

TOTEM STAR



ANNUAL REPORT

2021



See you in Spring 2023!

WE'RE MOVING!

Totem Star is honored to have been selected by the City of Seattle and The Cultural Space Agency to build a new recording studio for the next generation of young recording artists at historic King Street Station!

We'll be sharing the second floor with a few other youth arts organizations, and we're so proud and grateful to be working with some amazing partners to make it happen.

WHY THE MOVE?

STATE OF THE ART STUDIO

A new professional recording studio for our region's youth will provide more access to high quality equipment and recording spaces for our artists and mentors.

CENTRAL LOCATION

A more centralized location near public transportation will create better access for our youth. We currently have artists joining us from all over the region to use our space!

MORE SPACE

The new studio at King Street Station will provide 8 times more space to serve our youth, and will include common areas for group gatherings, multiple studios for learning and practicing recording skills.

JACKSON ST MUSIC LEGACY

Historic King Street Station is located on South Jackson Street, where historically Black-owned jazz clubs used to thrive. With this legacy in mind, we're humbled to re-center a musical culture at this location.



Learn more about our move to King Street Station and ways you can help:

totemstar.org/newhome

A LETTER FROM US

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Hey Totem Star Family,

Take a deep breath. Feeling alright? We hope you feel good because WE MADE IT. We made it through the beginning of quarantine, through the peak of the pandemic, and we are continuing to reimagine safe and sustainable ways to continue the important work we do here at Totem Star. And the beautiful thing is, all of you have played a part in it—the parents who lent their kids their laptops to work on music, the donors who support our mission, our amazing staff and artist mentors, and our young artists who each contributed in an invaluable way...and persevered. This annual report is a celebration of our collective creativity and resilience. We're so glad you're here to mark this moment with us.

As we continue to live through extraordinary times, we see that challenges and hardships can sometimes reveal so much that we can be grateful for. On March 9, 2020, The Studio had closed at Youngstown Cultural Arts Center in response to the pandemic and the very next day, we moved and launched our programming online! Over this past summer, as pandemic restrictions started lifting, our family worked hard to prioritize community safety so that we could reopen in-person sessions at Youngstown. In Spring 2022, The Studio reopened with outstanding safety protocols and we've since had over 100 successful in-person sessions.

Having celebrated our 12th birthday on July 5th, 2022, we are excited about celebrating our 13th at our new home at King Street Station! As we've been growing in the number of youth we serve throughout these past 12 years, we have dreamed of finding a space that can provide our artists with higher quality access to resources, creative space, and a more central location.

Through a model of community, respect, and life-long learning, our artist mentors continue to inspire us with their love and support, providing our young artists with the tools they need to develop their artistic voice. Through this cycle of music mentorship, many young artists are seeing the value of community care, taking on leadership roles within the organization, such as becoming assistant program coordinators or interns, and we know that we're headed in the right direction when youth voice is centered.

We've come a long way! We survived 2020, stayed alive for 2021, and we plan to thrive in 2022!



Aleyanna Grae (they/she)
Artist, Co-Chair of the Totem Star Leadership Collective (TLC)



Krista Welch (she/her)
Board Secretary, Communications & Development Committee Chair



Thaddeus Turner
Veteran Artist Mentor & Co-Founder

Totem Star supports a diverse community of young recording artists learning music and life skills through mentorship and meaningful relationships. Our work in the studio and on the stage fosters growth in collaboration, leadership, and self-identity.

Totem Star envisions a more just society where all young people have access to music learning opportunities and youth voice is championed in support of healthy, engaged, and productive young people using music as a universal language.

FRONT DOOR SESSIONS

Front Door Sessions offers rare one-shot performances of youth artists and artist mentors filmed outdoors born during 2021 amidst the pandemic. Front Door Sessions is a project conceptualized, filmed, and edited by Artist Mentor / Cinematographer / Director Momma Nikki.



Photo by Daniel Pak

LAVENDER SESSIONS

Lavender Sessions is a space for young artists of marginalized genders, including women, non-binary folks, and trans men ages 14-25 of Totem Star to convene together to share music and stories, and provide mutual support and care for one another. Our gatherings range from self-defense workshops to holding discussions regarding self-care and sustainment.



Photo by Tracey Wong

TLC (TOTEM STAR LEADERSHIP COLLECTIVE)

Totem Star Leadership Collective is a youth advisory board that provides valuable insight into Totem Star's programs, structure, policies, and communications while also gaining leadership experience and knowledge of the inner workings of nonprofit governance.



Photo by Amy Piñon

PROGRAMS

THE STUDIO

The creative heart of our programming, where our artists book weekly studio sessions (now in-person and online) with Totem Star artist mentors and collaborate with their peers to work on songwriting, vocal technique, beat making, movement, business, and more.



Photo by Tracey Wong

THE STAGE

Quarterly series of open mic nights and bi-annual youth arts showcases open to the general public where our artists perform their original music and learn about live performance in the process.



Photo by Mamma Nikki

MUSIC EQUIPMENT LIBRARY

Since the start of the pandemic, Totem Star has created a music equipment library where our artists check out musical and recording equipment and can receive guidance and support in setting up their own home studio.



Photo by Paul Laughlin

ARTIST BOOKING

Performance opportunities in the community with organizations such as the Seattle Art Museum and Seattle Center. Totem Star books and manages contracts for our artists. We are able to either advocate for and negotiate fair pay from partners or pay our artists directly.



Photo by Tracey Wong

TOTEM STAR



86%

OF OUR ARTISTS
WORKED ON

8+
SONGS

IN 2021



OF TOTAL
AUDIENCE

7,600+

(INCLUDES IN-PERSON AND ONLINE)



24 SINGLES
3 EPS
3 ALBUMS

OF RELEASES
BY ARTISTS IN
2021



PHOTO BY TRACEY WONG



OF HOURS OF
PROGRAMMING

1,000+
HOURS



10

OF HOME STUDIOS WE
HELPED OUR ARTISTS
BUILD

GENDER IDENTITY

45% FEMALE

2% TRANSGENDER &
GENDER NONCONFORMING

53% MALE

ARTIST DEMOGRAPHIC

RACE & ETHNICITY

38% BLACK

14% ASIAN

2% INDIGENOUS/ NATIVE AMERICAN

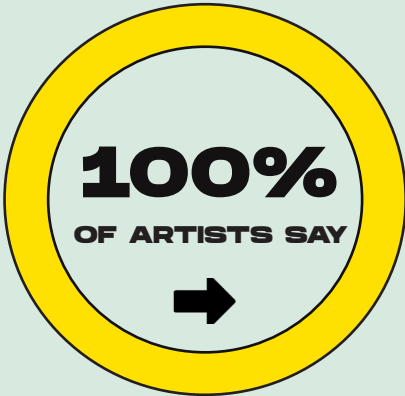
15% LATIN/ HISPANIC

1% MIDDLE EASTERN/ NORTH AFRICAN

29% WHITE

1% PASIFIKA

2021: OUR IMPACT



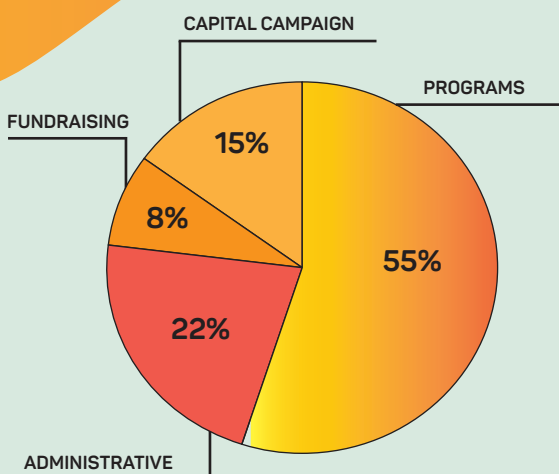
TOTEM STAR HAS BEEN A FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND CRITICAL SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR THEM

TOTEM STAR HAS HELPED THEM REACH THEIR CREATIVE GOALS THIS PAST YEAR

TOTEM STAR HAS BEEN A VITAL PART OF THE GROWTH IN THEIR ARTISTRY

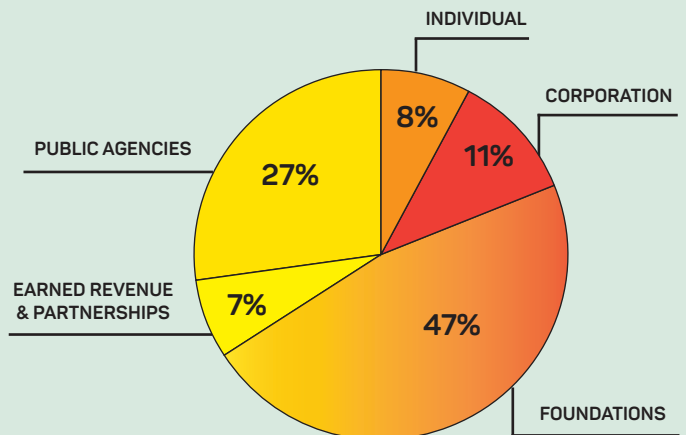


FINANCIAL SUMMARY



TOTAL EXPENSES

\$421,388



TOTAL REVENUE

\$ 500,727

NET INCOME: \$79,339

WHAT TOTEM STAR MEANS TO US



"Totem Star had a huge impact on my life over the years. They've shown me how important arrangement was in music and allowed me to evolve in their space for free. They give every artist performance opportunities and are supportive of everyone in the group."

- KIDDUS FECTO
(HE/HIM)

"Totem Star has done so much for me, I don't even know where to start. During the pandemic I was feeling so lost without my music community surrounding me. I was sad that I couldn't perform at live shows, and I felt so stuck. I joined Totem Star, and immediately that changed. I attended Lavender Sessions monthly and made many new friends, and began to connect with music again. I am so thankful for all Totem Star has done for me, and I can't wait to start sharing my music with everyone again!!"

- DELPHINE ELLIOTT
(SHE/HER)



"Totem Star has changed my life. It has helped me pursue my dreams of being a musician as well as bringing me into a community full of diverse voices that values who I am. Totem Star allowed me to find myself, which I am eternally grateful for."

- YUNG FUEGO
(HE/HIM)





"Working with Totem Star was the first time I felt empowered to work on my craft as a musician and felt genuine support from anyone in regards to my music career. Without Totem Star, I don't know when I would've been given a chance to show my talents as a singer/songwriter."

- SATURN STAR

(THEY/THEM)



"Totem Star taught me that you don't need any crazy big production or complicated process to make music. Music can be made in the comfort of your own home, in a small studio with your homies, or even recorded on a voice memo on your phone. Totem Star was my first ever experience in a recording studio, my first ever experience in a jam session, and the first music community that inspired me to explore who I am as an artist. I am so grateful to Totem Star for how accepting they are of artists - no matter what skill level they are or where they come from. Totem Star is truly one of the safest spaces I have ever been in and I know that will never change."

- FRESA

(SHE/HER)

"We need more programs like this out in the world for young artists & performers. Totem Star is the start of my music career & I will always be happy to tell anyone of how my story with Totem Star started. I will always remember Pak, Thaddeus, and Paul being there with me on my first recording session & they were all trying to convince me to just RAP. FEEL. BE. Don't let anything unnatural unbalance you because you are the spirit of your voice."

- VRHILIO

(HE/HIM)



MEET THE FAMILY

MEET THE FAMILY

TOTEM STAR ARTISTS



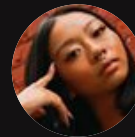
Mr. Business
(they/them)



Grae
Violet
(she/they)



Aurelio
(he/him)



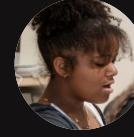
FRESA
(she/her)



Delphine
Elliott
(she/her)



Agent
OrangeTree
(he/him)



MoonGurl
(she/her)



Sharmaine
(she/her)



FyreBirdz
(they/them)



Mirabai
Kukathas
(she/they)



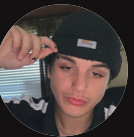
Vrhilio
(he/him)



Zoë
Roberts
(she/her)



Yung
Fuego
(he/him)



Eddie
(he/him)



Pablo
(he/him)



Waiks
(he/him)



Kiddus
Fecto
(he/him)



Lily
Indigo
(she/her)



Saturn
Star
(they/them)



Brittany
Higgs
(they/them)



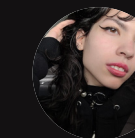
PRIMOE
(he/him)



Haley
Graves
(she/her)



DiceVampira
(she/her)



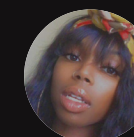
Brittany
Middlebrooks
(she/her)



ZAG
(he/him)



Cobb
(he/him)



Kaya
Blount
(she/they)



Zoser
(he/him)

2022 STAFF



**THADDEUS
TURNER**
Co-Founder,
Artistic Director,
Artist Mentor



**MATT
SABLAN**
Artist Mentor



AMY PIÑON
(she/her)
Artist Mentor,
Videographer



MOMMA NIKKI
(she/they)
Artist Mentor,
Videographer



DANIEL PAK
(he/him)
Co-Founder,
Executive
Director, Artist
Mentor



TRACEY WONG
(she/her)
Communication
& Program
Manager



**PAUL
LAUGHLIN**
(he/him)
Deputy Director



ROSE NOBLEZA
(she/her)
Bookkeeper



**CORNELIUS
CAMBRONERO**
(he/him)
Assistant
Program
Coordinator



**CHRISTINA
NGUYEN**
(SHE/HER)
Assistant
Program
Coordinator

2022 BOARD



KRISTA WELCH
(she/her)
Board Secretary,
Communications
& Development
Committee Chair



**MICHELLE
TRAN**
(she/her)
Board Treasurer,
Finance
Committee Chair



MARIA EWING
(she/her)
Events
Committee
Co-Chair



**WENDY
SIMMONS**
(she/her)
Board Vice Chair,
DEI Committee
Member



BRIAN MYERS
(he/him)
Events
Committee



**SHAWNA
ANGELOU**
(she/her)
Events
Committee
Co-Chair



JON STONE
(he/him)
Board Chair,
Nominating Chair,
Finance Committee

2022 TOTEM STAR LEADERSHIP COLLECTIVE



LILY GARRITY
(she/her)
Totem Star
Leadership Collective
Co-Chair



**ALEYANNA
ALLGOOD**
(she/they)
Totem Star
Leadership Collective
Co-Chair

INTERNS



AMR AWWAD
(he/him)



ZOSER DUNBAR
(he/him)



THANK YOU

WE LOVE YOU, FAMILY!

We are honored to work with such brilliant and inspiring young artists every single day. To be able to witness the growth of our young people not just as artists, but holistically as people, it is a privilege to be a part of their journey.

It is with your help, love, and support that we are able to continue to create and empower our young people through our programming.

Thank you for helping to build our next generation.

TOTEM STAR

