

CHANGING  WORLDS

ANNUAL REPORT

fiscal year 2023



Mission

Changing Worlds is an educational arts nonprofit organization whose mission is to foster inclusive communities through oral history, writing and art programs that improve student learning, affirm identity and enhance cross-cultural understanding.

Vision

Changing Worlds' envisions communities that advance the use of personal stories and the arts as vehicles to honor the richness of its diverse cultures and foster a greater appreciation and respect of cultural differences.

Changing Worlds' is an agent for social change within communities throughout Chicagoland. Working primarily through teachers and young people (ages 5-18; grades K-12) in both school environments and community/neighborhood settings as well as within immigrant and refugee communities.

The intended impact of Changing Worlds' programming upon young people and their communities will include:

- improved academic achievement among K-12 students in writing and literacy teaching skills in arts integration and multi-cultural curriculum;
 - increased tolerance, inclusion, and respect for others;
- the regular use of cultural diversity and the stories of culturally diverse people within school curriculum and community educational settings; and
 - increased skills at solving inter-cultural problems

This vision is rooted in expanded programming that serves the Chicago metropolitan area with a broader and deeper reach. Changing Worlds' programming will expand and strengthen through partnerships that go beyond Chicago area schools and involve new constituent organizations. Its social change efforts will encompass new directions in programming such as becoming a problem-solving resource and a resource to young people within and outside of the school environment.

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Change Makers,

Thank you for a warm welcome and an incredible FY23 and happy 27th year of compassionate cross-cultural art education to us all! I hope this summation of our activity and accomplishments captures first and foremost the heart of what we do-art, cross cultural connections, and social justice.

Secondarily, how creatively, compassionately, and hard we all work on behalf of and with young people, professional artists and under served communities to tremendous ends.

Last year Changing Worlds faced so many changes and we did it with care and grace! We transitioned in a new Executive Director, bid farewell to two previous directors and two managers that had stewarded work for 10+ years, we welcomed consultant support and intern support, and we welcomed 2 new team members who as a collective also bring 10+ years of experience and wisdom to our organization. Our program team along with Teaching Artists, have carried out an endeavor to cultivate a more streamlined operation , expand our partnerships and impact in the coming year. Lastly, the end of this fiscal year we came together, Board, staff, teaching artists and educators and we built a framework for a 5 year strategic plan to chart a bold and bright future to sustain this amazing work!

In my first year as Changing World's executive director I am so proud of our collective accomplishments! We served 2,397 Chicago student artists, hosted 14 performance events, partnered with 22 schools , and 32 local professional artists across 8 different art disciplines! Through disciplined spending and fiscal restraint we reduced our expenses by almost 200k and increased our revenue by 142k over the previous fiscal year!

Our talented and diverse artist cadre self identify as- Indigenous, Black, Latine, Mexican, Multiracial, Non-binary and genderqueer, Transgender, disabled, Queer, pansexual, bisexual, lesbian, and gay. Our Board consists of 47% POC. Additionally, 2 (11%) board members identify as LGBTQ and 2 (11%) as disabled. Our students are 41% Black/African American, 45% Latino/x/Hispanic, 2% White, and 1% Asian. About 90% of our students have reported living in low-income households, 6% have experienced housing insecurities and 34% of our students have chronic absences and 100% of our students are artists! Together we make art and social justice a reality in Chicago-

We are Changing Worlds!

With gratitude and regard,

Anya Tanyavutti

Anya Tanyavutti (she/her/ella/they), M.A.Ed.

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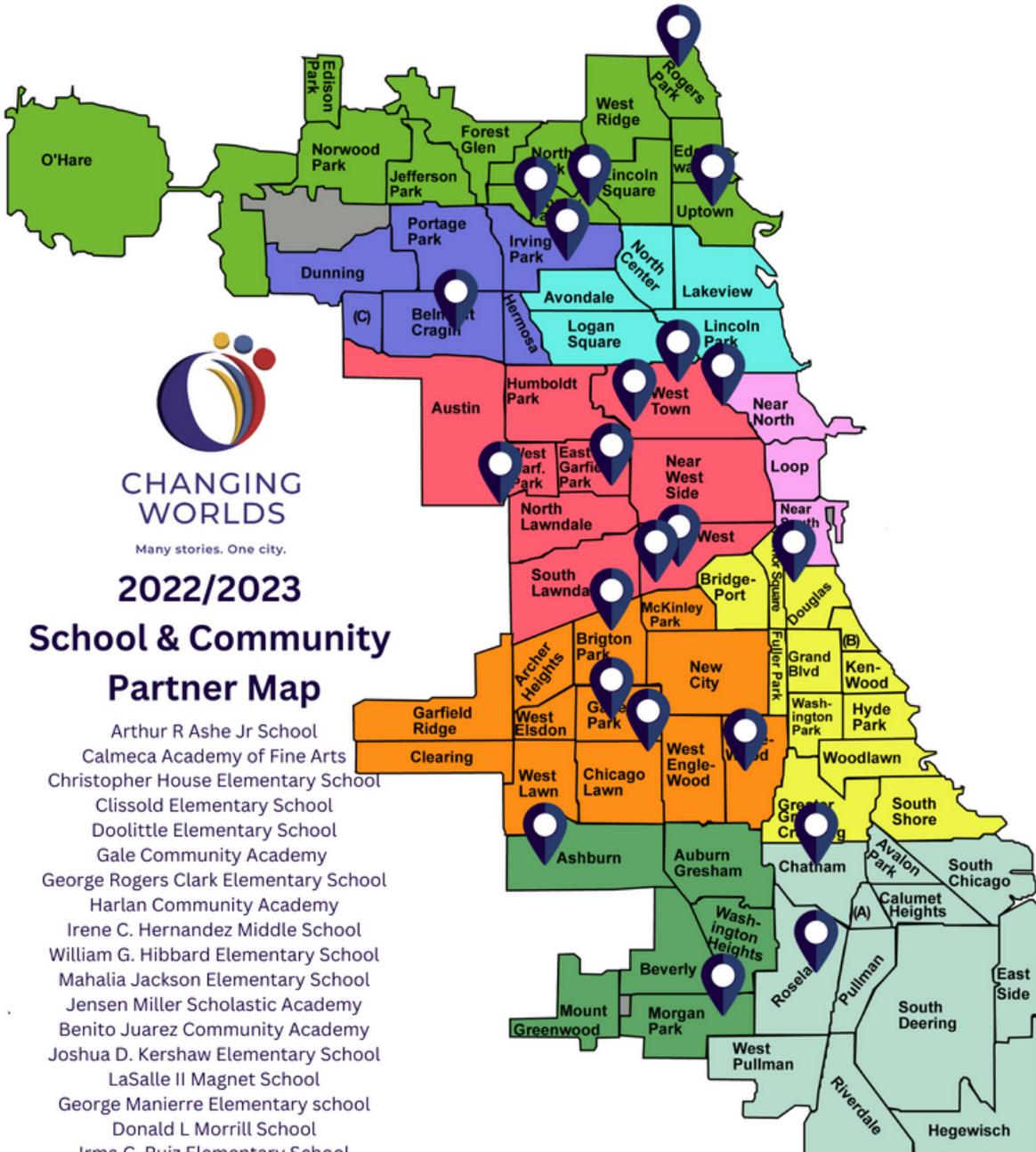
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School & Community Partners



**CHANGING
WORLDS**

Many stories. One city.

2022/2023

School & Community Partner Map

- Arthur R Ashe Jr School
- Calmeca Academy of Fine Arts
- Christopher House Elementary School
- Clissold Elementary School
- Doolittle Elementary School
- Gale Community Academy
- George Rogers Clark Elementary School
- Harlan Community Academy
- Irene C. Hernandez Middle School
- William G. Hibbard Elementary School
- Mahalia Jackson Elementary School
- Jensen Miller Scholastic Academy
- Benito Juarez Community Academy
- Joshua D. Kershaw Elementary School
- LaSalle II Magnet School
- George Manierre Elementary school
- Donald L Morrill School
- Irma C. Ruiz Elementary School
- Carl Schurz High School
- Uplift Community High School
- Alessandro Volta Elementary
- Embarc Chicago

FY23 Year-in-Review

September

Changing Worlds Fiscal Year starts!

October

Our programs begin! We partnered with 22 schools this year.

November 29th

Giving Tuesday! We raised nearly \$12,000 on Giving Tuesday, a 1000% increase over previous years! We also hosted our Give Back Kick Back, a conversation on Facebook Live with Chicago Musician and Teaching Artist Avo Randruit and Calmecca Principal Sylvia Garcia-Orozco. A 2nd event was hosted later with Sherman “Dilla” Thomas of Chicago Mahogany Tours!

December

Thanks to funding from The Ralla Klepak Foundation for Education in the Performing Arts, 7 performances were hosted at CPS, students were treated to inspiring performances with both local, national, and international music ensembles right in their own neighborhoods!

February

Pilsen Art and Community House Gallery hosts a student exhibit of photography and mask art created by students at Benito Juarez Community Academy under the guidance of Diana Solis.

May

Changing Worlds hosts our Annual Benefit awards the inaugural Kay Berkson Teaching Artist Award to Chicago Artist and Teaching Artist Luis De La Torre for his commitment to students and being a Change Maker through art!

July

Teaching Artists gather to begin curriculum updates as we form our new program offerings

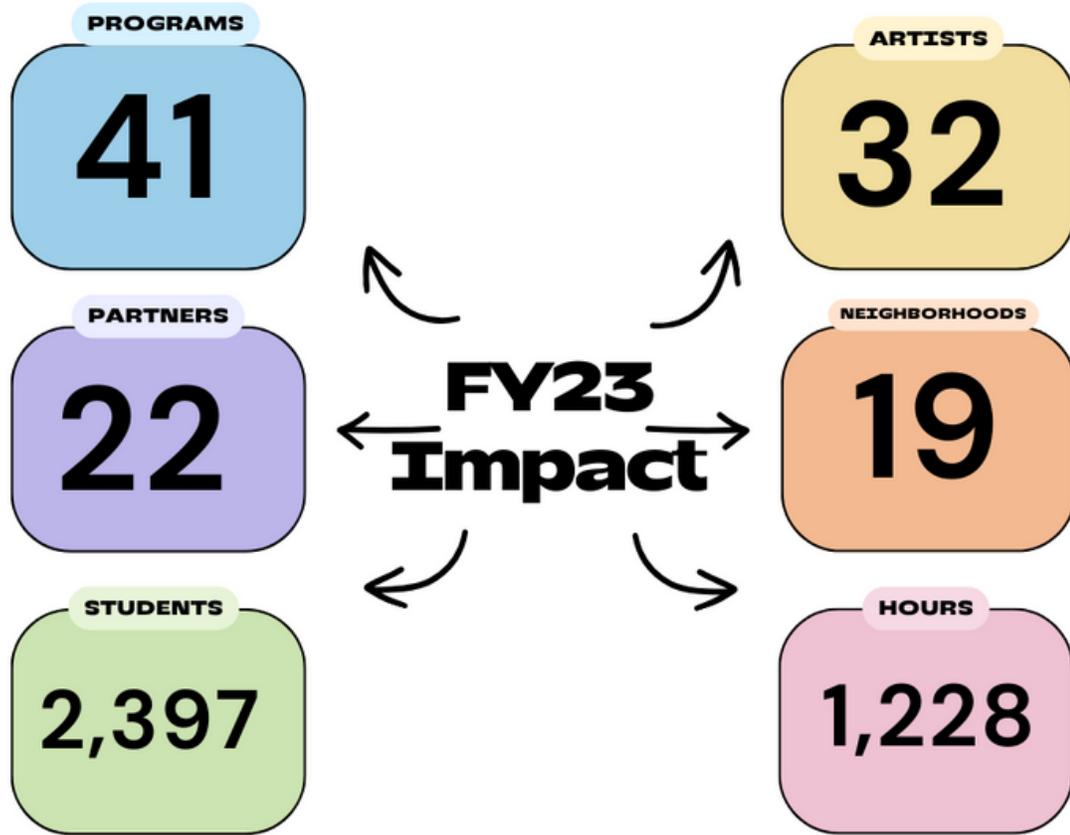
August

Strategic Planning begins! Staff, Board Members, Teaching Artists, and Educators are invited to begin work on CW’s strategic plan.

August

Healing Centered Engagement Certification through Flourish Agenda begins for Teaching and Artists and Staff

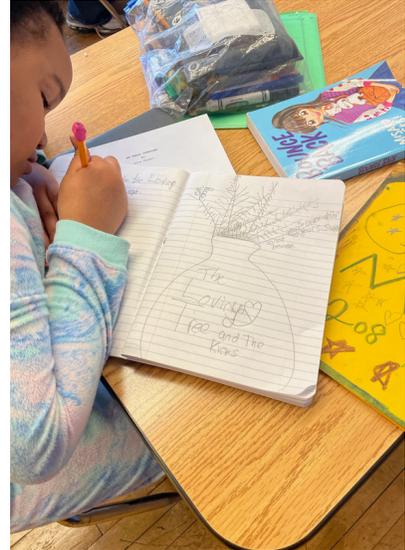
Impact & Outcomes



CHANGING  WORLDS
FY23 OUTCOMES

 <p>84% CAN DESCRIBE THEIR ART-MAKING PROCESS.</p> <p>"... Art is a way to express yourself and get a better friendship with others as to why? This is because you can do anything with art!" -Student</p>	 <p>66% FELT THAT CW PROGRAMS ENCOURAGED RESPECT FOR DIFFERENCES.</p> <p>"Students were able to dream, imagine and build as they made soundsuits, crowns, characters, sculptures, clothing designs and accessories. Students were able to explore their identities both through their own interests, by examining the work of Black artists, and from the collaboration with their peers." -Classroom Teacher</p>	 <p>89% HAVE FUN A LOT OF THE TIME DURING CW PROGRAMS</p> <p>"At first it made me nervous because i though my art was bad and though they would laugh but as people share there art was not perfect but still were positive and t made me not be scare to show my art." -Student</p>	 <p>73% DESCRIBED THEIR PROGRAM POSITIVELY</p> <p>"I learned that I can express my emotions when it comes to art and not say them out loud all the time and I learned my classmates feelings that they do not show." -Student</p>	 <p>83% DEMONSTRATED IMPROVED RHYTHM FROM PRE TO POST ASSESSMENT</p> <p>"The identity component of your program compliments our unit nicely. The ideas and activities the program uses give the students ways to express themselves that I probably wouldn't have thought of." -Classroom Teacher</p>
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FY23 Programs



FY23 Programs

Visual Arts: Examining Culture, History, and Identity

This studio-style course gives students the opportunity to activate their voice and choice as they learn about art processes and artists who have made an impact on our culture and our history. This course can be aligned to academic themes that are being taught in the classroom or build off a topic/focus for an after-school initiative. We can offer this program through painting/drawing, sculpture, or comic arts.

General Music

Ideal for students to learn the basic vocabulary and concepts of music literacy through a hands-on approach. Students will use their voices, multiple instruments, and movement to explore music fundamentals, learn to work as an ensemble, and develop and appreciation for music. For more advanced 4th and 5th graders, we will explore arts integrated opportunities, using music in project-based learning experiences and learning music notation.

Songwriting and Music Production

Designed for up to fifteen 6th -12th graders, using browser-based digital audio workstations, students gain experience with music and audio production fundamentals while creating their own sense of personal musicianship through development of original compositions and songwriting experiences.

The History and Artistry of Hip-Hop Dance

Students learn the five pillars of Hip-Hop, talk about the key figures in the Hip-Hop movement, and practice the fundamentals of Hip-Hop Dance. Students will develop personal strength, coordination, and flexibility while honing their skills in collaboration with peers.

FY23 Programs

Creative Drama: Sharing and Performing Stories

Activating techniques of self-expression, ensemble building, creative play and improvisation, students will be introduced to the elements of theatre. They learn how to harness their own unique voice and imagination to create short skits, present their own stories through monologues, and/or ensemble performance.

Spoken Word: Living Poetry and Creative Writing

Learning from the writings of noted authors and poets, students will explore the concepts of rhythm, freestyle, rhyme, word play and tone to compose and perform their own original writing as it relates to self-identity, community, and current events.

All Changing Worlds programs costs are negotiated based on the projected hours of services. Changing Worlds currently charges \$200 an hour for instruction, with typical programs running for 10 weeks, 1-2hours per week. This investment covers high quality, evaluated programming delivered by professional artists, as well as standard supplies and materials.

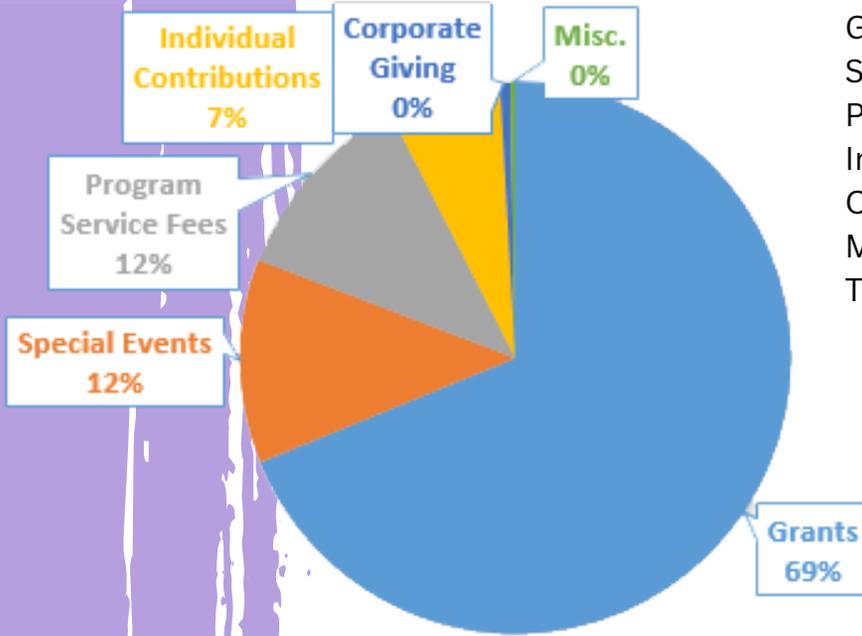
If you're interested in applying to the Creative Schools Fund with Changing Worlds as a partner, please reach out.

Community and family events start at \$600 per two-hour workshop, serving up to 100 participants.

Changing Worlds is a Chicago Public School vendor (#34824) and assumes the responsibility of background checks for its staff and consultants.

FY23 Finances

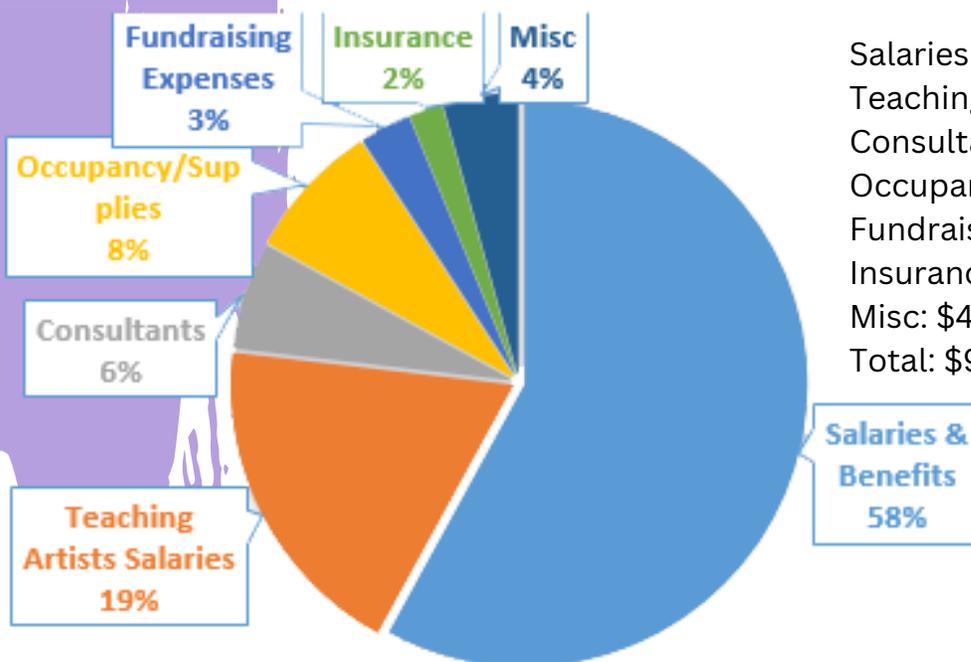
Revenue



Revenue Breakdown:

Grants: \$697,355.00
 Special Events: \$113,525.00
 Program Service Fees: \$110,631.00
 Individual Contributions: \$62,863.16
 Corporate Giving: \$5,530.31
 Misc.: \$2,860.99
 Total: \$992,765.46

Expenses



Expense Breakdown:

Salaries & Benefits: \$559,795.45
 Teaching Artists Salaries: \$181,908.75
 Consultants: \$59,418.31
 Occupancy/Supplies: \$75,880.50
 Fundraising Expenses: \$28,328.72
 Insurance: \$18,732.26
 Misc: \$41,430.36
 Total: \$965,494.35

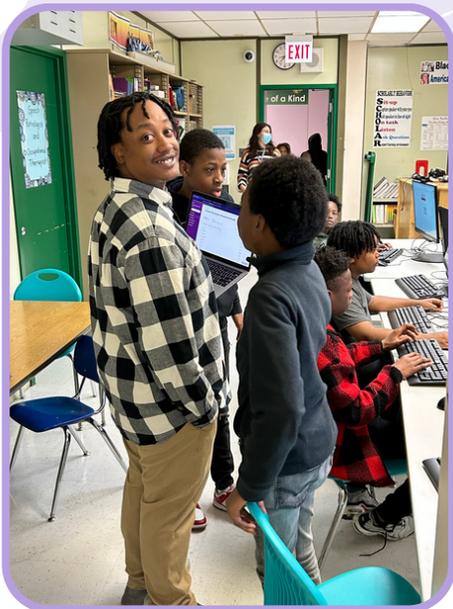
Teaching Artist Spotlight

Changing Worlds teaching artist and musician, Zachary Jackson, has been working for Changing Worlds since Fall of 2021. Zachary Jackson has taught residencies at Morrill Elementary, Hernandez Middle School, and Mahalia Jackson Elementary School during his years at Changing Worlds as a General Music and Songwriting Music Production teaching artist. When speaking of his inspirations as an individual and teaching artist, Zach mentioned that he “enjoys that art can be so expressive, and you can use it to express emotions. That inspires me to always find new art to consume...and finding new ways to listen for those expressions.” Similarly, Zach says that being able to express himself and grow as a teaching artist specifically has led to a deeper connection to not just art, but to his students and their lives as well. “I do think that I’ve grown overall as a teacher I think, being a teaching artist is different than being a teacher. It allows you to get closer and you talk to them more deeply about their home lives, because you have more time [and space] too.”

In his 2 years at Changing Worlds, Zach has mentioned seeing the remarkable transformation in his students both physically and emotionally through the work the organization allows him to do: “You see it more often in longer residencies like General Music—their voices are much better by the time we get to May/June--singing with their head voices and they’ve got a nice light tone. For Songwriting Music Production...it [the program] makes them take music that they were already listening to and critique it more heavily and think more deeply about what’s going on. That’s always fun to see!”



Teaching Artist Spotlight



Zach's favorite moment in a classroom with CW so far has been watching 8th grade Jackson student, Brandon, create his own rap solo in the class' graduation song, and then freestyle it for the very first time in front of his classmates. "He was shy about it...it took a while for his friend to coax it out of him, but when I heard him rapping, I said, 'oh that's really good, you need to write it down and record it.'" I just remember that moment because I could just tell from the way that he sounded that that was going to be the verse that we were going to use [for the graduation song]. And it ended up being the best verse in the song—it had a lot of energy!"



Zach is also a new member of our Healing Centered Engagement cohort for Fall 2023. With the training on HCE that CW is providing, Zach is coming to new realizations about how social toxicity exists on different community levels: "it's just a different way of understanding the students when they're acting out—it's not always them just trying to gain attention or trying to be THAT KID...It's not that we didn't know that already either, but it's just that it was put in that way, it helped me see it differently." While Zach hopes to bring these tenants of HCE to his work to Fall residencies, he also spoke on other items he's excited to bring to his students this new school year: "I'm always excited to inspire the kids to create their own [material]...to inspire them to be comfortable with being creative. There's a shyness and I'm always inspired and excited to see them come out of their shells being on stage or making their own music or whatever it is [that they want to do]."

FY23 Donors

\$100,000 & Above

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Please contact us to notify us so that we
can update our records.*

How To Donate

Changing Worlds relies on donations from our generous supporters to provide high-quality programming to those who need it the most. These gifts allow us to operate fully and support Chicago artists as well!

Consider Making Your Gift a Monthly Reoccurring Gift!

Reoccurring gifts can be made in any amount starting at just \$10! These monthly gifts allow you to donate on a regular basis, supporting our organization during slower giving months and helping us budget for the year!

Monthly donors can also still take advantage of matching donors, including work place matching. Just let Changing Worlds know you have a matching gift to attach, and we will accommodate your wishes. You can also have a gift (or gifts) from your recurring giving plan allocated toward an active match campaign when they occur.

Non-Cash Ways to Give to Changing World

Making a non-monetary gift is easy and may have significant tax benefits!

·Gift of Stocks or Securities -The easiest way for you to gift stock to Changing Worlds is through an electronic transfer (DTC) from your brokerage account to Changing World's account. Please remind your broker to include your contact information so we can properly acknowledge your gift!

·IRA Charitable Roll-Over - Anyone 70 ½ years old or older is required to withdraw a large sum from their IRA annually, called your required minimum distribution (RMD). You may be able to allocated a portion of your RMD as a IRA charitable rollover or qualified charitable distribution (QCD). By making this type of gift, you will satisfy your RMD requirement without increasing your tax bill. Making a charitable gift from your IRA is quick and easy! Simply contact your IRA administrator and ask to make a "qualified charitable distribution" to Changing Worlds.

·Estate Planning - Leave a legacy. Please remember Changing Worlds in your will or living trust. To leave a gift in your will, call your attorney or financial planner and share this sentence: "I bequeath \$ ____ or ____ % of my estate to Changing Worlds, 329 W. 18th Street, Suite #506, Chicago, IL 60616."

·If you decide to include Changing Worlds in your will, please let us know so we can properly acknowledge your contribution!



CHANGING WORLDS

Many stories. One city.

Question & Information



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