



the lewis prize
for music

community | collaboration | leadership

WORKING TOGETHER TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

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“Trust yourself. Trust your ability to adapt to changes. Trust your intellect and your intuition. You have earned your own trust. Believe you are capable more than you believe you aren’t.”

~ Ian Mouser

Introduction from the CEO

Less than two months after the January 2020 announcement of the inaugural Lewis Prize for Music awards, COVID changed the world. The pandemic's weight has landed heavily on children and youth, communities of color, and immigrants. In the midst of this monumental emergency and the overlapping crisis of racial inequity, the creative youth development (CYD) field's commitment to young people, their families and communities, has been a resolute counter to these challenges.

We've seen it affirmed again and again that music, combined with strong relationships, is a catalytic force for positive change and healing. Through learning, performing and creating music with peers and caring mentors, young people learn the power of self-expression, develop greater agency over their lives and contribute positively to their communities. Through CYD music experiences, they become engaged citizens who care for and collaborate with others to overcome obstacles and thrive in the midst of tragedy.

Our aim is for every young person, regardless of who they are or where they live, to have access to CYD music programs from an early age. In addition to the personal benefits CYD music delivers, the COVID era has revealed that creative youth development programs which attend to the full wellbeing of young people are intrinsically systems change oriented. We've seen this in the overlap between our 2020 COVID Community Response Fund grantees and our subsequent Accelerator Awardees.

To be an effective partner in disrupting inequitable systems, The Lewis Prize for Music aspires to do so from the inside out, as an actor in systems ourselves. This is why The Lewis Prize for Music strives to center racial equity in our internal practices as well as our funding and external relationships. Young people and older adults deeply experienced in music, CYD, youth development, arts education and systems change select our awardees. We collaborate closely with our awardees and grantees, the broader field of CYD organizations, and aligned funders, media and influencers to reflect the values and change that we seek. To date, over 250 people have informed and advised us. We listen and learn together so The Lewis Prize for Music evolves in response to the community it supports and can genuinely contribute to equitable systems change.

This annual report details our journey of the past two years. It covers the range of our activities from the onset of COVID-19 in March 2020 through December 2021. We've organized this report to mirror the division of our work into four project teams: Prize Process, Field Learning, Knowledge Generation and Communications. All that we've achieved during this unprecedented time has been possible because of our extraordinary team of part-time staff members. Their personal belief in CYD's essential value to young people and communities infuses all they do on behalf of The Lewis Prize for Music. I am honored to be their colleague.

Finally, as so many have, The Lewis Prize for Music community experienced tragic loss this year. We mourn the passing of 2020 Accelerator Awardee Ian Mouser, Founder and Executive Director of My Voice Music in Portland, Oregon. Ian started a cross country bicycle journey on October 11 and was killed in an accident during the early hours of October 14 on a two lane highway in Arizona. Music gave Ian the relationships, self awareness and dedication to heal from traumas he'd experienced growing up. When he discovered his talent for connecting through music with young people in search of healing and self expression, he dedicated his life to spreading the alchemy of music and trust that had saved him. We dedicate this report to Ian Mouser, who shared this wisdom with us all just before he departed on his final odyssey: "Trust yourself. Trust your ability to adapt to changes. Trust your intellect and your intuition. You have earned your own trust. Believe you are capable more than you believe you aren't."

In Memory

IAN MOUSER

1979-2021

Ian was a true champion for Amplifying Youth Voice, and prioritized authentic relationship building and safe spaces for youth to ignite thriving self-discovery. He founded My Voice Music to support young people with valuing their strengths through the self expression, healing, and joy of music making. His impact as a creative youth development leader and innovator has reached thousands and will continue to reverberate.



Photo: Clara Johnson

Organizational Overview

The Lewis Prize for Music believes that music in the lives of young people is a catalytic force to drive positive change in our society. It is a five-year \$20 million philanthropic initiative founded and funded by Daniel R. Lewis dedicated to achieving equitable systems change that results in all young people having access to creative youth development music.

MISSION

The Lewis Prize for Music partners with leaders in diverse and vibrant communities who create positive change by investing in young people through music. We believe young people with access to creative youth development music learning, performance and creation opportunities will mature into thriving individuals.

VISION

Communities have the leadership, commitment, and resources to provide diverse creative youth development music programs for all young people.

FOUNDER AND CHAIRMAN

Daniel R. Lewis

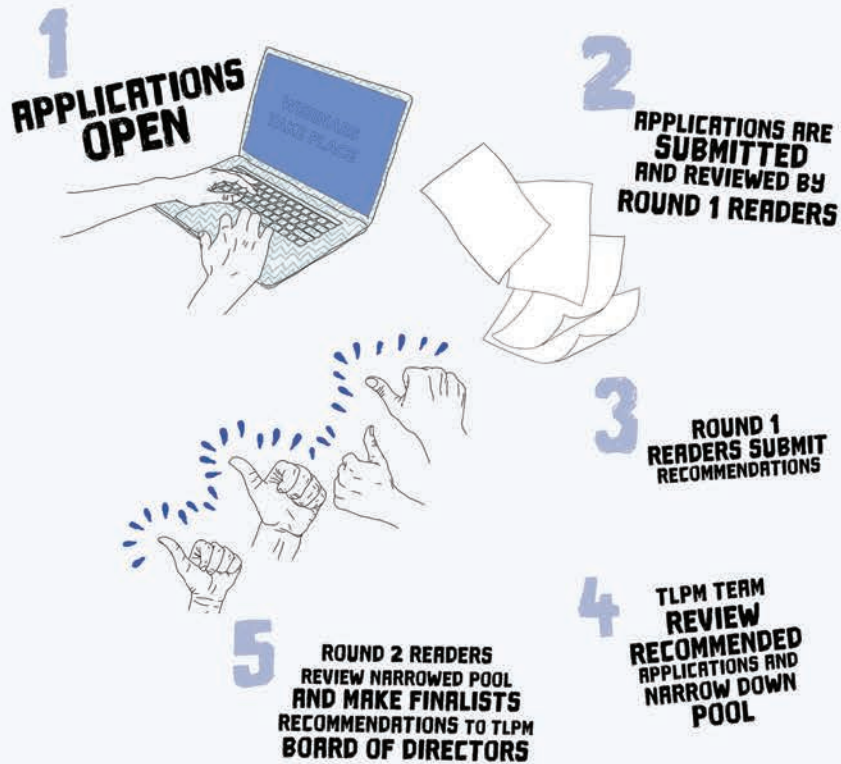
BOARD MEMBERS

Stefon Harris
Rebecca Fishman Lipsey
María López De León
Omari Rush
Valerie Dillon, Board Member Emeritus

STAFF MEMBERS

Arielle Julia Brown
Kenneth Courtney Jr.
Karen Cueva
Annette Fritzsche
Ann Gregg
Alexis Jackson
Shenika John Jordan
Traci Slater-Rigaud
Dalouge Smith, CEO

Overview of the 2020 & 2021 Grantmaking Cycles



6 FINALISTS ARE NOTIFIED. FINALISTS SUBMIT ADDITIONAL MATERIALS AND HOST VIRTUAL SITE VISITS FOR TLPM.



7 FINALISTS ARE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED

8 FINALIST REVIEW PANEL READ FINALIST APPLICATIONS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO TLPM BOARD OF DIRECTORS



9 TOP AWARDEES ARE PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED



Impact Report

Our Impact

In 2021, we had the opportunity to take stock of some of the work that our grantees and awardees have been leading in their communities. Through our annual end of year reporting, we were able to be in conversation with our grantees about how they entered and weathered the impacts of the pandemic and the calls from their community for support. The following are takeaways from that reporting.

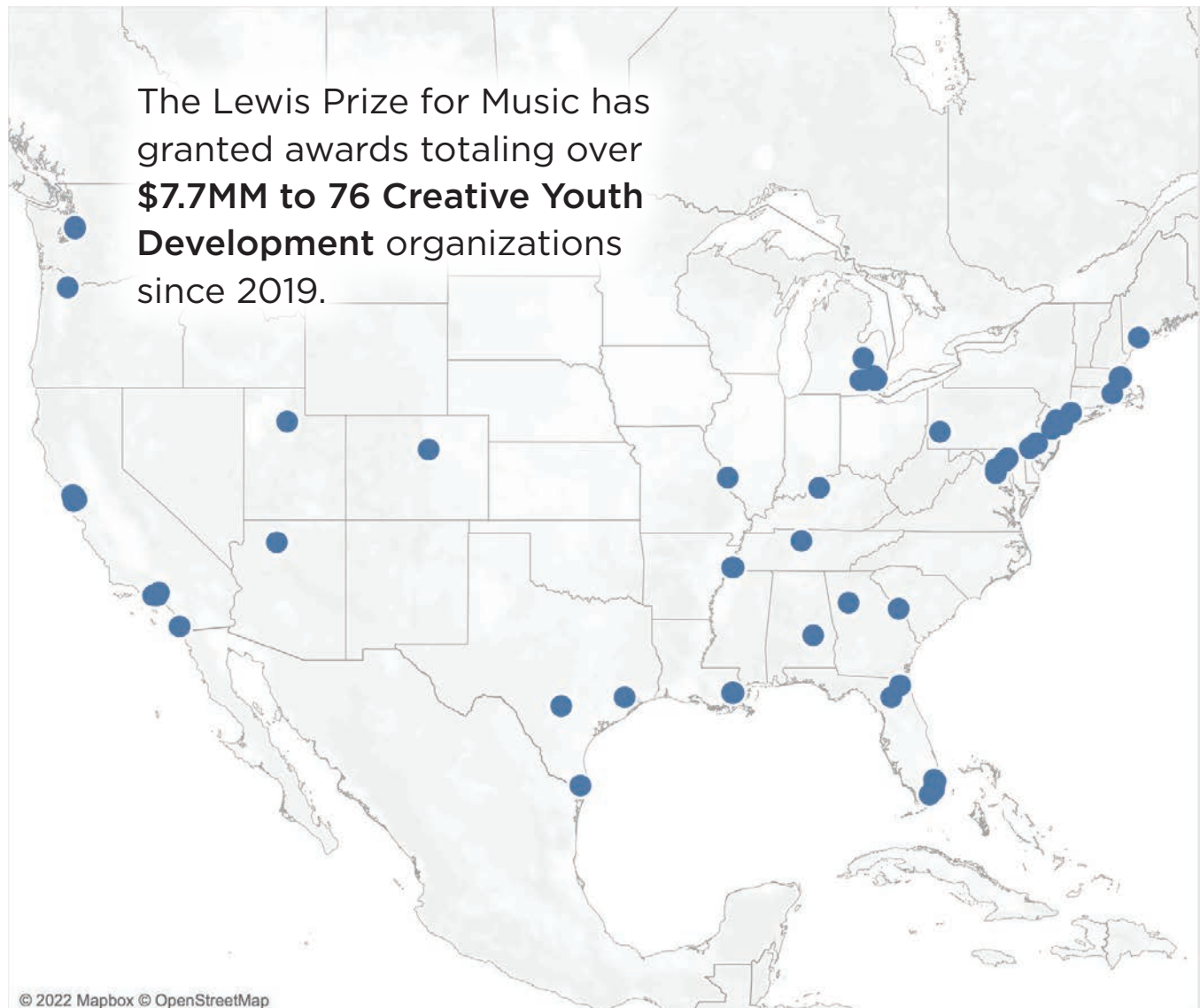
FINANCIAL & HUMAN CAPACITY

64% of our grantees and awardees noted that funding from The Lewis Prize for Music was essential to retaining and hiring staff

59% saw increases in their operating budgets in 2020

56% were able to maintain stable staffing in 2020

26% were able to add staff in 2020



DIRECT SERVICES OFFERED BY OUR AWARDEES AND GRANTEES

76% provided 4+ direct services to youth and families. The most prominently offered direct services are as follows:

82%	71%	65%	65%	59%
SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS	TECHNOLOGY ACCESS	YOUTH EMPLOYMENT	FOOD, HOUSING, INCOME	MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

VIRTUAL PROGRAM ADAPTATION

58% of all awardees and grantees noted that funding from The Lewis Prize for Music was essential to successfully adapting to virtual programming, providing technology access, and distributing musical instruments

PARTNERSHIPS

All of the awardees and grantees in 2020 worked to leverage new partnerships to better serve their communities. The types of partnerships are broken down as follows:

- 50% of all partnerships initiated by grantees and awardees in 2020 were leveraged to offer direct services and wellbeing needs for their communities
- 30% of all new partnerships focused on collaborations with professional artists/arts organizations
- 20% of all new partnerships were built with other CYD organizations locally and nationally



The Roots of Music (New Orleans, LA)

Annual Report

Note on Collective Authorship

The thought leadership of our partners, staff and board, awardees and the youth they serve is consistently contributing to the values we hold central to our work in the field of Creative Youth Development. Our staff and board collectively are majority people of color and majority women. Our staff operates with a generally flat power structure wherein collective thought leadership is central and core to building articulations of our values and the nuances of our processes as a foundation. To this end, please note that all of our published content is, on some level, collectively authored by our collective voices. We hope that you will be inspired by the content we produce. Should you wish to reference, share or otherwise engage the thought leadership and content published on our website, laid out in our process or otherwise shared in a public forum, we ask that you please cite us.



Pico Youth and Family Center (Santa Monica, CA)

Our Definition of Systems Change

The Lewis Prize for Music recognizes that inequities in the United States are rooted in systems that devalue, exploit, and exclude people. Such systems have been in place since Europeans first arrived in the Americas and displaced indigenous peoples. Concurrently, Europeans initiated the transatlantic slave trade that brought African peoples to North America to be enslaved. The systems of chattel slavery and jim crow have been overturned by the efforts of people working toward systems change. However, remnants remain in the beliefs, attitudes, cultures, practices, and policies that continue to marginalize African, Latinx, Asian, Arab and Native American, religious, and gender groups in the United States. Additionally, poor and working class white people, especially, but not exclusively, located in contemporary rural contexts, experience hardships due to unjust systems and ever increasing income inequality.

Disenfranchisement based on race, gender, socio-economic status, immigrant status, and other markers of difference from the dominant culture have developed over centuries to codify macro systems of oppression. Examples of ongoing macro system injustices include racism, gender discrimination, economic and civic exclusion, health disparities, and environmental degradation among others. Correspondingly, these macro systems dictate the shape of civic systems that marginalize and under resource people from targeted communities and backgrounds. Civic systems with this effect include education, redlining, policing, incarceration, and foster care, among many others.

Achieving a just, fair, and humane society for all requires transforming and replacing discriminatory systems, especially those that continue to undermine historically marginalized and under-resourced communities.

Prize Process

The Lewis Prize for Music's annual awards cycle begins with the application opening each spring and concludes the following January with the Awards announcement. In addition to undertaking the second awards cycle during 2020, TLPM recognized the CYD field's immediate response to the onset of COVID-19 with 32 grants ranging between \$25,000 to \$50,000 in June 2020.

The Prize process for the Accelerator Awards begins with a series of questions that allow applicants to tell their organization's story. By sharing their values around leadership, youth voice, community partnerships, and what systems change work looks like both at their programs and in their community, the Accelerator Awards process gives TLPM a more nuanced look at the CYD field nationally. Additionally, applicants have continued to share that the application questions further help themselves to reflect on their systems change intentions and actions.

As TLPM's staff continued our collective learning journey on racial equity, the Prize Process was reviewed for opportunities to change structural aspects of the eligibility form and full application. Responding to both applicant feedback and our teams' learning, the 2022 awards application had 50% fewer questions than the previous year. We also increased the percentage criteria for community representation of staff and board membership to 30% for all eligible applicants. Because we are seeing and learning that local representation matters, TLPM plans to increase this percentage each year.

Internally, we continue to be mindful of the circumstances that create and surround smaller budget organizations and their work. Budget diversity continues to be of great importance as we seek to have more equitable awards. Keeping a mindful eye on this through the first round of review spurred a greater geographical and leader ethnic and racial diversity. This was a consistent finding throughout the rounds and by the time the Accelerator Awards were announced, the budget diversity was notable, including our first awardee that was fiscally sponsored at the time of awarding.



Photo: Jen Prince

Stax Music Academy
(Memphis, TN)

Field Learning

At the heart of Field Learning are relationships. Field Learning manages the thought partnership with all of the grantees and Accelerator Awardees, builds and cultivates connections with colleagues in philanthropy and policy to leverage resources and support for CYD, and facilitates the internal team and board learning, culture and capacity building.

As a thought partner to all TLPM Awardees and Grantees, the Field Learning team has built a balanced strategy that includes time for facilitated conversations and experiences as well as leaving space for open dialogue. Sharing monthly opportunities from the field, relationship mapping, Leadership Conversations with all Accelerators and the Learning Labs all contribute to an open door relationship.



We Are Culture Creators (Detroit, MI)

In 2021, we invited new organizations into the Accelerator fold, moving from relationships with three organizations to seven. For the second year, the new Accelerators participated in the annual Learning Lab Series that was designed for first-year prize awardees to build relationships across the cohort, analyze and refine narratives about their CYD practice and leadership, as well as develop deeper understanding of systems change in their work. The key learnings from the Labs will inform the subsequent essays and videos created by the Accelerators.

In 2021, we embarked on a journey with Thirdspace Action Lab to do racial equity work internally as a staff and board. The year-long investment included: Soul Sessions, Caucuses, Leadership Coaching, Trainings through the Racial Equity Institute, and a series of thoughtful dialogues. This investment has had a

ripple effect on our internal working relationships and awards process, research, communications, and field learning.

TLPM is also a member of the CYD Funders Forum, and through an introduction of Thirdspace Action Lab to the Forum, has paved the way for group racial equity work to take place in 2022. In addition to introducing racial equity work to the Forum, we were excited to take the lead in creating a public joint statement about the value of CYD in acknowledgment of the Mackenzie Scott/Dan Jewett investment in many CYD organizations around the country, including over 20 Lewis Prize for Music grantees and awardees. Over 20 unique CYD Funders signed the statement. Field Learning participated in monthly meetings of the CYD National Partnership.

Knowledge Generation

Knowledge Generation works to understand the key factors of what makes Creative Youth Development organizations an essential element of impact in their communities. Systems change is not only driven by the passion of these extraordinary young people, but through the thoughtful leadership, intentional partnerships, and resource driven programming provided by CYD organizations.

Through a series of collaborations with our Accelerators and contributions from CYD organizations across the field, Knowledge Generation develops content that not only shares with readers the unique ways these organizations impact the youth they serve, but also on the shared systems within these organizations that are moving the field forward.

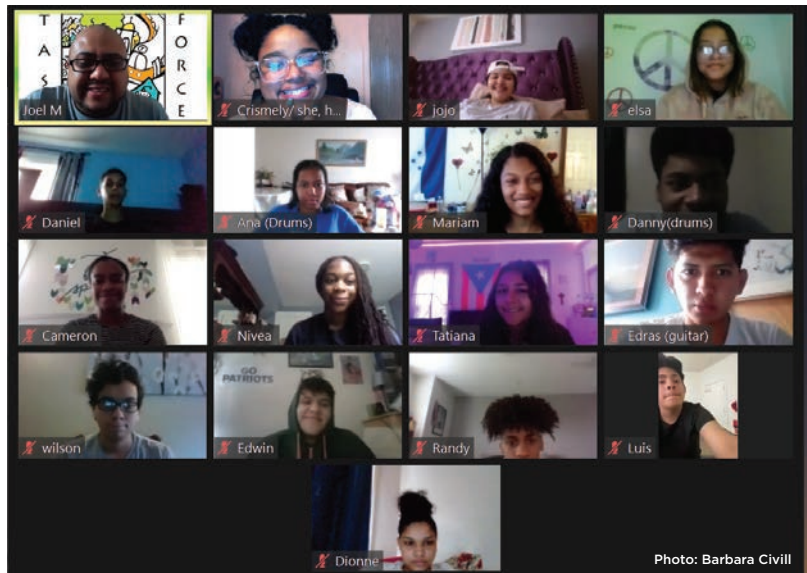


Photo: Barbara Civill

Hyde Square Task Force (Boston, MA)

Essay & Video Series

In 2020, The Lewis Prize for Music published [*Envision: Thoughts on Responsive and Collaborative Leadership*](#) from the 2020 Accelerator Awardees. This series of essays was an opportunity to sit with the leadership practices of our inaugural cohort of Accelerator awardees. As our first official research centered publication, this essay series worked to offer program centric frameworks for systems change in music-based creative youth development. The essays by Sebastian Ruth (Community MusicWorks), Ian Mouser (My Voice Music) and Brandon Steppe (The David's Harp Foundation) ranged from discussions of relationship-based systems change centering the leadership of young people navigating carceral systems to systems change as music centered approaches to mental health and healing for young people and emergent program design. Please see an overview of the awardee's work below and read their brilliant contributions on adaptive and responsive leadership at their organizations in these dynamic times.

IAN MOUSER AND MY VOICE MUSIC (Portland, OR)

My Voice Music: Using Music To Heal and Foster a New Generation of Leaders.

This essay discusses what it means to bring songwriting, recording, and performance to lockdown facilities, such as mental health treatment and detention centers, to help young people heal.

BRANDON STEPPE AND THE DAVID'S HARP FOUNDATION (San Diego, CA)

Beats Behind the Wall: Systems Change One Relationship At a Time.

This essay talks about the "Beats Behind the Wall" program for incarcerated young men and women to develop job skills through music and "Beats Beyond the Wall" for their further development and employment as instructors and audio engineers upon release. In particular, it follows the story and leadership of a young person moving through this program.

SEBASTIAN RUTH AND COMMUNITY MUSICWORKS (Providence, RI)

Continual Renewal: Equity, Education and an Evolving Organization.

This essay centers the ways in which CMW is identifying and rethinking the euro-centric norms of classical music to foster more egalitarian and inclusive musical practices.

In 2021, these same organizations created videos Accelerating Change: Creative Youth Development in Progress Across the United States. Individually produced by young people and community filmmakers from each award-winning organization's community, these videos highlight what Creative Youth Development looks like in action through the eyes of young people and the caring adults in their lives.

The videos live online at The Lewis Prize for Music (<https://www.thelewisprize.org/acceleratingchange>).

COVID-19 Field Study and White Paper

In the spring of 2021, following our support of CYD organizations with the COVID-19 Community Response Fund, The Lewis Prize for Music set out to better understand the ways in which CYD organizations have shown up in their communities as catalysts for change, before and during the pandemic. A field survey was sent across the field and out of 280 music CYD organizations surveyed nationally:

- 80% identified with providing one or more direct non-music services to young people and/or their families before the pandemic
- Twice as many organizations supported their communities with housing, income support and technology during the pandemic compared to 2019

- 76% organizations that completed this question supported their young people in getting involved in racial justice movements in 2020

We see the intersection of this deep trust-building relational work with CYD's internal justice orientations, direct service and immediate needs responsiveness, movement building and partnerships as a nexus of systems change. 35% of respondents identified with working in all five areas at this nexus.

Later that year, TLPM produced [Midcasting* Toward Just Futures: Creative Youth Development's Waymaking to Systems Change Through and Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). The paper is a compilation of the data collected from the field study alongside the voices of youth leaders and prominent CYD researchers. It considers not only the impact that music CYD organizations have had in their communities since the pandemic, but also how they are positioning young people to innovate, plan, and imagine new pathways toward just futures beyond and because of this inflection point in our collective history.

Included in the paper are essays from two youth leaders, Jakayla Furr and Rachel Jackson, doing research to strengthen their programs at Hyde Square Task Force and Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective, respectively, and also from two CYD outside researchers, Raquel Jimenez and Denise Montgomery. The paper also looks at case studies around systems change and direct services at Hyde Square Task Force, David's Harp Foundation, Neutral Zone, Zumix and Saint Louis Story Stitchers. The paper concludes with recommendations and questions meant to guide and propel us into deeper collective support of music-based CYD-led systems change.

Communications

Communications serves as the amplifier of The Lewis Prize for Music activities and initiatives, while providing support to our awardees and the larger CYD community. We use our tools and resources to spread the word about the importance and impact of Creative Youth Development across the United States.

Accelerator Application

In 2021, The Lewis Prize for Music's Accelerator Awards Application and Awards Announcements continued as the primary focus. We collaborated with the Prize Process team to present 3 webinars that provided information about the application process and offered perspectives from awardees and application readers. The announcement of the 2021 Accelerator Application was shared with over 200 national and regional press contacts. To provide transparency, we posted prior year applications and rubrics as well as produced a new animated video for social



My Voice Music (Portland, OR)

media to describe each stage of TLPM's awards process. We also launched our first Rural Open House to expand our relationships in rural communities and increase applications and support for these regions. Additionally, we've built a network of partners who assist us in spreading the word about the application. In 2021, we received 138 eligible applications from 37 states and Washington, DC.



Awardee Announcements

Press efforts surrounding the Awards Announcements in 2021 resulted in a 338% increase in press stories from the previous year. This result included 46 placements across print, online and broadcast media, and 26,681,460 impressions.

Awards activities included the announcement of the 2021 Awardees in January, reaching 79.5k individuals via social media, as well as the 2022 semi-finalist and finalists announcement in November 2021, reaching 64.7k individuals. Throughout this awarding process, our website, email newsletter, social media and direct contact with individuals in the field have been the primary tools for sharing this news.

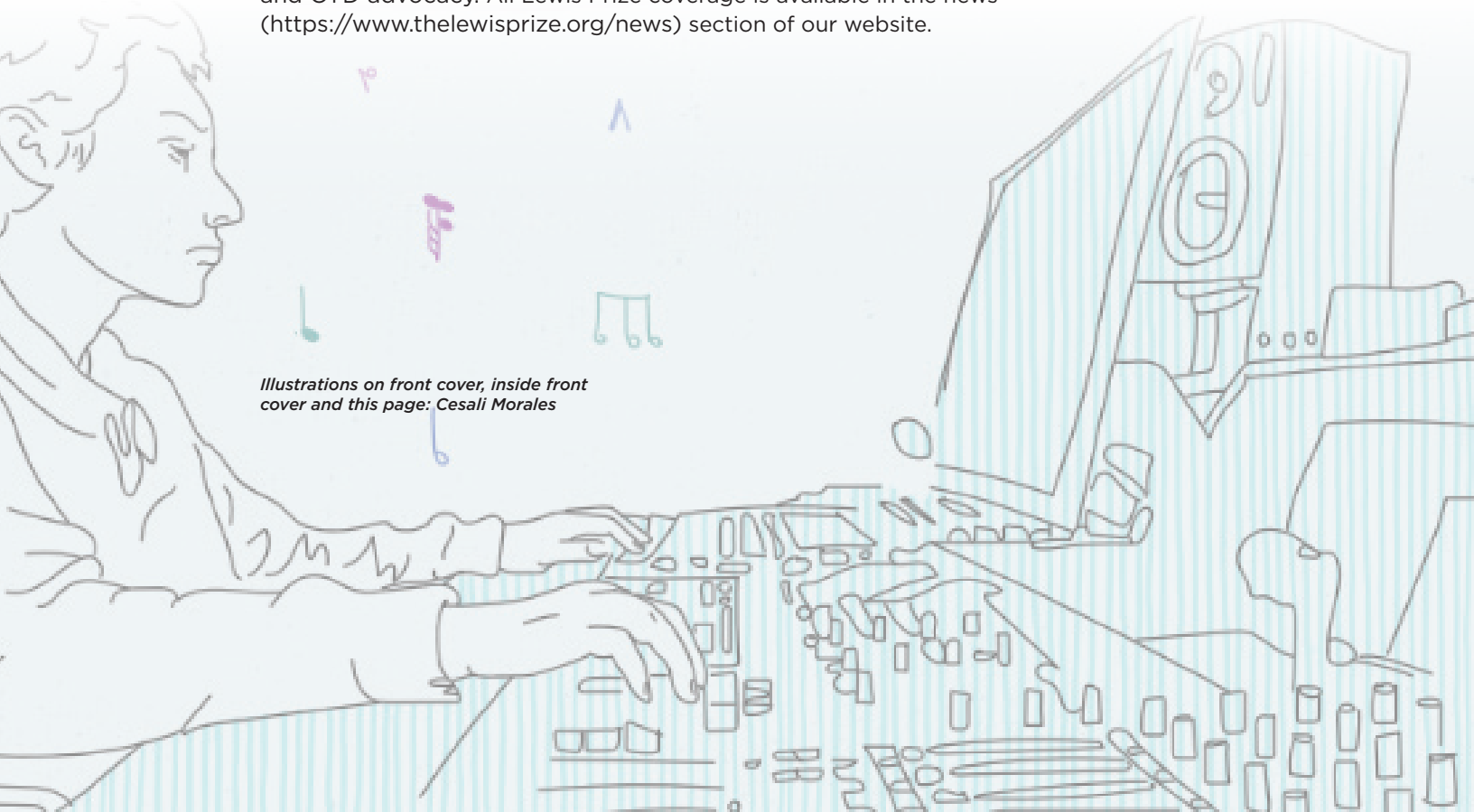
Influencer Campaign + CYD Advocacy

Our focus on CYD visibility and youth engagement led to the launch of #MusicMondayLive, an influencer campaign designed to bring greater awareness to CYD programs and the young people who are participating. We partnered with Save The Music Foundation for a 10-week Instagram Live series curating conversations with youth from Creative Youth Development programs across the country, as they got real-world advice from experienced musicians, singers, songwriters, artists, and DJs.

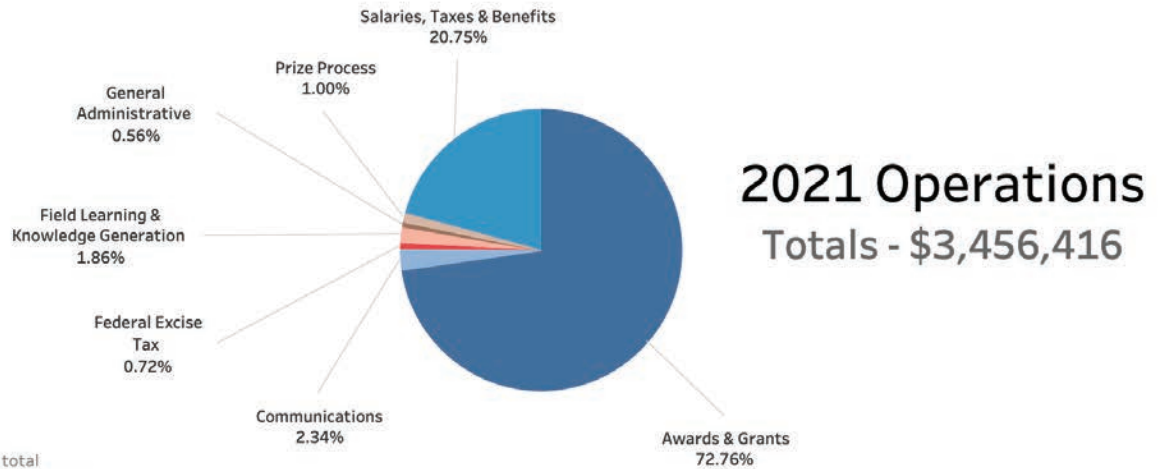
We supported the release of the [Accelerating Change Video Series](#), which provided the public with direct experiences and program practices from our Accelerator Awardees. Additionally, our communications support of The Lewis Prize for Music's Midcasting Report served to amplify key research findings on CYD programs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Key findings from The Lewis Prize for Music's Midcasting Report were shared with media for potential news coverage. Two op-eds from youth of TLPM affiliated organizations were published on *Blavity News* to support efforts in elevating youth voice and centering CYD.

TLPM leadership including founder Daniel Lewis and CEO Dalouge Smith had op-eds published in [Philanthropy News Digest](#) and [The San Diego Union-Tribune](#) to support The Lewis Prize for Music's efforts in positioning the organizations and CYD advocacy. All Lewis Prize coverage is available in the news (<https://www.thelewisprize.org/news>) section of our website.

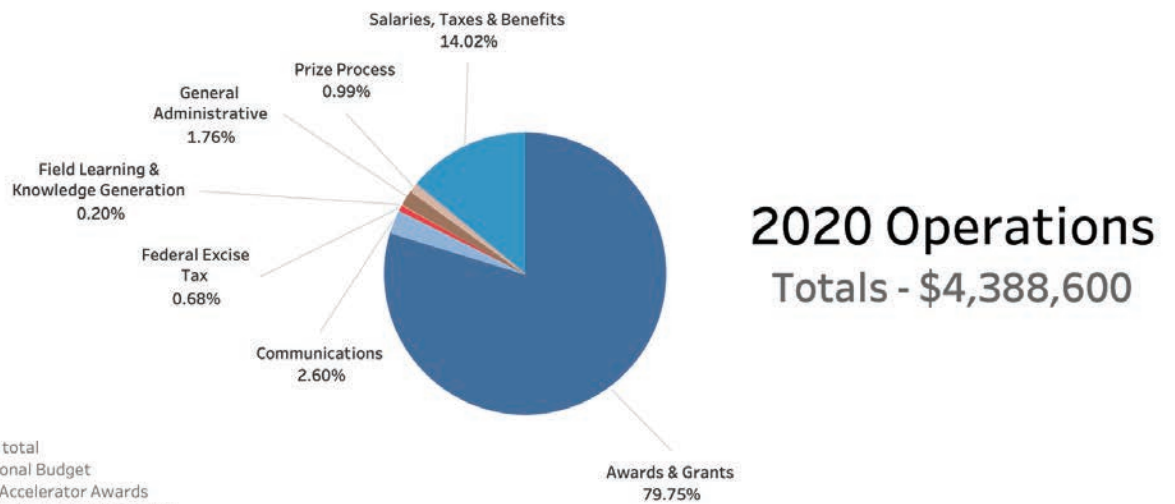
Illustrations on front cover, inside front cover and this page: Cesali Morales



Financials at a Glance (FY20 & FY21)



The Awards and Grants total under the 2021 Operational Budget includes the 2022 Accelerator Awards.



The Awards and Grants total under the 2020 Operational Budget includes both the 2021 Accelerator Awards and the COVID-19 Community Response Grants.

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