

CULTURE FOR ONE

BRINGING THE POWER OF THE ARTS TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022



Cherished CFO Friend,

As our fiscal year comes to a close, allow us to share with you some of the highlights of what has been a great year for Culture For One.

First, more youth participated in our programs this year than ever before – **2,086!** CFO has now served close to **13,000** youth.

Second, our partner network is growing by leaps and bounds – we have teamed with the NYC Department of Education’s My Brother’s/Sister’s Keeper Initiative and will now be able to reach children through the public school system. Also, we are now working with all locations of Good Shepherd Services, one of the largest foster care agency network in NYC.

Third, our financial health is excellent. We exceeded our fundraising goals for the year by 30%. Which brings us to you...Our growth and ability to serve ever more children with ever better programming would not happen without you.

With our deepest gratitude for your ongoing support,

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. We provide opportunities to inspire their creativity, stimulate their intellect, and introduce them to broader possibilities for their future. Our cultural excursions, creative workshops, art scholarships, and one to one mentoring nurture big dreams and encourage higher education and career planning.

Through exposure to the arts and positive role models we help these most at-risk youth build confidence, acquire life skills, and identify new interests, as well as improve their academic performance. Culture For One's programs deliver sources of motivation that these young people need to thrive ... not just survive.



PROGRAMMING



ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS

We are proud to report that we now have **107 participants** in our Arts Scholarship Program, taking place at the following locations:

Barrow Group Theater * Harlem School of the Arts * Mark Morris Dance Company * ESOTA Dance Studio in Queens * Astoria Dance Center * Arthouse Astoria
* Gotham Creative Writing Classes

EIGHT new art scholarships begun or requested since April 1
THREE student attending arts summer camp at Harlem School of the Arts

CREATIVE ARTS WORKSHOPS

In FY22, throughout our foster agency partner residences, **988 youth** participated in **175 Arts Workshops** in therapeutic art, creative storytime, acting, creative writing, and podcast production.

PROGRAMMING



CULTURAL EXCURSIONS

We are excited to report that we resumed our **Cultural Excursions** this spring and in this short period we have held **21 Cultural Excursions** for **84 youth**.

BROADWAY SHOWS INCLUDED:

Moulin Rouge
The Lion King
How I Learned to Drive
Mrs. Doubtfire

ADDITIONAL EXCURSIONS INCLUDED:

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater
One World Observatory
Story Pirates Changemakers
NYC Ballet Family Saturdays
The Metropolitan Museum Guided Art Tour
HELP at The Shed

FAMILY ARTOGETHER

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.

OVER 900 FAMILY ARTOGETHER PACKAGES WERE DELIVERED!

CHILDREN SERVED

FY22 JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022

PROGRAM TYPE	NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES	YOUTH SERVED
CULTURAL EXCURSIONS	21	84
ARTS WORKSHOPS	175	988
ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS	93	107
FAMILY ARTOGETHER*	4	907
TOTALS FOR FY22	293	2086

YOUTH SERVED SINCE INCEPTION (2010)

PROGRAM TYPE	YOUTH SERVED
CULTURAL EXCURSIONS	2749
ARTS WORKSHOPS	7498
ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS	425
FAMILY ARTOGETHER*	1832
NEXT STEPS**	30
TOTAL SINCE INCEPTION	12,534

NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES SINCE INCEPTION (2010)

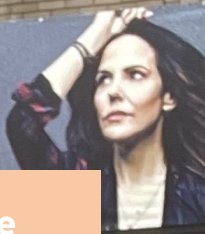
PROGRAM TYPE	# OF ACTIVITIES
CULTURAL EXCURSIONS	388
ARTS WORKSHOPS	1337
ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS	485
FAMILY ARTOGETHER*	120
NEXT STEPS**	31
TOTAL SINCE INCEPTION	2361

** Previously called "Take Home Packages"*

*** Program suspended in 2020*



EARNED TO DRIVE



Numbers are important, but at the end of the day, nothing is more critical to our mission than improving the quality of life of children in foster care, one child at a time. Meet Kimberli, a 17-year-old girl in care. Kym is one example of a young person whose life and trajectory have been changed by Culture For One.

261 MANHATTAN THEATRE CLUB 261

MEET KYMBERLI

Kym was living in Georgia with her father and stepmother when her father was killed in a car accident. Her stepmother was not willing to keep Kym in her home, so Kym moved to NYC to be with her mother. Her mother is a drug addict and Kym was taken from her mother's home and put into foster care. Kym is one of the lucky children who was placed with an extraordinary foster parent.

This is when CFO came into Kym's life. When Kym was placed in her foster home, her case planner reached out to CFO to let us know of Kym's plight and of her interest in drama. Immediately, we set up acting lessons and an acting coach for Kym and she has been the recipient of several Arts Scholarships. Kym's talents and passion for the profession grew, as did her confidence and self-esteem. Along with her foster mom, Culture For One became -- and remains -- Kymberli's village.

Kym is now an A student at a charter school in Manhattan, she is a student representative on the highline, and represents youth on a Citywide Diversity and Inclusion Initiative. Her goal is to attend a prestigious acting school next year and Culture For One will support her throughout the audition process. Just last week Kym was accepted into a summer program at the Stella Adler Conservatory! CFO will provide the funding, including transportation and materials she needs for the program.

We have been able to provide the support she needs and deserves to reach her full unlimited potential, despite the hardships that life has sent her way.

NEW PARTNERS & CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Our Programs have a profound effect on the children we serve and our work is known in the NYC and lower Westchester County foster care community, often leading to new partnerships and access to more children.

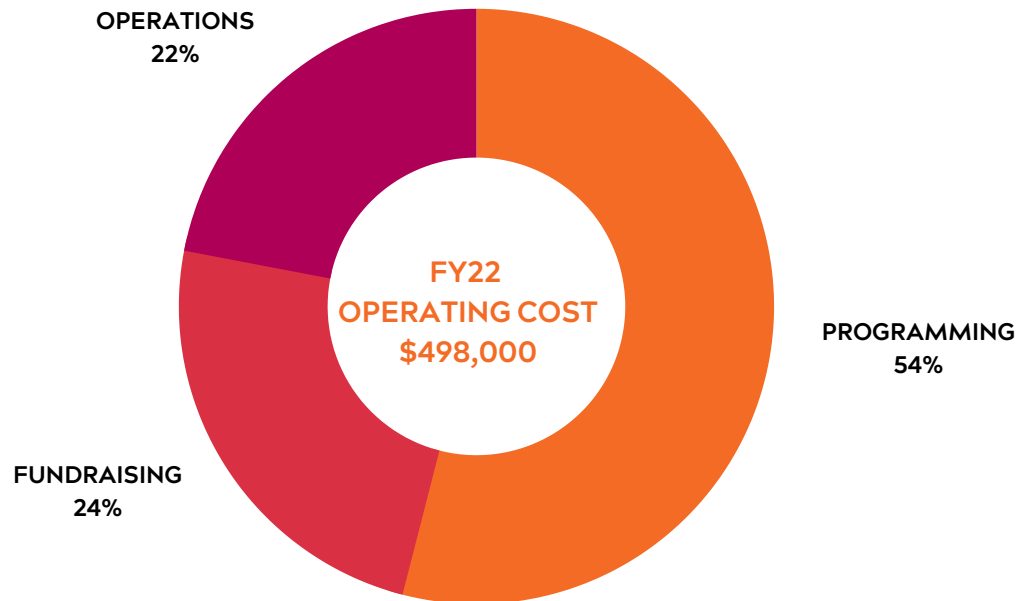
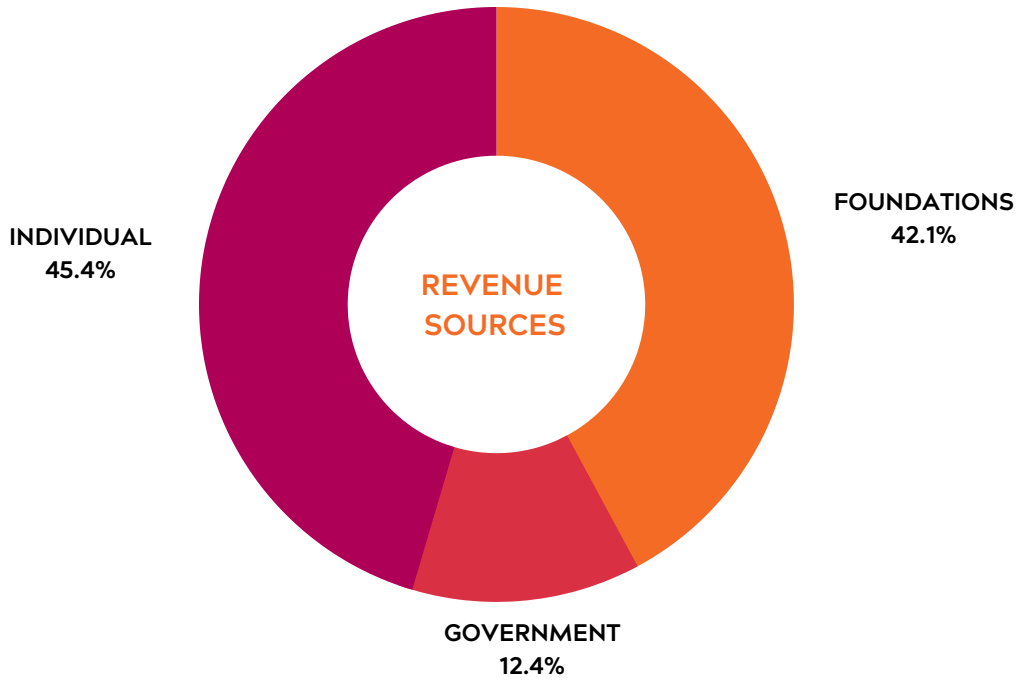
- In **FY22**, we expanded our network of partners and cultural connections by **20%** and served over **2,000 youth**.
- In **FY23**, we expect to serve **2,300 youth** and families.

Our partnership with JCCA Pleasantville has expanded to JCCA citywide. Likewise, our partnership with the ACS Children's Center residential facility in Manhattan has now expanded citywide, offering cultural excursion to foster families.

Other new partnerships are: Children's Village in Dobb's Ferry, SCO in Queens, an agency that works with foster care families, and the Good Shepherd Services Blum and Sharpe group homes for teen boys.



FINANCIAL HEALTH



OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daryl Dyer, Chair

Harold Koda, Vice Chair

Eileen Schein, Secretary

Bethany C. Brichta

Nigel Campbell

Nancy Chilton

Sumiko Kanazawa

Mara Kane

Suzanne Tobak

Linn Tanzman, Founder and President Emerita

STAFF

Susan Kasarsky, Managing Director

Robin Abbott, Program Director

Signe Mikkelsen, Program Manager

Randi Rossignol, Director of Donor Services

Jenny Soderquist, Program & Communications Manager

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS BOARD

William Abbott

Jennie Bear

Alex Chouraqui

Jamar Dunnigan

Abbey Frank

Emma Kasarsky

Sarah Kasarsky

Ashley Rogers

Travis Schwerin

LET'S CONNECT

THE DEDICATION OF 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.

VOLUNTEER

Help chaperone a cultural excursion, become a mentor, or help out at our next event. For questions, contact Signe at signem@cultureforone.org

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 susank@cultureforone.org

DONATE

For questions about giving to Culture For One, please contact randir@cultureforone.org

CONNECT WITH US



[@cultureforone](https://www.instagram.com/cultureforone)



[Facebook.com/cultureforone](https://www.facebook.com/cultureforone)



[Culture For One](https://www.linkedin.com/company/cultureforone)