Rock to the Future provides student-driven music programs in a safe and supportive environment at no cost for Philadelphia youth. We achieve social justice and economic empowerment through music, mentoring, and educational support.
This has been a year of challenges and triumphs. After operating virtually the prior year, in July 2021 we returned to in-person programming, grateful to provide safe spaces for excited students, and noticed new anxieties developed. These complex emotional realities alongside an everchanging "new normal" meant we needed to dig deeper to meet the needs of our students.

We also strengthened core organization initiatives, such as anti-racism, anti-violence, and pathways to professional careers. We met this city’s public health and wealth disparity crisis with our version of artistic justice and development.

Thank you to our growing team for always showing up and making the vision a reality. And thank you to every supporter who continues to believe in our mission and work with us towards providing impactful youth development and music education programs for Philly students.

>> Rock to the Future is one of the most inclusive, socially conscious organizations I have ever worked with. Diversity there, and appreciation of diversity, is so obvious in the organization and in all their activities and program offerings.

First and foremost, Rock to the Future provides an environment for teens to feel safe, and accepted and to have the freedom to be themselves. They stand up for social justice and fairness.

—Rezana, Parent of Student
This is not a fairytale, this time, the hope you have won’t prevail. I can’t believe you’d hurt me and now my heart pays the fee. Now I’m coming back to reality, it was never just you and me. I’m locking up these memories and I’m throwing away the key.

SINFUL GOODBYE | student lyrics

517 students participated in our music and educational programs.

71 MUSICORE AFTER SCHOOL STUDENTS

380 MOBILEMUSIC STUDENTS

31 SUMMER PROGRAM STUDENTS

35 VIRTUAL STUDENTS

517 students participated in our music and educational programs.

99% OF STUDENTS SERVED were from high need zipcodes based off of income level, crime rate, unemployment rate, and/or adverse childhood experience rates.

78% BLACK

4% LATINO

9% WHITE

3% ASIAN

6% MULTI-RACIAL

WE GAVE OUR STUDENTS

65 INSTRUMENTS VALUED AT $8,000

2500 ATTENDEES ENJOYED 25 FREE COMMUNITY PERFORMANCES

New partnerships with Juvenile Justice Center, As I Plant the Seed and Anti-Drug and Alcohol Crusaders provide critical youth development opportunities for teens in high crime neighborhoods.

With the gun violence at all time high in the city of Philadelphia all help is needed, and "The Rock," which the residents call it, came in with no hesitation to provide programming. All this good work with no cost. You just don’t find that type of commitment nowadays. Residents can’t wait until programming day to work on new music they are exploring with. Rock to the Future came through for our children.

— Ronald Fuller

Juvenile Justice Center

Kensington High School
Roosevelt Elementary School
Anti-Drug + Alcohol Crusaders
Wissahickon Charter Awbury
Wissahickon Charter Fernhill
Sunrise at SLAMS
Hackett Elementary
As I Plant the Seed
St. Laurentius
Crossroads Academy
Juvenile Justice Center

WHO WE SERVED

OUR STUDENT IDENTITIES

OUR PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Program partners included:

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SWEET OPPORTUNITIES

> Recorded song “Philly Thing” with Kevin Bacon + Bacon Brothers + producer Joe Nico in partnership with SixDegrees.org & Minor Street Studios.

> SJC and Vans sponsored a workshop with professional drummer Klue. SJC made us a custom drumset and Vans gave our students new sneakers!
PREPARING OUR STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

100%!
of MusiCore graduates are pursuing college or trade school!

WE RAISED $10,000 FOR OUR HIGHER EDUCATION FUND AND WERE ABLE TO GIFT GRADUATING SENIORS A MONETARY SCHOLARSHIP AND A LAPTOP TO FACILITATE POST-GRAD SUCCESS.

76% MusiCore After School students self-reported improvements in one or more social-emotional skills including grit, sense of belonging, self-efficacy, self-management, and self-worth!

"Rock to the Future gave me the confidence I didn't know I needed that led to me being more creative in school and in my at home life. My main goal for my life and community is to grow."
—2022 Graduate

Special thank you to The Katz Family, the Justamere Foundation, and our supporters for making this fund possible.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

>> Music for All Ball raised $76,000 with support from MOR Wealth Management, Justamere Foundation, Farber Family Foundation, NEXA EAM, Pariveda Solutions, The Katz Family, Circle Thrift, EisnerAmper, Ceisler Media & Issue Advocacy, Brolrik, Founding Footsteps, and Russo Music, and emcee Will Toms and featured performer Georgie Bonds.

>> Year End Appeal raised $46,000 plus a $25,000 match

>> We received $51,372 in in-kind support from Hungry for Music Keep Music Alive, and Reverb Gives for instrument donations, Founding Footsteps for trolley for students performance and college visitations, Ballard Spahr for legal services, and The School District of Philadelphia for meals, and other supporters.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS + VOLUNTEERS

On behalf of the entire Rock to the Future family, we extend our sincere gratitude to our team members, board members, and all of our supporters for making 2021 — 2022 an unforgettable year. Special gratitude to our institutional supporters including:

Alfred & Mary Douty Foundation • Allen Hilles Fund • Arbor Foundation • Bartol Foundation • Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia • Christian & Mary Lindback Foundation • Connelly Foundation • D’Addario Foundation Dolfinger McMahon Foundation • Eagles Charitable Foundation • Farber Family Foundation • Find Your Light Foundation • Grace S. & W. Linton Nelson Foundation • Hamilton Family Charitable Trust • Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial • Hilda and Preston Davis Foundation • Huston Foundation • Keep Music Alive • Mill Spring Foundation • Office of Art, Culture & the Creative EconomyOffice of Children & Families • PA Humanities Council • Patricia Kind Family Foundation • Penn Treaty Special Services District • Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency • Pennsylvania Council for the Arts • Philadelphia Cultural Fund • Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office Forfeiture Fund • Philadelphia Music & Arts Festival • Philadelphia Youth Network • PNC Bank • Public Health Management Corporation • Presser Foundation • Robert Wood Johnson Foundation • Rosenlund Family Foundation • Seybert Foundation • Sheila Fortune Foundation • The Christopher Ludwick Foundation • The Clayman Foundation • The Philadelphia Foundation • The School District of Philadelphia • The William M. King Foundation • United Way • Youthadelphia

See our full financials on our GuideStar profile!