

F65 Foundation 65



Annual Report



2022-23





Dear Friends:

Over the past year, we witnessed a process of renewal and momentum building among District 65 educators.

We have watched them bring energy, innovate ideas, and introduce new techniques in classrooms and other school settings. We have seen great promise, pride, and impact in their work; and we have sought, as an organization, to foster ways to enable them.

We are increasingly focusing our investments on educators, building their capacity to address racialized disparities.

We see ourselves as incubators of educator-led projects that promote dignity and belonging, amongst students in District 65 schools.



Alison Finkel
Foundation 65 Board President

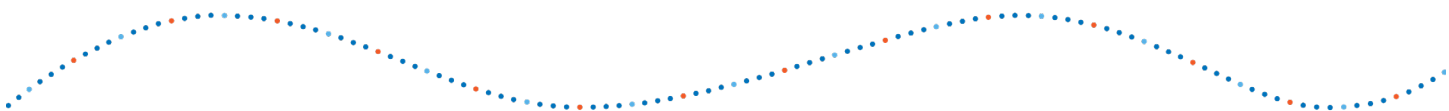
We do this because we believe that educators are agents of change within public education.

By creating grant and scholarship opportunities, and by building a culture where dignity matters for educators and students, we can become early supporters of educator innovation and provide the catalyst for grassroots change within District 65.

As you read this year's Annual Report, you will see that our new mission is just a confirmation of the work that we have already been doing and we are excited to be expanding on this in the months ahead. We hope you enjoy these spotlights on a few of the incredible educators who are creating transformational change in this community. We are so grateful for your support in this work.

With gratitude,

Alison Finkel
Foundation 65 Board President



About Foundation 65

Foundation 65 has three ways to strengthen public education and create change and transformation for the students of District 65. All of our work focuses on investing in our educators.

1

Educator grants

Educators can apply for grants focused on targeted interventions focused for BIPOC students, programming that fosters dignity and belonging (especially for Black and Latinx students) and/or builds empathy and racial consciousness, and programs that support family engagement to BIPOC families.

2

Educator professional development

We support educators in pursuing endorsements and other educational credentialing. We focus on tuition support for educators who have more limited financial capacity.

3

Educator leadership and transformation

Our new Educator Leadership program directly addresses burnout of educators and retention challenges that public schools are facing. Through a year-long cohort program, our goal is to uplift and co-create a space for educators to re-energize, connect, and support one another as they work to transform themselves, students, and their schools.

Educator Spotlight: Heather Ransom



Heather Ransom, a Chute Middle School instructor in her fifteenth year as a teacher in District 65, was a part of three different Foundation 65 grants this year.

She helped to launch the Black Girl Magic Book Club expansion at Chute so that middle school students across race and gender could read about and humanize Black girls and women. She also served as the Literary Specialist for Camp Kuumba, one of Foundation 65's grantees. This program engaged 135 Black youth in grades 3-8 this summer through mentorship, academic support, discovery opportunities, and positive world experiences.

In addition to these programs, she, alongside educators Alyssa Tran and Daisha Fox, reimagined the Black Student Union at Chute. The Black Student Union (BSU) was first formed in 2017 when several Chute educators decided they needed to elevate Black history and create narratives of Black people and Black culture that were student-driven and empowering.

In the 2022-2023 school year, Ransom and her team at Chute wanted to expand the Union as a means of supporting Black middle schoolers and sought a Foundation 65 Change Agent grant to make that happen.

“Because of [a grant from] Foundation 65, Chute’s Black Student Union was able to expose our students to culture and art that will empower these students for years to come! In the words of Nelson Mandela, ‘There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children.’” - Heather Ransom

The expanded BSU became a space where Black students could come together around social justice issues. Here, students were able to discuss disparities in MAP data, show leadership in creating and evaluating the school-wide door decorating contest, and use their creative minds to create paintings of iconic African American figures.

The space has fostered a new sense of pride for Black students, made visible in the BSU t-shirts and wristbands proudly worn last year both in and out of the classroom. Ransom believes that the BSU, “allows students to have a safe place to learn, speak and share experiences that others can relate to.”



Change Agent Grants

Foundation 65’s Change Agent grants provide the initial seeds of funding for an educator’s innovative idea. This year’s Change Agent grants significantly focused on addressing racialized disparities and fostering dignity, belonging, and curiosity in the lives of students.

Black Boy Literacy at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Literary and Fine Arts School created a book group for Black boys who were able to read about and connect over stories with a Black male protagonist.

Black SonRise is a District-wide program for Black boys and men to come together to nurture an enjoyment of reading, raise awareness of a connection to the inspirational African diaspora, and build interest in the pursuit of meaningful life opportunities and careers.

Build a Play at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Literary and Fine Arts School allowed students in the RISE program (a program for students with communications disorders) to work together to create and perform a play.

Latinidades Literacy and Performance at Washington Elementary School allowed TWI students to create and perform a bilingual puppet show based on Latin American folklore.

“Foundation 65’s eagerness to partner with us as an early adopter helped us to establish momentum in the community and develop partnerships with like-minded organizations.”

- John Brownlee (Black SonRise)

Educator Spotlight: Arturo Fuerte



Arturo Fuerte knows music.

After spending decades as a Bass Trombonist for Symphony Orchestras throughout the country, Fuerte brought his musical experience with him to the classroom. Fuerte began teaching ten years ago in Chicago Public Schools before coming to Willard Elementary School.

The Modern Band program is his passion as he sees its direct impact on students' brain development. Their increased motor skills and vocabulary show Fuerte how his students benefit from musical arts.

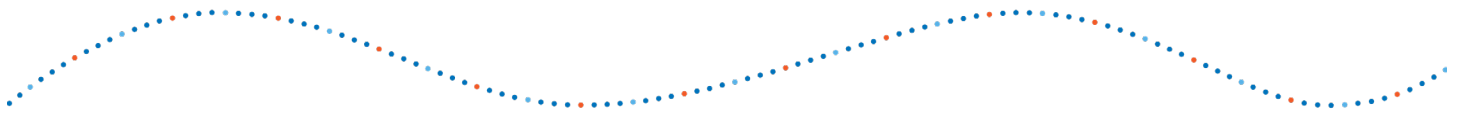
As a man of color, Fuerte wanted to ensure that his students of color had access to all the benefits of music instruction. The Willard Summer Rock Band program was launched as a way to engage students during their summer vacation and to foster an increased love and connection to music.

Last summer's launch had 18 students, with seven receiving full scholarships through Foundation 65. This allowed Fuerte to form three rock band groups and offer opportunities for students to learn drums, bass/guitar, keyboard/vocals, and studio recording.

"The scholarships from Foundations 65 allowed us to send seven deserving students to our summer rock camp. These students explored instruments and worked hard to give a tremendous concert. We are grateful for your support and your belief in the importance of the arts in our community. Thank You!"- Arturo Fuerte

The week-long Rock Camp ended with a performance by all students. Beyond the instrumentation skills, these students enhanced their motor skills, digital music

knowledge, knowledge of instruments, and team-building skills. Fuerte hopes they will be inspired to engage in their school and music classes in entirely new ways.



Engagement Grants

Foundation 65's Engagement grants allow educators to make impacts in educational settings beyond their brick-and-mortar classroom. We support these innovative programs which are catalysts for grassroots change within our community and public education.

Perspectives Family Author series served all District 65 schools by bringing in three female authors of color to share their stories of how they became writers and how they created their stories and books.

Black Girl Magic Book Club expanded to Chute Middle School for the first middle school program while continuing to operate at Lincolnwood, Walker, and Willard.

Camp Kuumba expanded in its second year serving 3rd-8th grade Black children thru an innovative, summer, and outside-of-school program that supports academic skills and belonging.

"I really appreciate the positive impact these grants have had on our schools. It's been amazing to connect with Black authors and to purchase so many books that allow our BIPOC students to see themselves represented. All students have been very excited to check out our new books. After a couple of years of not having full access to the library and losing books due to the pandemic, this has reinvigorated our collection so that it's able to serve students. Thank you!"

- Tracy Hubbard (Unbook Fair)

Educator Spotlight:

Ruth Young



Ruth Young is a fierce advocate for students and their families. Mx. Young started teaching over 30 years ago in Chicago Public Schools and has worked in District 65 for the last 14 years, spending the last two years as an English as a Second Language teacher. During that time, they have watched families navigate their entry into our community and have seen how that navigation can positively or negatively impact students.

Mx. Young believes that when caregivers thrive, their students thrive. With a Foundation 65 Critical Response grant last spring, Mx. Young launched a program over six Saturdays targeting District 65 families who are new to this country.

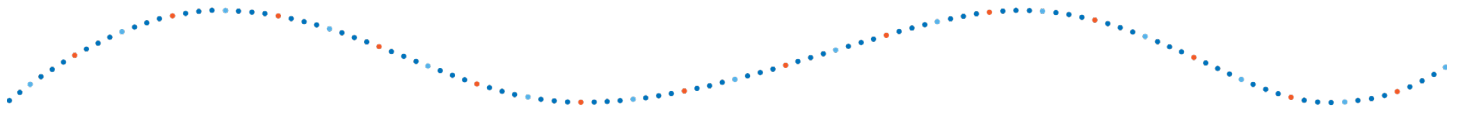
The program combined ESL lessons with support in accessing community resources, advocating for their children, and building an increased understanding of American culture. Sixteen adults and their children attended this program and were excited to learn, laugh, and share as they became a community of learners.

Ukrainians and Russians talked, laughed, and taught each other. Colombians and Venezuelans did the same. The Haitian participants showed their brilliance and learned a great deal of English. They already spoke multiple languages and added English to compliment their skills in Italian, Portuguese, French, and Haitian Creole.

“My Foundation 65 grant allowed me to create an environment where Newcomer adults and children could feel welcomed, valued, supported, and less lonely. Thank you!” - Ruth Young

As a result of this program, caregivers are better prepared to navigate job interviews, know how to get medical help, and have formed relationships to support each other

as they build their new lives. The families that Mx. Young worked with are now better able to build successful lives in the United States and support their children to do the same.



Critical Response Grants

Foundation 65 Critical Response Grants are a lifeline for educators who identify challenges during the school year and need additional resources fast.

Communication for All at Park School allowed Park School educators to purchase apps for their devices so they could model communications for students.

Healing and Empowerment Through Art at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Literary and Fine Arts School provided an arts-based group therapy program for Girls of Color.

Math Acceleration for Students of Color at Dawes Elementary School provided after-school tutoring to accelerate math achievement and outcomes for striving students.

Multicultural Felt Hand Crafts Workshop at Dr. Bessie Rhodes School of Global Studies provided an afterschool space to use art to learn about culture and build greater social-emotional skills.

One Book One School at Orrington Elementary School allowed for the creation of a common read for their school by giving every family a copy of “Native American Stories for Kids” and providing programming to build connection and understanding to the book.

Sounds Lab at Haven Middle School allowed students to learn about the history of sampled music and create their own pieces.

“I am grateful to Foundation 65! Because of their support of the Math Acceleration Program 95% of the students met or exceeded expectations on their end-of-the-year Math MAP assessment.”

- Jackie Petrof, Dawes (Math Acceleration Program)

My 65

*Thank you to everyone
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*New Board Members

Shawntay Cunningham

Shawntay Cunningham has over 15 years of experience with equipment valuation and finance. She is a senior accredited appraiser in machinery and technical specialties and currently works as an Asset Manager focused on transportation, marine, oil and gas, and other machinery as it relates to commercial financing. Shawntay remains active with the Evanston community and the District 65 school district. She is a past PTA president and current Teacher Grants Co-chair for Lincolnwood Elementary. Additionally, she currently serves as Treasurer for the Haven Middle School PTA, and is a Governing Board member, serving on the Programming Committee, for North Channel Community Rowing (“NCCR”), a nonprofit organization committed to supporting diversity and access to the sport of rowing through youth programs targeting under-represented students in Evanston.

Shawntay received a BS in Mechanical Engineering, a Master of Engineering (with a mechanical engineering focus), and a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Louisville. Shawntay and her husband, Chadwick, have three sons who attend Lincolnwood Elementary School and Haven Middle School.

Russ Joseph

Russ Joseph is a professor in the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science at Northwestern University where he holds joint appointments in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and the Department of Computer Science. His research and teaching interests center around the design of high-performance computer systems. His scholarship and mentorship have been recognized through numerous awards including the National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Award and McCormick’s Cole-Higgins Award for Excellence in Advising. Before joining the Northwestern faculty, Russ completed his Ph.D. in electrical engineering at Princeton University and earned his B.S. in electrical and computer engineering with an additional major in computer science from Carnegie Mellon University.

Russ is excited by the possibilities of technology and the ways that it can shape our future. He has been driven by a deep desire to share the joy of discovery and make science and technology more accessible to future generations of youth – especially those from marginalized groups. In a professional capacity, he has taken multiple leadership roles in tech diversity and mentoring initiatives at the national and university levels. Within the community, he is a co-founder of Black SonRISE, an Evanston-based weekend enrichment program for African-American boys attending D65 schools. He develops the STEM curriculum for the program and facilitates the exploration of science concepts.

Russ and his wife live in Evanston with their two daughters who attend Park School and Haven Middle School.

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“Being able to provide an expanded experience for our students and families with high-quality literature and activities that embed the learning that we do daily and connect to our Vision and Mission was wonderful. We would not have been able to expand this experience without the support of Foundation 65 and for that we are thankful.”

- Jess Plaza, Orrington (One Book, One School)

“Northlight Theatre’s partnership with the RISE program at King Arts is one of our most gratifying efforts. It is a delight and inspiration to see these students grow and shine through the creative work they do in our Build A Play residencies and to witness the affirmation they receive when showcasing their stories to their peers, teachers, and families. We’re tremendously grateful for Foundation 65’s support of this unique program.”

- Deborah Stewart, Northlight Theater (Build a Play Program - King Arts)

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“Foundation 65 provided us with the flexibility and the cushion to help us best support a specific group of students who may have fallen through the cracks due to not having enough funds to get them what they need!”

- Stephanie Warda, King Arts (Healing and Empowerment through the Arts)

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Linda Shusterman
Clarence Sills
Clarence Sills

Sabrina Simpson
Raven Sims
Maya Skintges
Jaclyn Sly
James Smith
Corinne Stamos
Carla Stone
Sue Takaki
Denise Taylor
Jennifer Tertulien
Jennifer Tertulien
Brandy Trafman
Ellen Urquiaga
Randi Vega
Bob Vick
Monica Vick
Shahina Virani
David Wartowski
Pam Weir
Pam Weir
Elisabeth Westphal
Shoshana Whortenberry
Keyatta Wilson
Emily Wittenberg
Laurel Wolf
Kydalla Young
Ruth Young
Alyssa Zuravel
Alyssa Zuravel

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Kristin & Steve Taylor
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Spencer Stern
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Kirsten Salchow
Mara Jauntirans
Aliko Lampropoulou
Erica Stern



In Memory of Donation

In Memory Of:

Mark Chan

Generously Donated By:


Shu Jin and Sharleen Chan

Financial Summary

As of June 30, 2023

REVENUE	
<i>Restricted</i>	
Donations and Grants	\$8,904
<i>Unrestricted</i>	
Donations and Grants	\$192,440
Event Income	\$64,127
Investment Income	---
Miscellaneous Income	---
TOTAL	\$265,471
EXPENSES	
Programs and Grants	\$164,317
General and Administrative	\$52,124
Development and Fundraising	\$83,245
TOTAL	\$299,686
NET ASSETS	
Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$530,086
Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$99,256
Total Net Assets	\$629,342
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$(34,215)

This financial statement is preliminary and unaudited. Foundation 65's audited financials will be available in December 2023.



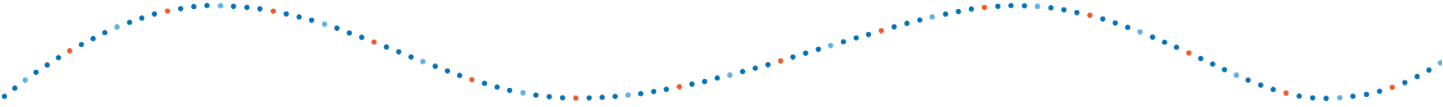
“We absolutely would not be in a position to expand our summer camp enrichment programs and year-round and interest exploration to a broader group of Black boys and girls in Evanston without Foundation 65’s belief in our work and commitment to our community.”

Greg Taylor • Camp Kuumba



PO Box 750
Evanston, IL 60204

www.foundation65.org



“Foundation 65 took a vision I had about building a meaningful and impactful unit and made it a reality! They believed in my vision and helped fund the program that impacted and improved the lives of our student body.”

Melissa Harris • Haven • Sound Lab

