

FISCAL YEAR 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

DEAR FRIENDS,

The twelve months comprising the 2017 fiscal year have been wonderfully productive for Project STEP. In her first, full year as Executive Director, Gabriella Sanna hit the ground running. Together with the Project STEP staff, students, parents, and Board of Directors, Gabriella has worked to build on the remarkable accomplishments of the last 35 years – and she has quickly become an invaluable member of the extended Project STEP family. Board President, Dianne Luby, has collaborated closely with Gabriella throughout this year of transition, and Project STEP is the beneficiary of their strong partnership.

A highlight of the year was speaking to, and performing for, members of the National Council for the Arts in Washington D.C. This opportunity was extended to Project STEP by an invitation from Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts, Jane Chu. Continuing what has become a tradition for Project STEP, world class musicians conducted masterclasses and included us in their performances. We are thankful for the support and colleagueship of: cellist Gabriel Cabezas, the members of the Apple Hill String Quartet, the members of A Far Cry, and the Ashmont Hill Chamber Music organization.

The mission of Project STEP - to address the underrepresentation of certain minorities in the classical music profession - remains as critically important today as it was when we were founded in 1982. In order to ensure the ongoing fulfillment of our mission, the Board is actively engaged in a strategic planning process, and with input from all of our stakeholder groups, we anticipate creating a new five-year agenda for our continued growth and future sustainability.

We want to acknowledge with deep gratitude the three years of service that Dianne Luby has given to Project STEP in her capacity as Board President. Similarly, we are indebted to you for your generous support; the successes described in this year's annual report could not have been achieved without your commitment to the mission of Project STEP. Thank you.

Sincerely,





triane M answer

Gabriella Sanna ctors Executive Director

Diane M. Austin President, Board of Directors



OUR MISSION

Project STEP recognizes that certain racial and ethnic minorities are vastly underrepresented in classical music. Our mission is to address this imbalance by identifying musically talented children from underrepresented populations from Boston and surrounding communities and providing these children with comprehensive music and string instrument instruction. We set the highest standards for our students, provide mentoring and performance opportunities, and create a network of support for our students, their families, and their communities.

Core Values

- (1) We believe that the classical music profession should reflect racial and ethnic diversity.
- (2) We believe that children, if identified at an early age and immersed in long-term, rigorous music instruction, can flourish as professional classical musicians and as individuals, regardless of their ultimate career choice.
- (3) We believe that our students can reach their full potential when held to high standards and provided with the support and active engagement of teachers, mentors, family members, and alumni.
- (4) We believe that music can change lives and that the disciplined study of classical music enhances educational opportunities and opens doors for our students and their communities.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

By building extensive student and family support systems into the program itself, Project STEP is able to hold students to - and help them reach - high standards of achievement. Incoming families are paired with "buddy" families, which allows older children to mentor incoming children and experienced parents to provide guidance for new parents. Families spend hours together each Saturday in the lounge at Symphony Hall while their children are in class, and all parents are part of the Parents' Council which meets monthly for 'parent pulse checks' and workshops on practical issues related to their children's music education. That Council elects two representatives to the Board of Directors who serve as full voting members and help shape the organization's policies. These parent representatives facilitate communication between parents and staff. At the end of each year, Project STEP hosts a Spring Recital with a fundraising component planned and executed by the Parents' Council. STEP's depth of support for parents and families creates an atmosphere of encouragement, ownership, and responsibility. Parents are crucial to our students' success, and their active involvement is one of STEP's greatest strengths.

"Project STEP is more than talented children and expert faculty; it is also made of a network of real families who juggle multiple obligations. Despite all the other facets of our lives, we have chosen to prioritize Project STEP. We can't help but follow in amazement as the program guides our children to new heights we couldn't have imagined." - STEP Parent



2016/2017 SNAPSHOT

The 2016/2017 year was filled with outstanding achievements from our students, events, concerts, collaborations with world renowned musicians, workshops, and over 80 hours of community service performed by our students.

HIGHLIGHTS:

PRESIDENT OBAMA'S WHITE HOUSE STATE DINNER

Project STEP students and alumni performed for over 200 guests at the White House. As the event drew to a close, President Obama even thanked Project STEP by name! The students were honored to meet the President and First Lady for an official photo in the Blue Room.

PERFORMANCE AND PRESENTATION FOR THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA)/THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS — An incredible opportunity for STEP, we shared the success of our program with the distinguished members of the Council and NEA Chairman, Jane Chu. STEP student Amir performed and spoke to the panel whose members responded with a standing ovation.

Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY — The Project STEP community celebrated the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. This event included performances and a panel discussion about the role of race in classical music.

ART IN BLOOM AT THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS (MFA)

During this beautiful event, STEP students impressed the crowds at the MFA as they performed amongst artwork and impeccable floral arrangements.

ASHMONT HILL CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT WITH DBR

Our Honors Quartet performed the first movement of a piece written by contemporary composer Daniel Bernard Roumain. The piece contains four movements, each of which focuses on a different American civil rights leader.

JORDAN HALL AND A FAR CRY-A rotating group of Criers has been coaching the Project STEP Honors Quartet, and on March 17, that STEP ensemble gave a pre-concert performance at Jordan Hall before A Far Cry's concert. In addition, one student joined A Far Cry onstage to perform with them side by side!



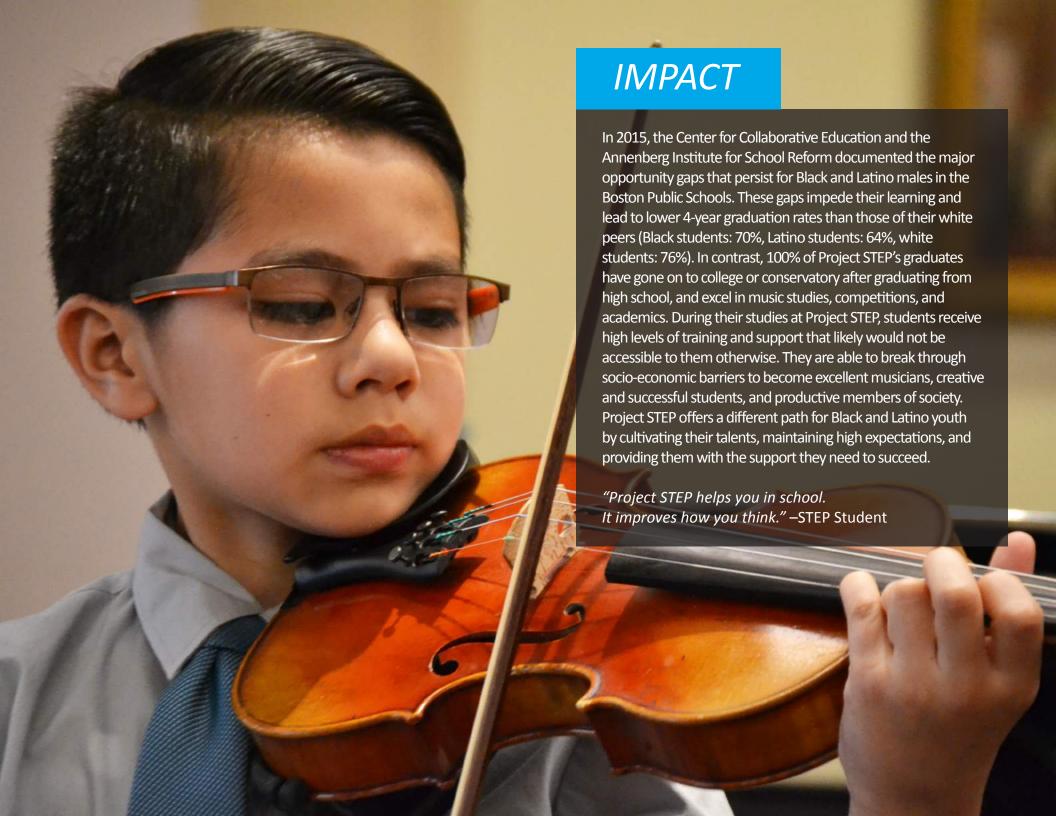
TELLING OUR STORY IN WASHINGTON

Project STEP was asked back to Washington, D.C. for the third time in two years to give a presentation and perform for the National Council for the Arts and Chairman Jane Chu of The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). This honor came only months after having the opportunity to perform at President Obama's State Dinner recognizing the United States' fifty year relationship with Singapore. During the most recent visit with the NEA, it was 7th grade violinist Amir who earned a well-deserved standing ovation. We are so proud!

Below: Project STEP Executive Director Gabriella Sanna, STEP student Amir, STEP parent and Board representaive Rochelle Burgos, and Artistic Director Javier Caballero. Right: STEP staff and student violinist Amir with NEA Chairman Jane Chu.



"One of the greatest opportunities that Project STEP has given me personally occurred when I was 8 years old and it was my fourth year in the program. I distinctly remember when my mother received the email from Project STEP saying that my sister and I were going to be playing in front of a large crowd in Symphony Hall. At the time, I was very young and I didn't quite realize how big this performance was, but the second I walked up on that stage and saw all the faces staring back at me, oh boy did I start to feel the butterflies in my stomach! Now at 13, I am performing in Washington, D.C. for the National Endowment for the Arts!" Amir, violin, grade 7



MEET OUR STUDENTS





SCHOLARS

Project STEP is pleased to award the 2017 Eleanor L. Campbell Scholarship to Lauryn (left) and the Arthur Kravitz Scholarship to Noah (below).

In 2007, Barbara N. Kravitz established a scholarship for one advanced STEP student to be selected each year in memory of her husband, Dr. Arthur Kravitz. As Past President of the Board, he loved classical music and believed strongly in the mission of Project STEP.

In the same year, Judge Levin H. Campbell established a scholarship fund in honor of his wife, Eleanor L. Campbell, a long-time Project STEP supporter.

Scholars are chosen on the basis of merit, dedication, and community involvement.





Kirk Johnson (above: 1999 STEP graduate) graduated with a BM in Viola Performance and a M.Ed from Indiana University where he was introduced to the world of string pedagogy under the guidance of Mimi Zweig. Inspired by his experiences with Project STEP, New England Conservatory of Music, and The IU String Academy, Kirk founded Owen County S.O.U.N.D.S. (Students Opening Up New Doors with Strings) in the Fall of 2003. SOUNDS Academy is a non-profit music education organization that teaches, mentors, and provides musical experiences and opportunities for underserved youth. Students also learn to use their music to help others by participating in performances at hospitals, shelters, or retirement homes. SOUNDS Academy works with over 30 organizations to bring musical opportunities to the schools and children in lower income areas. SOUNDS has 150 students in its strings program and exposes an additional 4,000 students to musical experiences.



SUMMER CAMPS

Music camps are often some of the most productive and influential experiences for our students. In gorgeous country settings, students have many hours each day to play chamber and orchestral music with students from all over the world. Away from academic and other day to day obligations that compete with music, they enjoy relaxed but determined goal-oriented music making in combination with fun and healthy outdoor experiences. Their identities as music students are heightened by being surrounded with campers who share and celebrate their passion. The combination of intensity, beauty, structure, physical freedom, and bonds formed among campers and members of the faculty contribute to lifelong memories.

This summer, our students attended camps that included Rivers Summer Music, Four Strings Academy, Community Music Center of Boston, Encore/Coda, Music on the Hill, Greenwood, Point CounterPoint, Junior Strings Intensive, Apple Hill, Cremona, and the Boston University Tanglewood Institute.

This incredible opportunity is provided to every Project STEP student for two to six weeks each summer. In order to help cover the costs of these programs and make them accessible to all of our students, we combine funds from Project STEP with special support from Susan Rothenberg and the Janey Fund, Winsor Music contributions, The Willow Tree Fund, The Mary Saudek Jaffee Fund, The Ramsey McCloskey Family Foundation, and scholarships from the camps themselves.

"Another great thing about STEP is that they send everyone to music camp every summer. My first summer I attended Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music. That camp is the best thing that has ever happened to me in my whole life..." - STEP Student

LEADERSHIP & STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Diane M. Austin, FY2018 President* Dianne Luby, FY2017 President Gregory E. Bulger, *Treasurer* Jessica M. Fenton, *Clerk* Mark Churchill Goetz B. Eaton, Past President Christina M. Frangos Meghan K. Jasani Shiela Kibbe, BU Rep Hon. Antoinette McLean Leonev Karen McInnis Christophe Oliver Elisa C. Pepe **Christopher Reuning** Cheri Robartes Kerby Roberson, Parent Rep Diana E. Rodriguez Jessica Schmidt, BSO Rep Benz Theodore, Parent Rep Marcus Thompson Catherine J. Toppin

New incoming Board members for fiscal year 2018:

Carla Haith Alex McCray

*At the conclusion of fiscal year 2017, Board President Dianne Luby stepped down after serving in that position for three years. Diane M. Austin now serves as President of the Board. Diane is the Vice President of Student Affairs at Lasell College, is very involved with the classical music community, and has been an active Board member for many years.

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Nina L. Doggett
Randall Hiller, Past President
Jackie Jenkins-Scott
Patricia Krol
Rachel S. Moore
William Moyer
Daniel I. Palant
Ann Hobson Pilot
Wendy Putnam
Astrid Schween
Martha Batchelor Volpe
Margaret Williams-DeCelles,
Past President
Owen Young

STAFF

Gabriella Sanna, Executive Director Javier R. Caballero, Artistic Director* Leigh C. Kelter,

Director of Institutional Relations
Jodie McMenamin,

Manager of Individual Giving Alison L. Fessler,

Communications Coordinator
Mariana Green-Hill, Artistic Advisor
Matthew M. Smith, Artistic
Coordinator

PARTNERS

Boston Symphony Orchestra Boston University New England Conservatory

*At the conclusion of fiscal year 2017, Javier Caballero stepped down in his role as Artistic Director to accept a position at From The Top. Jin-Kyung Joen now serves as Artistic Director.



SUPPORTERS & FRIENDS

COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

A Far Cry

Boston Symphony Orchestra BSO Education Department/

Symphony for Our City

Boston University

Gabriel Cabezas

Carriage House Violins of Johnson

String Instruments

Johannes Moser

New England Conservatory

Peggy Pearson and Winsor Music

Wendy Putnam and the Concord

Chamber Music Society

Rutman's Violins

Marcus Thompson and the Boston

Chamber Music Society

Triple Helix Piano Trio

Tufts University

Owen Young

IN MEMORIAM

*Louis H. Hamel, Jr.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS \$50,000 +

The Honorable Levin H. Campbell Louis H. Hamel, Jr.* The Willow Tree Fund

\$25.000 +

Susan Rothenberg

\$10,000 +

Nat and Diana Alpert Diane Asseo Griliches Barbara Kravitz

\$5,000 +

Anonymous

Gregory E. Bulger and Richard Dix

Susan Okie Bush

Martha and Donald Farley Family

Foundation

Douglas Fenton and Jessica Margolin

Fenton

Dianne Luby

Abby Pratt

Christopher Reuning

James and Norma Smith

John and Samantha Williams

Winsor Music

\$1,000 +

Diane M. Austin and Aaron J. Nurick

Peter Boberg and Sunwoo Kahng

Dorothy Burstein

Mark Churchill

Stephanie Harriston-Diggs and

Randolph Diggs

Ruth L. Hertz

Jane Duffy

Goetz Eaton and Ted Davis

Joanna L. Griscom

Meghan K. Jasani and Adam J.

Margolin

Kanter Kallman Foundation, Inc.

Mary Lincoln

Richard Macmillan

Evelyn A. McFadden

Christophe and Tara Oliver

Daniel and Barbara Palant

William H. and Kathleen Rousseau

Michael T. Sherman

Astrid C. Schween

Alfred and Gilda Slifka

\$1.000 + CONT'D

Emilie D. Steele

Marcus A. Thompson

Peter Wheeler and Elizabeth Munro

\$500 +

David and Holly Ambler

Diane Baehre

Susan Bryant

Ann S. and Robert Buxbaum

Nancy Chodorow

John F. Cogan, Jr. and Mary L. Cornille

Nelson J. Darling

Reed E. Drews and Lisa I. lezzoni

Harriet Feinberg

Terri Lorenz and James W. Gorman. Jr.

Holladay Handlin

Louise Hauser

Linda J. Heffner

Mary Huntington

Diana Johnston

Robert Keefe

Carol Lobron

Richard and Nancy Lubin

Karen McInnis

Anne Mollet

Kyra Montagu

Robert and Jane Morse

Susan W. Paine

Burton D. and Gloria Rose

Stephen Saudek and Janice Durham

Rhoda Schneider

Ann Scott

David and Marie Louise Scudder

Svlvia Skinner

Ann and Phil Smith

Marylen R. Sternweiler

George Wiltsee

Ellen Wineberg

Benjamin Zander

\$250+

Eric Darling

Anna L. and Peter B. Davol

Merissa and Vincent Dufrend

Michael Tsuk and Edith Epstein

Silvana A. Giner

Michael Maynard and Ilene Greenberg

Natalie Harrington

Joanna Helferich

Bernard and Heidi Husser

Mary and Ben Jaffee

Jackie Jenkins-Scott and James Scott

Liza Ketchum and John H. Straus

Pat Krol and Stephen Chiumenti

Judith Lubershane

Richard P. and Claire W. Morse

Foundation

Morton Abromson and Joan Nissman

Elisa Pepe

Christopher Pike

William J. and Lia G. Poorvu

Gabriella Sanna

Carol Hofmann and Michael Schaffer

Thomas J. and Lois Schwab

Phyllis and Lawrence Selter

Margaret Williams-DeCelles

\$100+

Anonymous

William and Susan Adams

Cornell Allen

Bernice L. Auslander

Sandy Bakalar

Faith Barnes

Mariory Blacher

Katherine K. Brobeck Christopher Buono

Valerie Busby

Regina Campbell

Penelope Caponigro

Maria Cranna

Bruce and Susan Creditor

Joan P. and Ronald C. Curhan

Family Fund

Edith L. Dabney

SUPPORTERS & FRIENDS

\$100+ CONT'D

Belden and Pamela Daniels
Bruce and Maddy Donoff
Robert and Dianthe Eisendrath
Barbara Waszczak and Arthur Ensroth

Herbert and Jean Epstein David and Susan Fedo

Timothy Felter George L. Fosque Marie Lou Francoeur

Eileen and Barney Freiberg-Dale

Frances Fries
Sol Gittleman
Nadja B. Gould
Michael Grattan
Robert Hagopian

George and Daphne Hatsopoulos

Deborah Hauser Peter Henry Phyllis Hinsey Eloise W. Hodges Roberta Humez

Robert and Marianne Innis David and Gillian Jenkins

William Joplin

Jamie Kirsch and Diana Lemly

Sara Kitaeff Lucian Leape Brett Leav

The Honorable Antoinette E. Leoney

Constance Lewis Susan Lucas Susan Luckman Melissa Ludtke M. Scott Mampe

Joseph and Rachel Martin

Mary Martin

Kenneth and Margaret McIntosh

Tom McNaugher Tara S. Miller

Frederick and April Moyer

Cornelia Nichols Kim Noltemy Cynthia Orrell Anne Pearson

Ann Hobson Pilot and Prentice Pilot

Anne and Harry Powers Katherine Powers

Harold I. and Frances Pratt Abram and Martha Recht

Hilary Respass Lee Ridgway

Samuel and Phyllis Rubinovitz

Nancy Cirillo Ruggiero Susan S. Saudek Barbara Schnuer Lisa Sebell-Nevins Lois Shapiro Vernon Shetley

Joshua and Randi Simons

Judith Singer Steven Snider Ryan Hersey Starr

Epp Sonin Diana Stewart Alan Strauss

Terry and Margot Strom

James L. Terry Andrew Upton Edith Walker

Bernard E. Weichsel Constance V. R. White Frank and Elizabeth Wilder John and Linda Willson

Jackie Wolf and David Perlman Edward Graver and Anne Peverada

Young

Christine Zampell

UP TO \$100

Davette Abkowitz Sprague Ackley Michael Aleman Mary Beth Alger Carol Allen Roslind Anton

Ali Aziz Richard Bail Foster Ball

Michele and James Banker

Ilana Barker

Ronald P. Barron and Ina K. Wilhelm

Arny Berger Bob Berger Rachel Berger Seba Bodden Barret Brown

Henry T. and Melinda C. Brown

Luis and Blanca Burgos

Aline Benoit and Marshall Burlingame

Derek Campbell Penelope Caponigro Toni-Lee Capossela

Robert Frank and Jennifer Coplon

Richard Cornell
John Cosimini
Sally Cross
Marlene DaCosta
Janice Darling
Richard Davies
Janice Dolan

Madeline Donheiser

Meg Droney

George and Tanya Duncan

Brenda Engel Maria Farias Robin Fenberg Marcy Fischer Christina M. Frangos Richard and Zelia Frias

Thomas L. and Annemarie Gauger

John R. and Rita B. Glover

Andrew Gola

John W. and Gretchen Graef

Shelly Grubman

Leon and Johanna Gunther

Helen Hagopian Juanita L. Hardrick Carole Harris

Christopher and Kathy Heckscher

Stuart and Jen Henry Lorell and Pat Hernandez

Michael Hill

Joshua Hoffman-Senn Louise M. Huddleston

Peter Janout Robert Jones

Roger and Judith Kamm

Barbara Kassler

Leigh and Chris Kelter

Robin Kenny
Judith H. Kidd
Michael Klinger
Mark Leicester
Constance R. Levine
Caroline Livingston

Elliot D. and Lenore Zug Lobel

Laura Logue Rood Gayle Lutchen Margaret Leddy Jean Mason Lisa Mcdonnell

Jodie and Paul McMenamin Jonathan and Linda Meier Ralph and Sylvia Memolo

Bridget Mundy

Evelyn and John Neumeyer

Diana M. Nugent David Pap Ava Bry Penman Juliet Pepe

Julie Ramsey and David Cutright

Peter and Suzanne Read

Cheri Robartes Nancy B. Roberts Barbara Roche Adelia Romeo

David and Krana Rosen

Mary Rosenthal

SUPPORTERS & FRIENDS

UP TO \$100 CONT'D

Ilya Rutman **Philip Saunders** Penny Schwartz Achal Shah Julie Silberman Melanie Steier Sue Szwed and Mitch Lansky Michael Tabak Benz-Nay and Ermita Theodore Martha Batchelor Volpe and Mark Volpe Christopher Walter Deborah Ward Genie Weekley Rochelle Weil Karen Campbell and Ray Wellbaum Kim Whiteley Leonard and Marie Wodarczyk Paul Monsky and Beverly Woodward Elihu and Janis Young Joseph Zorn

IN-KIND SUPPORT

A Far Cry
Jodie Baehre Art
Boston Pops
Boston Symphony Orchestra
Madeline Donheiser
Johnson String Instrument
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Jean Mason
New England Conservatory
Rutman's Violins
Scholars Bistro and Lounge
Elihu and Janis Young

BUSINESS, & COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Ctr. Boston Public Library **Boston Symphony Orchestra** Boston University School of Music Brookhaven at Lexington Carloyn Mapes Music D'Laly's Beauty Salon Discover Financial Services **Dudley Street Food Market Ethnica Catering** Family Intervention Team, FIT Inly School **Johnson String Instrument** Just Next Door Cards and Gifts Kevin Max Hair Design, Inc. Mario's Restaurant Corporation New England Conservatory of Music New England Philharmonic **Rivers School Conservatory** Rutman's Violins Silvia Curry/Rivers School of Music Schneider Electric North America Fnd. Scholars Bistro and Lounge South End Community Health Center Summit Educational Group Teak Media + Communications Triple Helix Piano Trio Winsor Music



FOUNDATION, CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Barr-Klarman Arts Capacity Building Initiative Boston Cultural Council Boston University School of Music Charles H. Bond Trust Gregory E. Bulger Foundation Robert Lloyd Corkin Foundation Joan P. and Ronald C. Curhan Family Fund Dedham Savings Bank
Eastern Bank
Lincoln and Therese Filene
Foundation, Inc
GE Foundation
Charles and Sara Goldberg Trust
Harvard Musical Association
The Janey Fund
Kanter Kallman Foundation, Inc.

Klarman Family Foundation
Liberty Mutual Foundation
Linde Family Foundation
Martha and Donald Farley Family
Foundation
Massachusetts Cultural Council
YouthReach
Ramsey McCluskey Family Foundation

Richard P. and Claire W. Morse Foundation Mu Phi Epsilon Foundation National Endowment for the Arts Savage Family Foundation Still Waters Fund The Willow Tree Fund Winsor Music

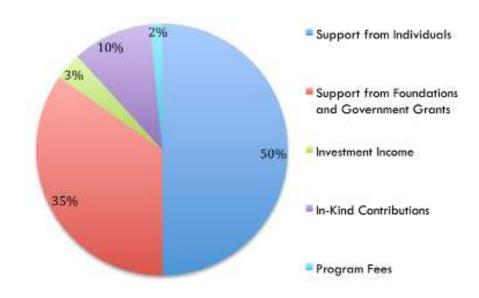


FINANCIALS

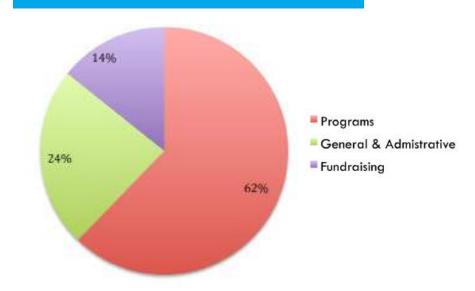
Sources of Income

Support from Individuals	\$ 404,296
Support from Foundation & Government Grants	\$ 282,000
Investment Income	\$ 28,500
Donated Space, Instruments, Services	\$ 82,529
Program Fees & Honoraria	\$ 12,486
Total Income	\$ 809,811
Use of Funds	
Program	\$ 448,934
Administrative	\$ 169,455
Fundraising	\$ 102,948
All expenses	\$ 721,337
Surplus before investment losses	\$ 88,474
Gains / Losses on investments	\$ 150,891
Surplus	\$ 239,365

SOURCES OF INCOME \$809,811



USES OF FUNDS \$721,337



FINANCIALS

Project STEP, Inc. Statement of Financial Position June 30, 2017 and 2016

Statement of Financial Position	2017	2016
ASSETS		
Checking Account	27,825	50,614
Investments	1,730,018	1,482,642
Receivables, net	117,000	160,500
Prepaid expense	18,000	
Office equipment, net of		
depreciation of \$15,736	9,503	12,721
and \$13,870 in 2017 and	.,	,
2016, respectively		
Music instruments, net of		
depreciation of \$278,100	440	04.767
and \$264,970 in 2017 and	112,574	81,767
2016, respectively		
Total Assets	2,014,920	1,788,244
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	2,662	15,351
Total Liabilities	2,662	15,351
	,	,
Net assets		
Unrestricted	1,473,087	1,283,217
Temporarily restricted	152,071	102,576
Permanently restricted	387,100	387,100
Total net assets	2,012,258	1,772,893
Total liabilities and net assets	2,014,920	1,788,244







#ProjectSTEP

Symphony Hall 301 Massachusetts Avenue Boston, MA 02115 617-267-5777 ProjectSTEP.org



@ProjectSTEP

Photos by Abdi Ali, Michael J. Lutch, and Project STEP