



FY2016 Annual Report

Sharing our story through
art, culture and education

329 W. 18th Street, Suite 506
Chicago, IL 60616
(312) 421-8040

www.changingworlds.org

A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER AND BOARD PRESIDENT



As we reflect on Changing Worlds's accomplishments in 2016, we take note of our beginnings 20 years ago as a photography and oral history project in one Chicago Public School. We marvel at the organization's growth and its exciting developments in programming over these years, and we affirm its mission with new urgency.

In 2016, we had 57 in-school and after-school residencies in 27 schools and community partnership sites, serving more than 10,200 students. This would not have been possible without the generosity and support of more than 400 donors and sponsors. As you will read in this report, our arts instruction included an array of visual arts mediums, cultural dances, drama, poetry and video production.

Changing Worlds draws on the power of the arts and personal stories to build bridges and to engage young people in explorations of identity, culture, family, community and history. This year we saw a growing interest in issues of social justice and peace. Students engaged in passionate discussions and expressed strong feelings in their writing and art-making.

As the year unfolded, the urgency of our mission became painfully clear. The violence in the neighborhoods of many of our students, ongoing racial tension, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim rhetoric, and the divisiveness of our national election were grave reminders of the importance of our work. Through the experiences we provided, the stories told, the examples set and messages taught, students discovered that each one's voice, background and culture is appreciated and respected.

We thank you for your interest in Changing Worlds and our work with Chicago area youth. As we look toward the future, we are excited to welcome our new Executive Director, Alicia Vega, who comes to us with a strong background in administration and programming. We look forward to her leadership and to the new adventure we are going to embark upon together!

KAY BERKSON

Changing Worlds Founder

JASON OSBORN

Changing Worlds Board President

MISSION AND VALUES

Changing Worlds's mission is to foster inclusive communities through oral history, writing and art programs that improve student learning, affirm identity and enhance cross-cultural understanding.

Our five core values are central to fulfilling the organizational mission :

INCLUSION

Building inclusive and empathetic communities where people of all cultures, points of view, beliefs and differences are respected and valued.

EQUITY

Activating the voices and potential of all people in our practices and programs.

GROWTH

Fostering a culture where learning is cultivated, supported and affirmed.



INNOVATION

Advancing creative, reflective and strategic approaches in developing solutions to programmatic and organizational challenges.

INTEGRITY

Maintaining transparency and ethical practices in all aspects of Changing Worlds.

CHANGING WORLDS PROGRAMS

The Arts, Cultural & Literacy (ACL) curriculum pairs art-making and writing to explore "Big Ideas" that enhance students' learning in the arts and other academic content areas. The ACL program is offered to third-eighth grade students and is designed to meet the unique academic, cultural and artistic interests of each school.

Across ACL programs most students indicated on surveys that they enjoyed Changing Worlds's programming (67%), felt positive about themselves and their peers during Changing Worlds's programming (75%), and made an effort to work productively with their peers (74%).



In our Arts & Cultural Connections (ACC) after-school programming, Changing Worlds partners with community organizations and schools to explore culture through dance, drama or visual art during after-school hours. Changing Worlds's integrated approach provides students with rich exposure to one or more cultures while developing valuable artistic skills.

Almost all students were proficient in their use of the art vocabulary associated with their projects. Evidence of the exploration of self-identity manifested in focus groups, journals, and observations. Through observations and focus groups most students demonstrated a positive attitude and a desire to fully engage in classes!

Funders including The Department of Family & Support Services and United Way of Metropolitan Chicago supported year-long projects at multiple schools. Fifth through eighth grade students participating in United Way programs also benefited from a high school preparation component of the program, including a high school fair where students completed a career survey and learned about high school options and the application process.



"I was surprised by the answers to the questions I asked my grandmother. What I liked best was when my grandmother told me that we have family members that were a part of the Great Migration. So we both got on Ancestry.com and looked at all the people that were in our family and who were even a part of slavery." -Phyllis (Brown Elementary Student)





"We had to write about ourselves. Then write about our family. Then write about what they want for us and what we want for us. Then we learned about gestures... Then we got our play and started rehearsing."
 (Hay Drama Student)



"I didn't know I could make big stuff like that until Mama Sadira made me push myself, I didn't know that could come out of me."
 (Brown Elementary Student)





"I learned I can do more things than I thought I could, [my teaching artist] challenged me to do more." (Spencer student, Hip Hop Dance)



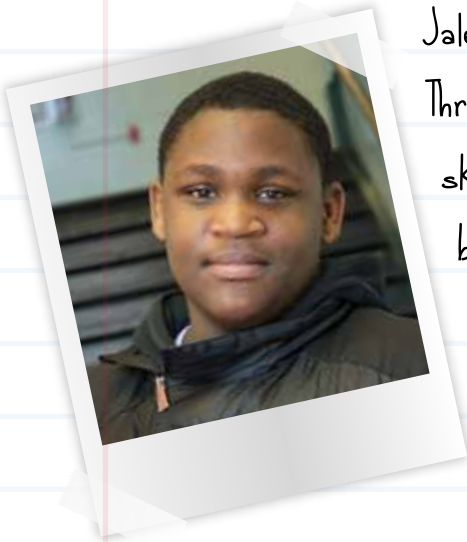
"I feel like through the projects we've done I know that I really want to be an artist." (Hay student, Visual Arts)



JOANN BECK AND JOSEPH B. GLOSSBERG STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARDS

The Student Leadership Award was created in 2011 in recognition of Joann Beck and Joseph B. Glossberg's leadership and commitment to Changing Worlds and their work towards cultivating future creative leaders. Each year, two students are selected in recognition of their demonstrated leadership, personal and artistic growth, creativity and commitment to cultural awareness.

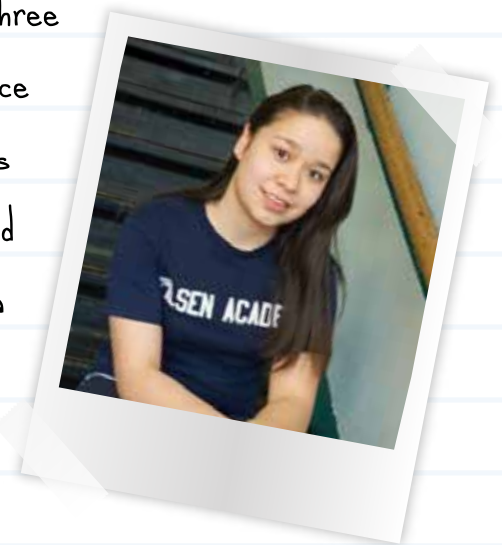
JALEN SIMMONS PILSEN COMMUNITY ACADEMY, 6TH GRADE



Jalen has been enrolled in the Graphic Design program for two years. Through Changing Worlds, Jalen has used visual art to help him develop the skills to effectively manage various emotions. His greatest influence has been his cousin for many reasons, but mostly because he's a positive example. Jalen says that an effective leader values teamwork, fairness and respect for others. In the future, Jalen would like to be either an anthropologist, military personnel or a mixed martial arts specialist.

ERIKA CARRILLO PILSEN COMMUNITY ACADEMY, 8TH GRADE

Erika has been enrolled in the Hip Hop Dance program for three years. Through Changing Worlds, Erika has learned that dance allows her to communicate without using words. Her father has been a major influence in her life, because he has supported her family and worked incredibly hard to be successful. Erika explains, "A great leader always helps people out when they are struggling." In the future, Erika wants to become an educator, because she wants to support students by helping them achieve their goals.



2016 ANNUAL REPORT CARD

The following "report card" gives a snapshot of some of Changing Worlds' proudest accomplishments this year:

2016 ANNUAL REPORT CARD

A year of building bridges and sharing youth stories through the arts & writing

CHANGING WORLDS completed its 2016 fiscal year with gratitude for the support of its friends, donors, volunteers and partners. We've made a tremendous impact on thousands of Chicago area youth, schools and communities.

10,245
Children and Youth Benefited from Changing Worlds's Programs

3,093
Arts and Culture Sessions

21
Average Attendance Per Session

50+
Volunteers Engaged

52
Artists Employed

27
School and Community-based Partnerships

13
Chicago and Suburban Neighborhoods Engaged

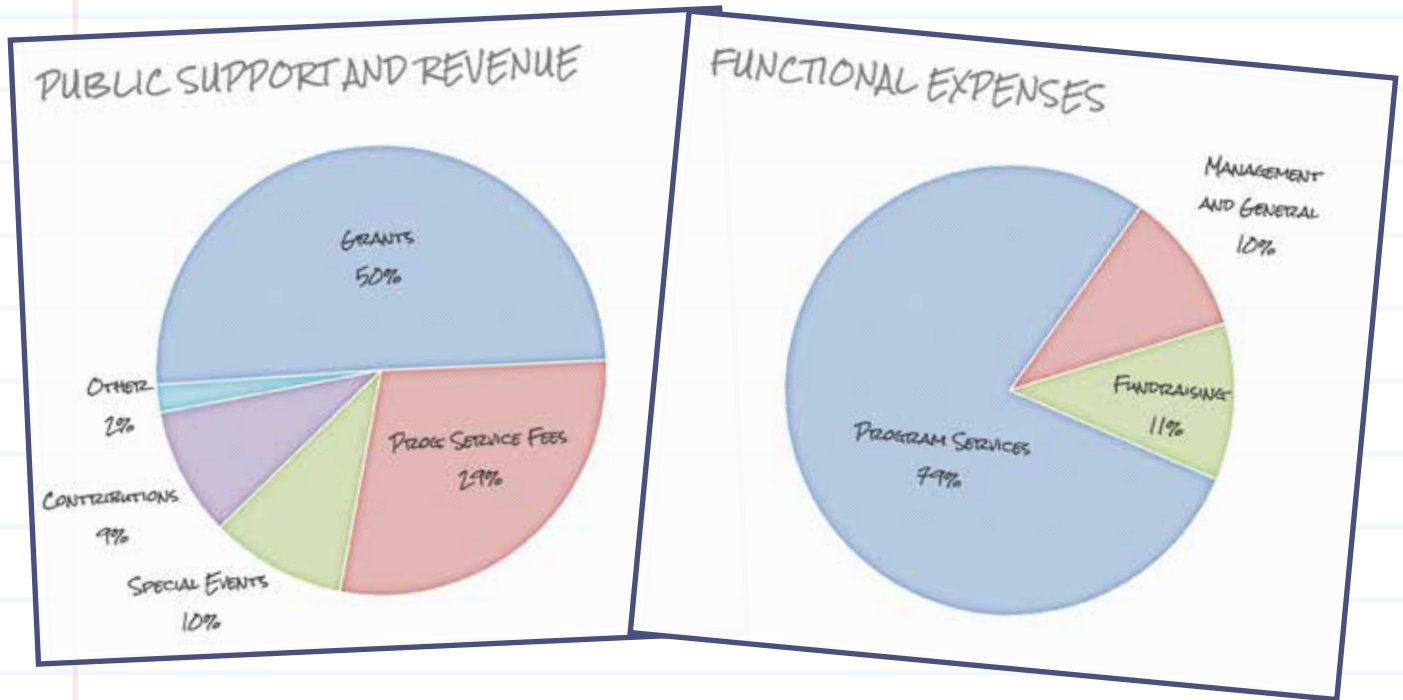
\$0.81
Of Every Dollar Raised Supports Programs

Connecting lives and cultures through the arts
Donate at www.changingworlds.org or call (312) 421-8040 to volunteer with Changing Worlds at a school, in our office or as a Board member.
329 W. 18th St. | Suite 506 | Chicago, IL 60616



2016 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

\$724K Public Support & Revenue



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Contact your Human Resources department to determine whether your employer has a matching gift program.

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A pledge of any amount can be paid over time in cash or stocks. Monthly, quarterly and other payment schedules are available.

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By contributing appreciated stocks, you receive a tax deduction while avoiding capital gains taxes.



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Contact Us at info@changingworlds.org or call (312) 421-8040.

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We would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Keisha Farmer-Smith, who served as our Interim Executive Director from September 2016 to January 2017, for her leadership and contribution to Changing Worlds' success.

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Please save the date for our upcoming event!

20 Years of Changing Worlds

Honor the Past. Celebrate the Present. Create the Future.

May 17, 2017



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