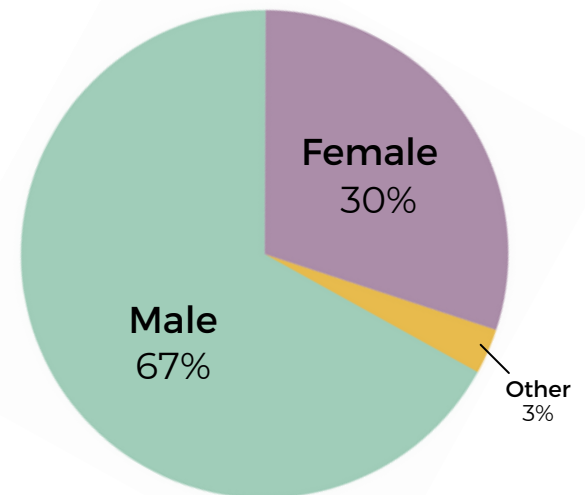


incarceration or harmful impact from systems involvement

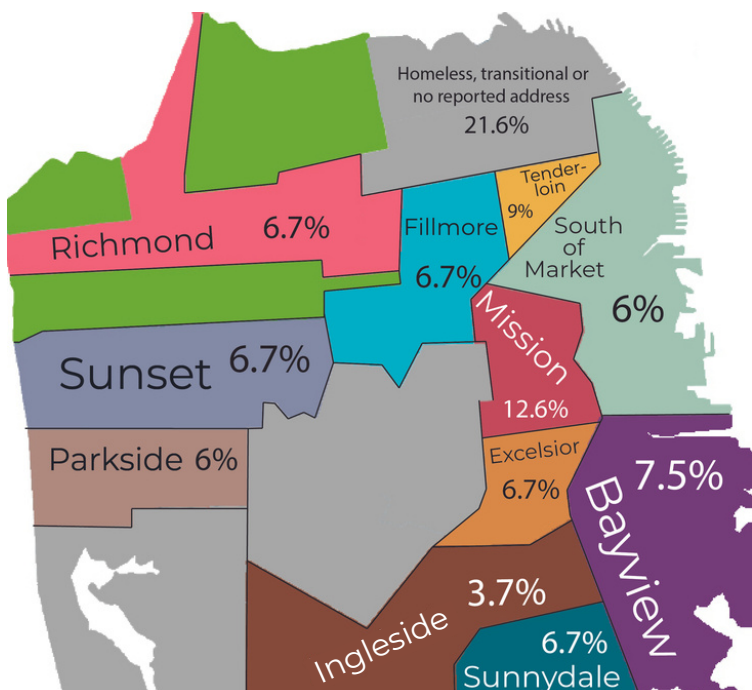
## AGE



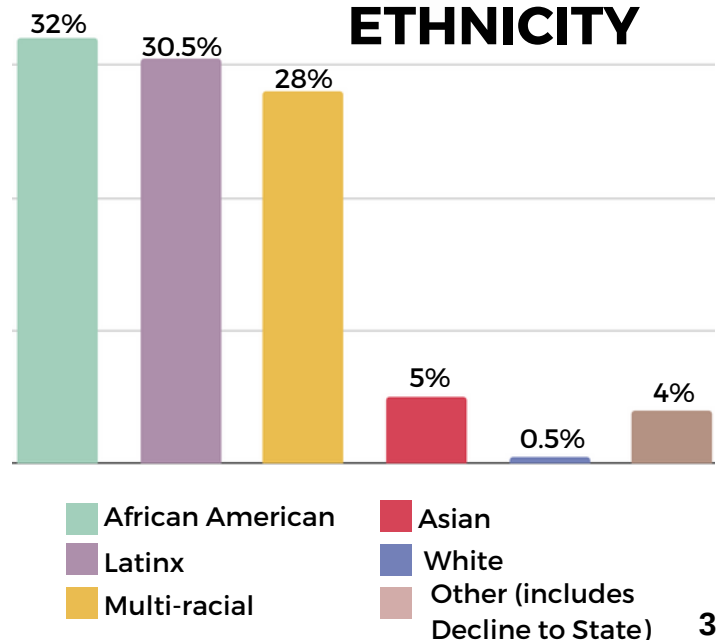
## GENDER



# WHERE SYS YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE



## ETHNICITY





# WHAT WE DO



We bring digital arts programs and our mobile recording studio to public schools as an outreach to high-risk youth.

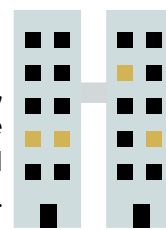
## PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Young people grow life skills through community internships, employment, healing arts activities, and performance opportunities.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Through partnerships with Juvenile Hall, Young Adult Court, and other justice stakeholders, we support systems-impacted young people as they re-enter society.



## JUSTICE SYSTEM

**SYS builds strong families, supports healthy communities, and helps young people chart a stable path to adulthood.**



## FAMILIES

Teen parents and low-income families participate in our parenting classes, receive supplemental groceries and diapers, and access support through our Family Resource Center (SFRC) network.



SOCIALLY-DISTANCED MEETUPS



VIRTUAL PROGRAMMING



BENEFIT GALA AT LAKE MERCED



FIRST-EVER DIAPER BANK AT SFRC

# HOW WE DO IT

## OUR PROGRAM PATHWAYS TO CONNECTION & HEALING

Healthy attachments create safety, security, and a sense of well-being. We provide a caring web of relationships woven throughout our programs. Connected youth are better equipped to thrive in school, at work, in families, and in other social systems.

### FAMILY SUPPORT

**43** families in parenting classes learned to identify needs, brainstorm options, and establish positive parenting goals



**75** families received weekly staff or volunteer-delivered supplemental groceries

**16** monthly support group meetings

**40** families worked with case management to access crisis support and community services

**356** diaper boxes distributed (100 - 200 diapers per box)

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**43** Upstar Records interns participated in training and mentoring opportunities, operating as marketing associates, sound mixers/engineers, and music producers for the record label



**24** Clear Path justice-involved young people worked on removing barriers and gaining job skills and employment with partners like Cal Academy



**9** Café youth interns practiced restaurant-readiness skills, safe food handling and preparation, and earned their Food Handler's Card

**13** youth picked up experience and skills in employment projects such as car restoration, radio production, healthcare, and sound engineering

# DIGITAL ARTS & TECHNOLOGY

134

youth artists worked on creative projects, gaining skills in songwriting, digital audio recording and engineering, beat sequencing, DJing, live sound, photography, and video shooting and editing



33

Upstar TV and Upstar Records music videos created

## JUSTICE SERVICES

92%

non-recidivism rate—the percentage of youth who did not sustain convictions while in our programs



120

young people worked with case management staff to remove barriers and break patterns of violence, navigate the justice system, and to participate in SYS programs

## HEALING ARTS

200

total hours of healing arts and therapy that created emotional and relational safe spaces and promoted healing and growth

14

young people engaged in trauma-recovery groups with mental and behavioral health activities





# JUSTICE REFORM INITIATIVES



Photo: Kevin N. Hume

From the beginning of our work 30 years ago, we've seen firsthand the devastating effects of incarceration on young lives, families, and communities. There were many things we could do to buffer kids from the harm, but punitive systems were never designed to help kids heal, learn, or grow. Juvenile hall mirrors prison, enforces isolation, and cuts kids off from supportive family members and advocates—hardening hearts and stealing hope. We offered direct services, diversion programs, and caring relationships...but we knew we had to do more.

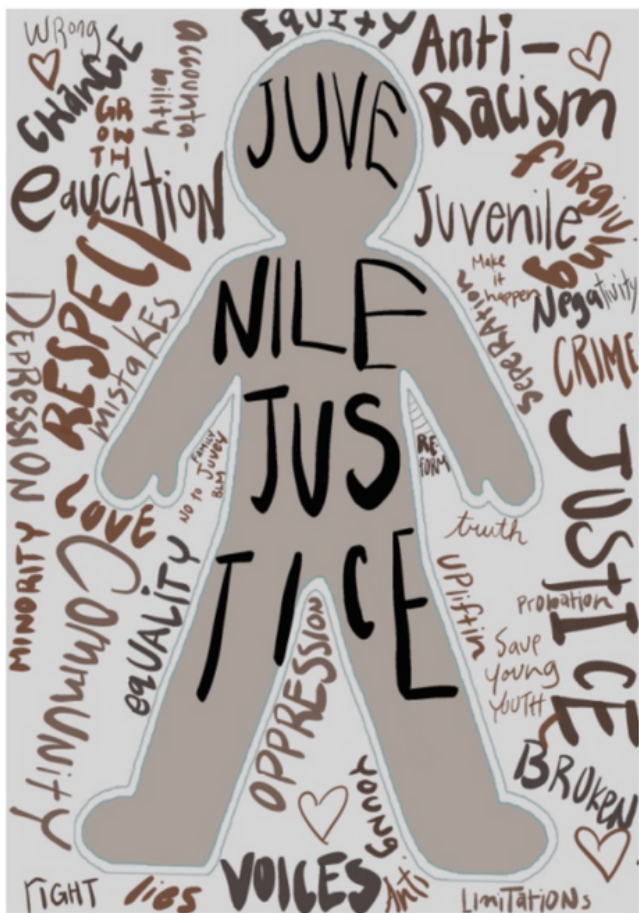
In 2018 we began talking to systems partners. Could juvenile hall be closed down? What would it take? Could we imagine something better? How would it be funded? What kind of political will would be needed?

We spent hundreds of hours in meetings, collaborating with community members, partners, and local officials to press for change. By June of 2019 city supervisors voted almost unanimously to close an “outdated and expensive” juvenile hall—the first major city in the U.S. to do so.

In 2020 the Juvenile Justice Providers Association (a network of 20+ SF agencies that we help to lead), began meeting weekly through quarantine to research and write a blueprint for justice reform. We spent hundreds more hours in committees and subcommittees, gathering input from stakeholders and community members and refining ideas, so that we could present the following JJPA Blueprint recommendations to city supervisors:

- Reduce the footprint of juvenile probation in the life of SF youth
- Immediately implement policies to reduce the number of youth in detention
- Commit to closing juvenile hall in order to reduce harm to youth
- Change the system to prioritize the health and wellbeing of young people

In the process, we helped define what community-based care might look like in homelike environments with therapy, education, and other resources in partnerships with teachers, families and others invested in the life of the young person. Our recommendations included how to finance these changes by reallocating specific city funds.



We're now helping to reimagine what comes next. How will youth, their families, and communities be prioritized and given a voice in the process? What barriers need to be removed to see these young people grow and thrive? What kinds of collaboration are needed to prevent further harm and foster healing and hope?

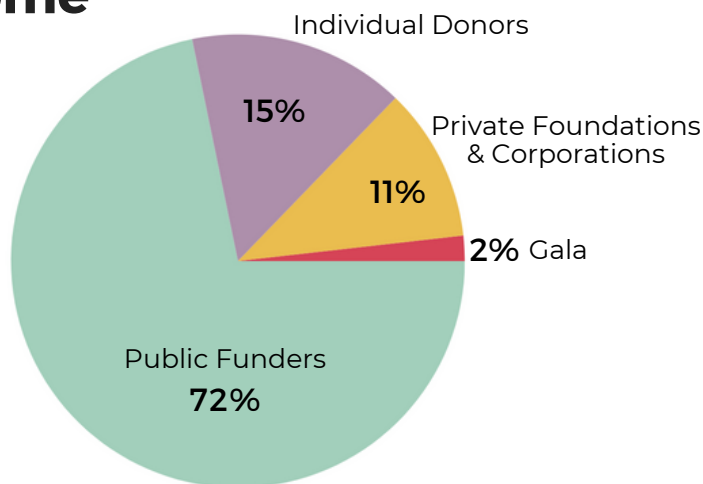
While the work is frustrating, slow, and often mired in mind-numbing bureaucracy—we believe this process has the potential to lay the groundwork for wide-ranging juvenile justice reform and a restorative justice model where young people are not treated as problems to be solved so much as essential partners and community members whose health and well-being are essential to the thriving of our communities.

Mayzie Dajani, JJPA 2021 youth art contest



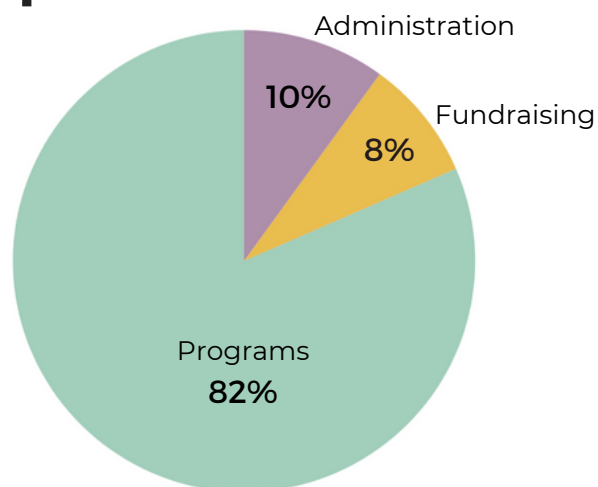
# YOUR DONATION AT WORK

## Income



Total: \$2,630,582

## Expenses



Total: \$2,139,395



## YOU MAKE OUR WORK POSSIBLE!

### Our Faithful Individual Donors

We're humbled by your generosity and sacrificial giving. Thank you!

### Public Funders

Dept. of Children, Youth & Their Families  
First 5 San Francisco  
Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development

### Private Foundations and Corporations

Advent  
Adobe  
Altria Client Services, Inc  
Antares

Avid  
Bay Area Community Resources  
Blk & Bold LLC  
Conway Frankel Family  
East Bay Community Foundation  
George H Sandy Foundation  
Henry Mayo Newhall Foundation  
Kimball Foundation  
Kronos Quartet  
Miranda Lux Foundation  
Morris Stulsaft Foundation  
Outside Lands Works Fund  
Ross Stores Foundation  
Slate Digital  
Spectronics

Universal Audio  
Warm Audio  
Whole Foods Market  
YEF

### Faith Communities

Cornerstone  
Crescent City Church of the Nazarene  
Lifelight Church  
Reality San Francisco  
San Francisco New Life Church of the Nazarene  
Santa Clara Church of the Nazarene  
Sunset Ministry



# WHO WE ARE

## STAFF

### Executive Team

Dawn Stueckle, Co-Founder, Executive Director  
 Delvin Mack, Co-Founder, Director of Operations  
 Ron Stueckle, Co-Founder, Director of Justice Services

### Justice Services

Natalie Rodriguez, Case Manager  
 Kaitlin Wahl, Case Manager

### Digital Arts & Technology Program

Joel Tarman, Director  
 Wendy Baker, Facilitator  
 Rymo Cortado, Creative Lead  
 Miguel Navarro, Creative Lead  
 Pedro Reyes, Creative Arts Specialist  
 Beronica Zelaya\*, Creative Arts Specialist

### Workforce Development Program

Vicky Fashho\*, Employment Coordinator  
 Mutasem Dajani\*, Life Skills Coach

### Family Support Services

Maria Dajani\*, Family Success Coach  
 Carrie Peng, Family Success Coach

### Healing Arts Program

Erika Pappas, Director

### Development, Communications and Finance

Mary Loebig Giles, Assoc. Director, Dev. & Comms  
 Melissa Laureta, Assoc. Director, Dev. & Comms  
 Mary O'Reilly, Executive Assistant  
 Marissa Majid, Bookkeeper

\*Former SYS youth

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Dominique Charles  
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 Jenny Yung



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[www.sunsetyouthservices.org](http://www.sunsetyouthservices.org)