

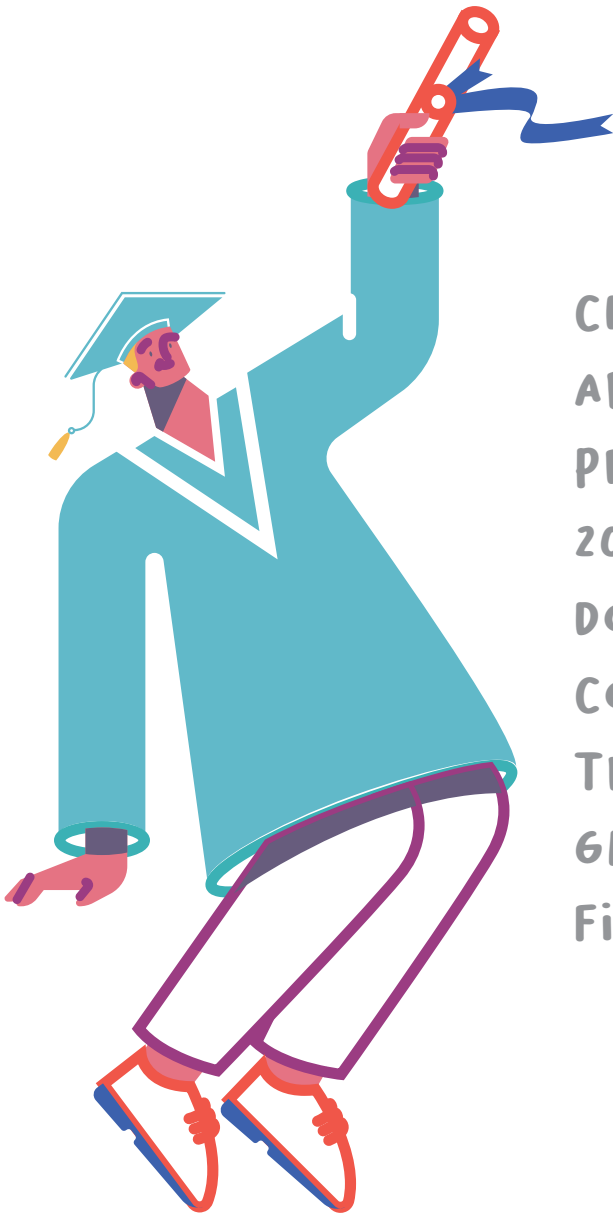
SAN FRANCISCO  
EDUCATION FUND  
IT TAKES A COMMUNITY.

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



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# CEO WELCOME

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The 2020-2021 school year was unlike any other. Online learning exacerbated existing inequities, revealing underlying issues with internet access and child care for thousands of San Francisco families. Teachers had to quickly adapt to unexpected conditions, working with technology many had never before used, while being challenged to engage their students and proceed with a sense of normalcy. This virtual learning took a toll on thousands of students in our public schools who struggled to adapt to a life confined to home and a laptop.

A particular student's story I always recall is of a young boy who had 100 unfinished assignments by October last year, just two months into the school year. His mom was an essential worker and a single parent who did not have the capacity and time to support his learning. Luckily, his mom learned about the in-person community hubs – a citywide initiative created to support students just like her son – and got a spot for him. Just weeks later, with the partnership of caring youth workers and virtual literacy tutors, he finished those open assignments and accelerated his learning.

This child's story is one of empowerment I wish for every public-school student in San Francisco who was negatively impacted by the pandemic. When I joined the Ed Fund as the CEO in July 2020, I anticipated there would be unknown challenges ahead, while remaining optimistic about what was possible. The whole Ed Fund team has been determined to mobilize our community and empower those who experienced the most challenges during this time. We stepped up in every way we could. The Ed Fund team recruited tech volunteers for the first time in twenty languages to partner with thousands of teachers and families, evolved the mindfulness program to serve entire classrooms of students reaching over 1,000 learners each week, raised \$100,000 with partners to provide Covid Relief Funds to 4,000 families, collaborated with the city and local funders to set up 80 in-person community hubs and host 20,000 youth in in-person summer camps, increased the students served in our Mindful Arts program, and so much more. This was a year where every day we asked "how can we help?" and it was all hands on deck, pivoting and building whatever supports and services our families and youth needed during this crisis.

In a world with a growing concern for systemic inequities, I am proud that the Ed Fund continued throughout the pandemic to mobilize our community to empower our students and build a more diverse and inclusive public-school experience. Thank you for being part of our journey as we work towards unleashing the potential in every child.

In partnership,

Stacey Wang  
CEO

# ABOUT US

## VALUES



### STUDENT-FIRST

Students are at the heart of everything we do. Our decisions are made based on what is most beneficial for the young people in San Francisco.



### COMMUNITY-BASED

We believe in partnering and collaborating with the San Francisco community to leverage the full power and breadth of our collective resources to invest in the success of public-school students.



### EQUITABLE

We believe all students deserve an equitable and inclusive educational experience and the opportunity to thrive, regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, socio-economic status, gender, sexual orientation, or other life circumstances.



### RESOURCEFUL

We believe in tirelessly exploring and employing all promising avenues and proven means to best serve students. It is imperative to model resilience, agility and a growth mindset in addressing the ever-changing landscape and needs of public-school students.

## MISSION

The San Francisco Education Fund mobilizes the community to support equitable access to a quality education for public school students through tutoring and mentoring, scholarships, teacher grants, and partnerships between schools and local companies.

## VISION

We envision a future where San Francisco students have equitable access to quality education so that they can engage and enrich their community.



# PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

The San Francisco Education Fund (SFEF) mobilizes the community through its range of programs, all of which serve K-12 public school students, families and schools in San Francisco with a priority on low-income students, students of color, and English language learners. This work is more urgent than ever as we are transitioning from a disruptive pandemic year back to a stable learning environment for youth. The Ed Fund mobilizes community partners through the following programs in three ways:



## 1 WE SERVE STUDENTS, FAMILIES AND SCHOOLS

### GENERAL VOLUNTEERS



Over the course of the 2020-21 School Year, the Ed Fund's Tutoring and Classroom Support Program placed volunteers in 277 classrooms across 50+ schools to support students and teachers across transitional kindergarten (TK)-12th grade. Our 300+ volunteers worked virtually with students and teachers as classroom volunteers, conversation partners, mentors and 1:1 tutors in myriad subject matter areas ranging from English to Science to Art and across every grade level.

### MINDFULNESS VOLUNTEERS



In partnership with Mindful Arts San Francisco (MASF), mindfulness volunteers provided weekly, virtual instruction to over 1,000 TK through 4th grade public school students. Using Mindful Arts in the Classroom, a curriculum that uses focusing techniques, storytelling, theater and art, students learned to improve attention, self-regulation, and other vital social-emotional skills giving them additional tools to call on in a particularly difficult year.

### TECH SUPPORT



In response to remote school required by the 2020-21 COVID-19 pandemic, the SFEF recruited over 200 IT expert volunteers to provide 1:1 technology support to teachers and families who were faced with using new applications and devices overnight. Working in over 20 languages, these tech specialists helped families and teachers navigate new platforms like Zoom and Google Hangouts to ensure equal access to virtual learning. Some volunteers "adopted" a teacher to help them weekly with tech needs. With 1,000 sessions and counting, this successful program will continue into the future, even as students return to in-person learning.

## CIRCLE THE SCHOOLS



A partnership between sf.citi, the Ed Fund, and SFUSD, Circle the Schools (CTS) continued to cultivate our corporate community as champions and stewards of our schools. Over the 2020-21 school year, our 49 partnerships volunteered over 1,500 hours, directly served over 5,800 students and brought over \$336,000 of resources to our public schools. Each CTS company participated in three to five volunteer events aligning with school priorities and equity such as read-alouds during Black history month, financial literacy workshops for middle school students, and college/career workshops for first generation college applications.

## 2 WE INVEST IN SCHOLARS AND TEACHERS



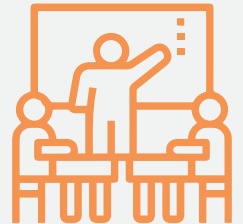
### MAISIN SCHOLAR AWARD

Around 800 students apply for Maisin Scholar Awards annually, a scholarship program that covers up to \$3,000 a year for college tuition up to four years. In March of 2021, the Ed Fund recruited over 150 volunteer readers and interviewers to evaluate the applications and interview finalists over Zoom to select our 75 final award recipients. Each of these Maisin Scholars will also have access to academic, financial, and career advising remotely as they prepare for their college and career endeavors.

Of the 75 scholarship recipients selected each year, five students who plan to attend four-year institutions are selected during the Spring of their freshman year to receive the Supplemental Award, increasing their scholarship to \$6,000 annually. These students must have exceptional financial need, successfully navigate their first semester of college, maximize their use of campus resources and opportunities, and regularly engage with Maisin program staff. Supplemental Award recipients are held to more stringent GPA requirements and must contribute to the Maisin program either as an intern for one academic term or as a volunteer at annual new scholar events. Congratulations to the 2020-21 Supplemental Award winners: Julian Albergas; Abraham Dunn Baldonado; Joan May Mojar; Lucero Preciado and Kevin Cauch-Tejero.

## TEACHER GRANTS

During the 2020-21 school year, the San Francisco Education Fund continued to offer our annual Bright Ideas Grants, which are aimed at enhancing instruction in elementary school literacy and middle school math. These projects ranged from providing materials for experiential learning during distance learning to professional development workshops, all in support of strengthening student learning experiences during this unique school year.



**The Ed Fund awarded six grants to educators at the following schools:**

- Buena Vista Horace Mann K-5
- Buena Vista Horace Mann 6-8
- Cesar Chavez Elementary
- El Dorado Elementary School
- Hillcrest Elementary
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Middle School



Additionally, Bright Ideas Grant monies funded three equity-focused grants in the spring of 2021. These projects focused on addressing the achievement and opportunity gaps at each school. Projects included implementing anti-racist initiatives at school through staff professional development, increasing family engagement, and creating racial healing workshops.

#### Equity Grants were awarded to the following schools:

- Bessie Carmichael 6-8/FEC
- Dr. Charles Drew Elementary School
- Dr. William L. Cobb Elementary School

In total, we awarded \$45,000 in educator grants during the 2020-21 school year.



#### AWESOME FUNDS

The Awesome Fund took a one-year hiatus while the campuses were closed last year. Beginning again in the 2021-22 school year, students at Phillip & Sala Burton and Thurgood Marshall Academic High Schools will have the opportunity to apply for \$100-\$1,000 grants to implement programs that are meaningful to them within their school clubs. Examples of clubs include the Black Student Union, Latinos Unidos, Gay Straight Alliance, and SF Explore Club. Successful Awesome Fund grants help students enhance the school community, keep students involved in the school, and/or provide students with a meaningful educational experience.

## 3

## WE PARTNER FOR IMPACT



#### FISCAL SPONSORSHIP & CITYWIDE COLLABORATIONS

It takes a community to create impactful, lasting change, and the SFEF is proud of the many strong partnerships we have to support SFUSD students, families, teachers and schools.

In the 2020-21 academic year, the SFEF team moved ahead with stewarding pass-through funding from a handful of partner organizations for student-related support services, including administering \$4.5 million in scholarships to low-income students to attend in-person summer camps.

By serving as the financial liaison for these various projects, SFEF enabled partners to distribute a total of **\$5,416,428** in direct services to our community. This funding also includes SFEF-led special projects such as an emergency Covid relief fund for families and college tuition support.

You will learn more about some of our recent fiscal sponsorship projects and citywide collaborations as you read on!



# 2020-2021 IMPACT:

## SUPPORTING STUDENTS, FAMILIES, TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS THROUGH THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

### ACCELERATE: MEETING THE LEARNING CHALLENGES

Marisa\*, a bilingual third-grader at Longfellow Elementary, is crazy about reading. She participated this past summer in twice-weekly remote tutoring with credentialed teachers thanks to the SF Ed Fund's partnership with the national literacy nonprofit BookNook. She's excited to be back in the classroom, her mother says, but she still keeps asking, "When can I do BookNook?"

Evidence-based and designed by educators, BookNook was founded in San Francisco in 2016 with a mission to support children and families in historically marginalized communities. The nonprofit uses technology to provide fun, targeted, personalized tutoring for students and coaching for teachers.

Over the past summer, the SF Ed Fund partnered with BookNook to provide 1,000 students like Marisa with high-dosage virtual literacy tutoring. Marisa's mom says it was a wonderful experience for her daughter. Even with all the disruptions of the pandemic, she's going into third grade confident and prepared.

As students around the city and the country return to in-person classrooms, there is widespread concern about the repercussions of the pandemic on academic learning—especially for low-income students of color. Tutoring—particularly high-dosage tutoring that occurs at regular intervals, whether one-on-one or virtually in small groups—has emerged as one of the most effective intervention approaches for accelerating learning.

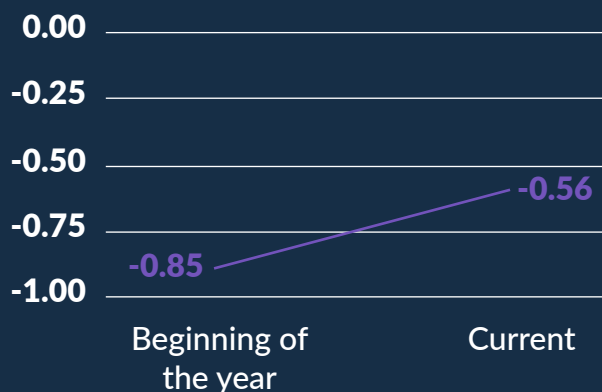
In fact, a 2017 study of multiple different interventions found that tutoring was the most successful strategy for raising achievement for students from lower-income families. Quality high-dosage tutoring can catch students up to two grade levels in one year. This matters because being proficient in reading by fourth grade increases a student's chances of making it to college by 400%. And that could lead to \$1 million earning increase in their lifetime.

Unfortunately, the families who could most benefit from tutoring are also the least likely to have access to support. This is why the Ed Fund's vision is for San Francisco to become the first city to offer universal access to free tutoring for families facing financial hardships.

The BookNook partnership started when the Ed Fund heard from parents who were concerned that their kids weren't engaged in remote learning. Their fears were confirmed by the district's data from winter, 2021 showing that students—especially elementary students—were falling behind in literacy. Ed Fund CEO Stacey Wang reached out to the district and parents to figure out how trained teachers could deliver tutoring directly to families. We then raised almost \$1 million in partnership with other nonprofits interested in this cause.



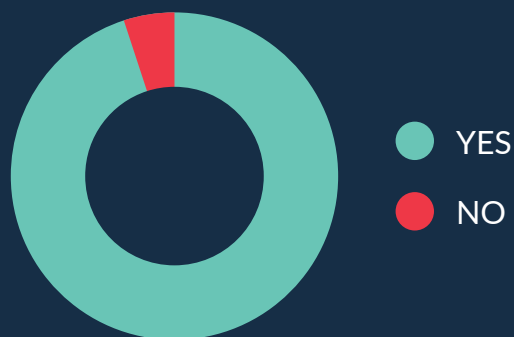
### GAP TO GRADE LEVEL CHANGE



Results from the pilot show that... of the students who attended more than 10 sessions (the threshold for academic impact), we saw a gap to grade level change from -0.85 to -0.56.

**This means that on average, students were able to catch up a third of a school year of learning over the summer pilot.**

### INTEREST IN CONTINUING



When asked, “On a scale of 1-10, how likely are you to recommend this program to a student looking to improve their reading skills?” the average answer was 8.6. 90% of parents shared they were interested in continuing tutoring.

We are anticipating needing to grow this support to serve at least 5,000 elementary school students during this critically important school year. Meanwhile, we also recognize that unfinished learning is only part of the picture for students.

“We absolutely want children to learn to read and write,” says [Travis Bristol](#), whose research at UC Berkeley Graduate School of Education focuses on teacher education and education policy. “That’s just fundamental to being a participant in this democracy.... But what we’ve seen with the pandemic is that children and teachers are in so much pain and fear and sadness – and you can’t create conditions for children to learn if they don’t feel safe.” In order for students to be able to focus on their schoolwork, the Ed Fund knows how critical it is for them to feel safe and supported – both academically and socio-economically.

## RE-SET: MINDFULNESS, MENTAL HEALTH, AND PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT

Beyond academics, the pandemic has taken a serious toll on young people's mental health. A [major research study](#) just released by JAMA Pediatrics found that depression and anxiety symptoms in children doubled in prevalence during COVID-19.

The growing alarm about these findings has caused many educators to double down on efforts to address children's social and emotional health going into the new school year.

The San Francisco Education Fund's Mindful Arts program is playing an invaluable part helping San Francisco school children in pre-K through fifth grades cope with the emotional strain of living through these tough times.

During 2020-21, 40 Ed Fund volunteers trained in the Mindful Arts curriculum brought virtual mindfulness sessions to schools around the city. They distilled the curriculum down to the most basic techniques, and the program ended up reaching more students than ever before.

"Life is filled with difficult situations," says Andrew Jordan Nance, actor, author, meditator, and Mindful Arts founder. "With mindfulness we have more tools to be able to handle life's challenges."



Nance defines mindfulness as a practice of noticing, connecting with yourself and your surroundings, and using your breath to bring yourself back out of "fight, flight, or freeze" mode.

Nance has an expansive mindfulness toolbox. He's the author of several published children's books on the subject, plus an entire curriculum, which includes an array of theater games, stories, and art activities that he has adapted over the eight years he has taught mindfulness with the Ed Fund.

Many kids grow up believing that some emotions are bad or shameful, Nance has observed.

He helps them to understand that no feeling is inherently positive or negative. "I want kids to understand their emotions, and how to be skillful with them," he says. "I can be angry at the dog. It's just not okay to hit the dog. We need to learn how to get our prefrontal cortexes back online when life gets stressful."

Nance teaches young people to check in with themselves and learn to assess what they need in the moment so they can make their most skillful choice. He acknowledges it is a lifelong learning process. "I don't know about you," he says, "but I'm hijacked by emotion all the time. I just wish I had had these tools when I was a kid so I could have learned earlier to sort of dance with emotions instead of being at their mercy."

Nance also recognizes that mindfulness doesn't directly address the systemic challenges that create stress for the many children in this country whose families live in poverty and experience racism. But the ability to ride the sometimes turbulent waves of emotion, he says, allows people to be more effective in tackling societal issues like systemic inequity. "We have to start with our internal world if we want to be skillful in confronting the harms of the external world," he says.

## THE BAN BE CLUB FOR ENGLISH LEARNERS

The pandemic made life—and as a result, school—particularly challenging for English Learners (EL). EL families in general experienced greater health risks, mortality, and economic hardship during COVID-19. Limited multilingual support and unfamiliarity with technology presented huge deterrents to remote learning, a reality that is reflected in the [latest academic learning data](#) showing a steeper slide for EL students compared to their native-English speaking peers.

George Washington High School (GWHS) in the Outer Richmond neighborhood has about 150 Vietnamese-American students. Lynda Boyer-Chu, the nurse at GWHS, wanted to provide an opportunity for the newcomer students among them to continue to practice English and socialize during COVID-19. “It’s so easy for people to get lost. When kids don’t feel engaged it’s easier for them to just not participate in Zoom. I wanted to help them feel connected.”

She approached the Vietnamese Student Association (VSA) at UC Berkeley, and six VSA members saw the need and wanted to help. They stepped forward to help lead the club remotely. “They were remarkable,” Boyer-Chu says. “None of them had ever done something like this before, but they were so tech-savvy and took it on wholeheartedly.” The Ban Be Club was born.

The SF Ed Fund was an indispensable partner, says Boyer-Chu. “Without Tom [Laursen], it would have been a no-go from the get-go.” CAL students needed to get cleared to volunteer, and the GWHS students needed parent permission. Laursen figured out all the logistics, and he and Boyer-Chu sat in on every club session to observe and, as the weeks went on, to marvel.

As the Ban Be Club evolved over the course of the year, it offered invaluable social and emotional support as well as language practice. Students got to know each other and became more comfortable with speaking. “We created a community that we’re hoping will continue,” Boyer-Chu says.

The program offers a model for engaging EL students by communicating and connecting in a culturally responsive way. Researchers say this is one of the important keys to addressing both learning needs and social and emotional traumas resulting from COVID-19.

“These kids would have been totally isolated without this club. It enabled them to feel a sense of belonging,” Boyer-Chu says.







## BACK TO BETTER: SUMMER TOGETHER AND IN-PERSON COMMUNITY HUBS FOR LEARNING DURING PANDEMIC

When San Franciscans look back on the crazy scramble to provide schooling to tens of thousands of children during the pandemic, one accomplishment we can feel especially proud of is the Summer Together Initiative—a coalition made up of the City, SFUSD, 77 schools, 68 community-based partners, 31 parks and rec sites, 27 private camps, and a group of philanthropists, all of whom came together to provide a free summer camp experience for over 25,000 students.

Summer Together is gaining national recognition as an inspirational model of pandemic resourcefulness, persistence, and collaboration.

DCYF and the SF Recreation and Parks Department, in partnership with community-based agencies and other City departments, implemented the Community Hub Initiative, a citywide, neighborhood-based strategy to support children, youth, and families throughout the 2020-21 school year. Community Hubs provided support for students in grades K-12 who were utilizing SFUSD's Distance Learning Curriculum, and prioritized children and youth with high levels of need.

The Ed Fund sponsored a case study to document and analyze the impact of these Community Hubs: *Showing Up While Everything Is Shutting Down: A Story of Cooperation in San Francisco* written by David Phillips and Carolyn Gramstorff.

Sherrice Dorsey-Smith, deputy director of program planning and grants with the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF), says that the Ed Fund played a crucial role not only in bringing the summer initiative to life, but in ensuring that children and families had the support and resources they needed through DCYF's Community Hubs during the 2020-21 school year.

"They were key partners during this entire pandemic with us," Dorsey says. "They helped think through a lot of difficult processes. They were able to tap into their network base and just ensure that we were able to continue. Wherever we had a roadblock, they were able to step in and remove that roadblock. They're great connectors. That's exactly what you need in a partner. You need folks who are able to bring resources to the table that you may not have access to. They're able to help you maneuver through different obstacles or barriers and figure out ways around that."

Dorsey-Smith of DCYF is intent on continuing the momentum that has been established. "What we were able to accomplish with the Ed Fund over the last 16 months has opened up just a world of opportunities. We know that academic support is needed from K to 12. We're coming together and thinking about how can we infuse more support in both school-based settings, as well as the community programs, after school, during school, to offer that support."

to learn more, visit <https://www.dcyf.org/chicasestudy>



## Supplemental COVID-19 Relief Funds for Maisin Scholars

In the spring of 2021, the Ed Fund knew that Maisin Scholars were struggling to make ends meet as they navigated remote learning during college. The Ed Fund ensured that 86 Maisin scholars received a supplemental grant of up to \$300 to use at their discretion for basic needs.

Emily Montiel Peregrina was working 60 hours a week to help support her parents, her younger brother, and extended family in Mexico during the first year of COVID. When she received the \$300 grant, she was so excited: “Three hundred dollars went a long way. I split it with my mom. We could get actual things we like to eat. I could get my brother the snacks he wants. It brought a little bit of happiness.”

Montiel Peregrina will graduate from Sonoma State in December with a degree in political science and a minor in Spanish. Her dream is to start a nonprofit based in San Francisco to help with food and housing insecurity in Spanish-speaking communities. Reflecting on the pandemic, she is open about how hard it was, especially in the beginning. “I’m sure there were people who had it way worse than me, though,” she says. “The Maisin scholarship is so appreciated.”

## Covid Relief Fund for Families

Fall, 2020 & Spring, 2021: The San Francisco Education Fund and SFUSD understood that families were hit hard throughout the pandemic and many struggled to meet their basic needs. In partnership with the SFUSD, the Ed Fund solicited donations in order to offer SFUSD families the opportunity to receive financial assistance in the form of \$250 per family. Over \$100,000 was raised and distributed to 4,000 families. With these funds, families were able to increase their flexibility to pay rent, buy groceries, or purchase the next size of clothes, shoes or supplies for their children.





# OUR DONORS

## FOR 2020-21

### \$75,000+

- Dragoneer Investment Group
- JaMel and Thomas Perkins
- The Alexander M. and June L. Maisin Foundation
- The Northern Trust
- William and Susan Oberndorf

### \$10,000 - \$74,999

- Avila and Associates Consulting Engineers, Inc.
- Barry and Marie Lipman
- Battery Powered
- Bella Vista Foundation
- Benton-Yang Foundation
- Carollo Engineers, Inc.
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- Silicon Valley Community Foundation
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- The James Irvine Foundation
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# GET INVOLVED AND MAKE EQUITY A REALITY

We continue to strive for a future rooted in true equity for every student. Now is the time to reimagine the future of schooling, and design for a better, more equitable school experience to empower students in San Francisco.

Will you get involved today and help support all the Ed Fund's programs that profoundly impact and benefit San Francisco's public-school students?

## GIVE

Make a donation online, through a donor-advised fund, as stock, or in your estate to enable us to invest strategically to provide innovative programming.

## MATCH

Many businesses match their employees' donations, doubling and even tripling your impact. Check with your employer.

## SHARE

Help amplify our work and connect us to more people passionate about increasing educational equity. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn to stay up-to-date on our latest news, photos and videos, and share with your friends.

## VOLUNTEER

Support students to learn the skills and gain the confidence they need to succeed by partnering with a teacher virtually or in-person as a tutor, mentor, or mindfulness educator.

For more information about any of these opportunities to make an impact, visit us at

[www.sfedfund.org](http://www.sfedfund.org) or (415) 695-5400



# 2020-2021 FINANCIALS

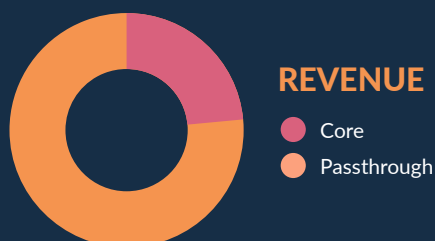
\*These are unaudited financials as the audit is pending completion in December 2021.

## REVENUE

	CORE	PASSTHROUGH	TOTAL
Contributed Revenue	962,212	-	962,212
Govt Contracts	163,232		163,232
Administrative Revenue	-		-
Interest & Dividend Income	153,327		153,327
Net Assets Released	473,592	5,416,528	5,890,120
Investment Reserve	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 1,752,362</b>	<b>\$ 5,416,528</b>	<b>\$ 7,168,890</b>

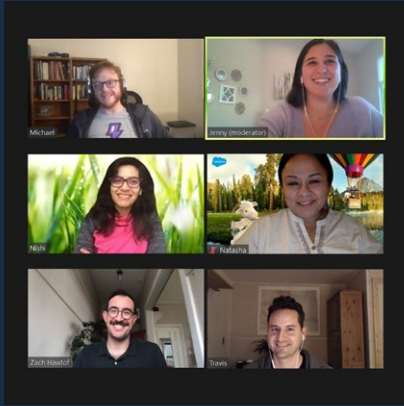
## EXPENSES

Personnel	1,187,715	-	1,187,715
Contract Services	277,688	196,208	473,896
Program Expenses	72,725	5,219,169	5,291,894
Operating Expenses	147,595	1,151	148,746
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 1,685,723</b>	<b>\$ 5,416,528</b>	<b>\$ 7,102,252</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 66,639</b>	<b>\$ (0)</b>	<b>\$ 66,639</b>

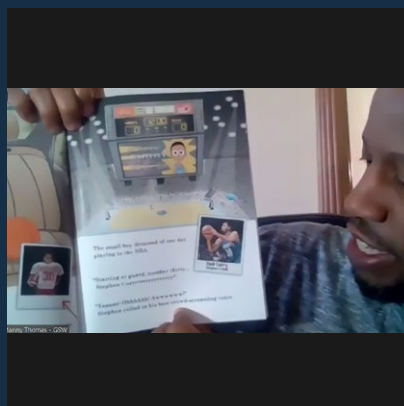


Notes: *Passthrough* refers to funds the Ed Fund pays out to community partners for student - related support services (e.g., summer camps to provide scholarships for low-income students), direct to student or family grants (e.g., college tuition support, COVID-19 relief funds). *Core* refers to funds related to Ed Fund operations.

# Thank You



**SAN FRANCISCO**  
**EDUCATION** FUND  
IT TAKES A COMMUNITY.



Thank you to all of our donors, advocates, partners, volunteers, staff and board members! Together we supported the SFUSD students, families, staff and teachers who needed it most throughout the mostly-remote 2021-21 school year. The Ed Fund is so appreciative of your generosity and grateful for your continued support!