

# CULTURE FOR ONE

BRINGING THE POWER OF THE ARTS TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE



# ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

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# TO OUR SUPPORTERS

As we begin our new fiscal year, allow us to share with you some of the highlights of the past year.

## OUR ORGANIZATION IS GROWING

- The Board of Directors recruited 5 new members, bringing the total number to 14. We are excited to welcome our new members, who offer diverse talent, plans for growth, and a lot of enthusiasm.
- Our growing Young Professionals Board held two successful fundraising campaigns this year.

## OUR PARTNER NETWORK IS GROWING

- CFO and the global art gallery Hauser and Wirth collaborated on an interactive learning program.  
We expect this partnership to grow this FY2024.
- BBDO, a worldwide advertising agency, is partnering with us to create marketing materials to promote our mission.

Finally, our financial health is strong. With our new partners, increased donor base, and growing Board of Directors, we project a 20% increase in revenue in FY2024. We are poised to serve even more young people with ever better programming.

We would not be where we are today without you. Your support and commitment to our mission means that we can continue to be a transformative force in the lives of youth in foster care.

With our deepest gratitude,  
The CFO Board and Staff

## OUR MISSION

Culture For One transforms the lives of New York City children in foster care through the power of the arts. Our Cultural Excursions, Arts Scholarships, and Arts Workshops Programs inspire creativity, create community, and introduce vulnerable young people to broader possibilities for their future.

We are the only non-profit in NYC devoted solely to ensuring that youth in foster care have access to the arts. We fill a critical gap in child welfare services: while the arts are known to promote healthy growth at every developmental stage, opportunities to engage in the arts are rarely available to youth in foster care. Our programs introduce the youth to the wonders and magic of the arts, from music, dance, and painting to fashion, writing, and theater. Culture For One programs deliver sources of motivation that young people need to thrive, not just survive.



# PROGRAMMING

## ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

We are proud to report that our Arts Scholarships Program awarded

## 93 ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

at cultural institutions throughout NYC, including:

Art House Astoria · Astoria Dance Center Children of Promise · ESOTA Dance Studio · Harlem School of the Arts Hauser & Wirth · Dance Atlantic Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning NY Sewing School · Naked Angels Theater Company · Rockaway Beach Dance Company · SPUD! · The Barrow Group · The Legacy Youth · Ultimate Dance Academy

“ Thank you Culture For One, for the support you have shown me since I was in foster care and for continuing to after I aged out. You have always kept me in mind for opportunities, never doubted my strengths, mentioned my name in rooms I was not in, and have always supported my art. ”

-Delilah, participant in CFO programs



# PROGRAMMING

## CULTURAL EXCURSIONS

Our Cultural Excursions served

**576 YOUTH & FAMILIES**

**BROADWAY SHOWS INCLUDED:**

Beetlejuice · Wicked · Chicago  
Death of a Salesman · Ain't No Mo'  
The Lion King · Into the Woods  
Topdog/Underdog · Life of Pi · Bob  
Fosse's Dancin' · Fat Ham · Shucked!  
Kimberly Akimbo · New York, New York  
Harry Potter and the Cursed Child

**DANCE & MUSEUM EXCURSIONS  
INCLUDED:**

Alvin Ailey · Rennie Harris Lifted  
Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE · Camille  
Brown · Story Pirates · Cookin' · Sesame  
Street The Musical · NYC Ballet Family  
Saturdays · Guided Tour at FIT  
American Museum of Natural History  
JLCO: Journey Through Jazz Part II  
Mark Bradford's "You Don't Have to Tell  
Me Twice" · New Museum Guided Tour  
RISE: Celebrating Dr. Maya Angelou  
Radio City Christmas Spectacular  
Spotify Cool Company Visit · The Little  
Mermaid · [R]Evolution of Hip Hop

“ Thank you very much for inviting us to see  
Wicked. The kids were in awe with the play.  
Great experience for them. They talked about  
it on the way home. Much appreciated!

”

-Linda May, foster Mom



# PROGRAMMING

## CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS

Throughout our foster agency partner residences, **951 YOUTH** participated in

## 195 ARTS WORKSHOPS

in therapeutic art, creative storytime, acting, creative writing, Black History Art, dance, music, vision boards, and podcast production.

“*My dream is to inspire change in our society. I have never been a part of anything like this workshop before. It was awesome. My favorite part was getting to act alongside the team members. The only thing that would have made it better would have been knowing that it would happen again.*”

-Hope, participant in CFO programs

## FAMILY ARTOGETHER PROGRAM

The **Family ArTogether Program** is a “shared art experience” designed for foster children and birth parents or foster parents to bond over literature and visual art.

The program was designed for children who are transitioning from a residence to a foster home, as well as for birth parent visits to their children living in residences.

## 176 FAMILY ARTOGETHER PACKAGES

were distributed in FY23.



# CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVED

## PROGRAMMING SUMMARY (JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023)

TYPE	# OF ACTIVITIES	CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVED
EXCURSIONS	61	576
ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS	93	65
WORKSHOPS	195	951
FAMILY ARTOGETHER	2	176
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>351</b>	<b>1768</b>

## PROGRAMMING SUMMARY SINCE INCEPTION (2010)

TYPE	# OF ACTIVITIES	CHILDREN & YOUTH SERVED
EXCURSIONS	449	3325
ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS	578	490
WORKSHOPS	1532	8449
FAMILY ARTOGETHER	122	2008
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2681</b>	<b>14272</b>





# NEW CULTURAL PARTNERS

Our Programs have a profound effect on the youth we serve and our work is recognized in the NYC foster care and arts community, often leading to new partnerships and access to more opportunities for the young people we serve.

This year brought about an exciting new collaboration with Hauser & Wirth, a global art gallery. Hauser & Wirth, invited us to collaborate with them on their first Learning Initiative. We learned that Mark Bradford, a renowned LA-based artist whose show "[You Don't Have to Tell Me Twice](#)" was on exhibit at that time, wanted to create a project with youth in foster care.

For 4 weeks, 8 youth were immersed with Mr. Bradford and the gallery staff, learning the workings of an art gallery and hearing from Mr. Bradford himself about his professional and personal journey in the art world.

The youth have been consistent, knowledgeable, and professional on all their tours. Their unique interpretations based on their own instincts, along with all the information and insights provided by Mr. Bradford during their time with him, have continued to impress staff and visitors at the gallery. 7



# MEET OUR HAUSER & WIRTH TOUR GUIDES



“ From the moment we arrived, we were captivated by the stunning display of Mark Bradford's artworks, each one pulsating with depth, emotion, and thought-provoking narratives. What was even more impressive was the insight Kim, Nickson, and Carlos provided and their amazing presentation skills. ”

-Kyle M, Gallery visitor

## **BINGQIAN**

BingQian is a new member of the Culture For One family. Bing is a mixed media and art student at Purchase College. She lives in Queens with foster mom extraordinaire, Keturah. Bing has been a devoted tour guide and has been deeply affected by her time with the artist Mark Bradford, and the Hauser & Wirth gallery in general. This summer, BingQian choose to spend her birthday at a Culture For One sponsored Broadway show, and a pop in visit to the gallery. Hauser & Wirth staff, and Culture For One are touched and thrilled by Bing's embrace of this experience. We were lucky enough to connect with Bing through our efforts to find the right young people for this opportunity. We have a new forever member of the CFO family in Bing.

## **CARLOS**

Carlos is a mixed media student at NYU Tisch School of the Arts. We met Carlos through our outreach to our agency partners as we searched for the right students to participate in this wonderful opportunity with the artist Mark Bradford. They have been a great addition to the project, always offering original, thoughtful, and insightful commentary to the work. Their confident, original approach to everything they do has helped our staff and the public to see the artist's work in a new, honest way. We are so grateful to have met Carlos and look forward to a long relationship.

## **DELILAH**

Delilah is a longtime participant in CFO programs. She is an exceptionally talented artist and has studied at the Arts Student League as a Culture For One Arts Scholarship recipient. After aging out of care, Delilah worked in development at Good Shepherd Services foster care agency and is now thrilled to have secured a job with the Museum of Indigenous People in NYC. She loves to paint and has formed close ties with the gallery educational staff who are mentoring her as she looks towards a bright future.

## **FRANCLINE**

Fran is an aspiring fashion designer at Brooklyn College. She is also a student in trade school learning high-end sewing skills. We admire her career direction and focus on her goals. Fran's smile is infectious, and although she is juggling all of her classes and the unique challenges of navigating a future without parental support, Fran shows up with a smile and a positive, warm embrace of everyone around her.

## **JASMINE**

Jasmine is a student at Brooklyn College. She is a naturally creative person, and searching for a direction for her talent and interests. Jasmine is quiet and strong and although she couldn't participate for the length of the project, we will always remember her original insight into the work, and her connection with Mark Bradford as he encouraged the youth to stand up for themselves personally, and in the world.

## **KYM**

Kym is a Culture For One superstar, excelling as an Arts Scholarship student in acting, and being an intrepid Cultural Excursion participant. Kym lives in Queens with her devoted foster parent, Keturah. Kym is entering her freshman year on a full scholarship to NYU Tisch School of the Arts. She has been a treasured spokesperson for Culture For One, and an inspiring example of what resilience, passion for the arts, and support can mean to a young person in care. We are proud to be a part of Kym's village and can't wait to be present and by her side as she takes on the world.

## **MARISSA**

Culture For One was introduced to Marissa when she was a teen living in residential care in Manhattan. Marissa is a talented illustrator and wanted to attend college at an art school. Culture For One connected Marissa to our teaching artist in art to create a portfolio, and not only did Marissa get accepted into every art school to which she applied, a beautiful relationship was developed that endures to this day. Marissa is finishing a very successful freshman year at FIT and is a lovely, and enthusiastic participant on many of our Excursions. She is Culture For One family.

## **NICKSON**

Nickson is a charming, brilliant, and talented young man. He lives in residential care in Manhattan. Nickson holds the title of second fastest runner in New York State, studies piano as a Culture For One Arts Scholarship student, and also founded a business investment club at his high school, earning him a write-up in a Brooklyn newspaper. Nickson has been offered a scholarship to Georgetown University. Before attending Georgetown, Nickson is taking a gap year to pursue his passion for real estate development, interning with an architect and making friends and connections wherever he goes.

# NEW CULTURAL PARTNERS

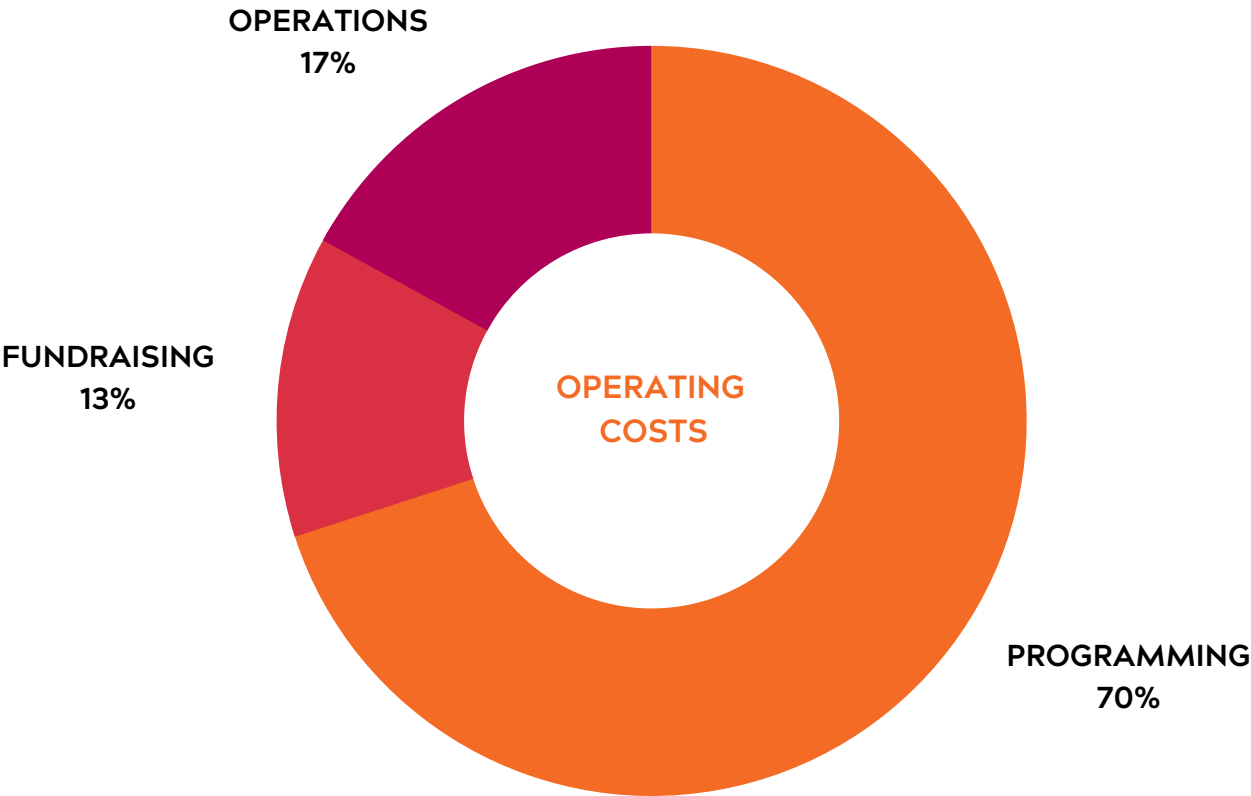
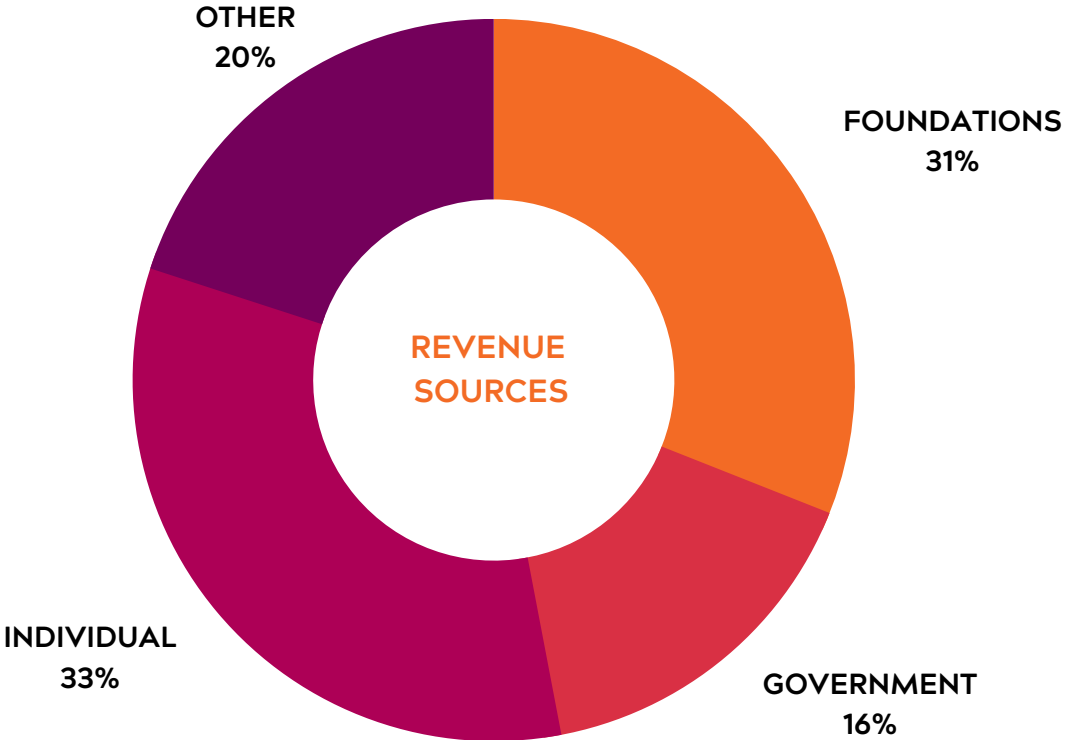
## STORYCORPS

CFO has also formed a partnership with StoryCorps Studios whose mission is to preserve and share humanity's stories in order to build connections between people and create a more just and compassionate world. Since 2003, StoryCorps has given 250,000 Americans the chance to record interviews about their lives, to pass wisdom from one generation to the next, and to leave a legacy for the future. It is the largest single collection of human voices ever gathered.

The interview session is the heart of StoryCorps and members of our CFO community was invited to record their stories for future generations. We are honored to be a part of this important initiative.



# FINANCIAL HEALTH



# OUR TEAM

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Daryl Dyer, Chair · Mara Kane, Vice Chair · Nancy Chilton, Secretary**

Bethany C. Brichta · Jon Borer · Nigel Campbell · Eleanor Henry  
Sumiko Kanazawa · Harold Koda · Leilani Pineda · Tashi Sarhan  
Suzanne Sousa · Eileen Schein · Suzanne Tobak

*Linn Tanzman, Founder and President Emerita*

## STAFF

**Susan Kasarsky, Executive Director**

Robin Abbott · Lorena Camacho · Signe Mikkelsen  
Randi Rossignol · Jenny Soderquist · Kristen Vaphides

## YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD

**Travis Schwerin, Executive Chair**

Jennie Bear · Emma Kasarsky · Sarah Kasarsky  
Matthew Perlman · Kimberli Smith · Tyler Swift

# LET'S CONNECT

OUR VOLUNTEERS, PARTNERS, AND DONORS ALLOW CULTURE FOR ONE TO TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF NYC CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE THROUGH THE POWER OF THE ARTS. WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

## MAKE A CONNECTION

Provide us with introductions and access to potential partner organizations or companies involved with the arts, media or pop culture. For questions, contact Susan Kasarsky at [susank@cultureforone.org](mailto:susank@cultureforone.org).

## PROGRAMMING

For questions about our programs, please contact Robin Abbott, at [robina@cultureforone.org](mailto:robina@cultureforone.org).

## CORPORATE FUNDRAISING

For questions about corporate sponsorships, please contact Kristen Vaphines at [Kristenv@cultureforone.org](mailto:Kristenv@cultureforone.org).

## MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

For questions about digital communications, please contact Jenny Soderquist at [jennys@cultureforone.org](mailto:jennys@cultureforone.org).

## VOLUNTEER

Chaperone a cultural excursion or help out at our next event. For questions, contact Lorena Camacho at [lorenac@cultureforone.org](mailto:lorenac@cultureforone.org).

## DONATE

For questions about giving to Culture For One, please contact Randi Rossignol at [randir@cultureforone.org](mailto:randir@cultureforone.org).

## CONNECT WITH US



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