



2021-2022 Annual Report

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**HOPE STONE, INC.**

Celebrating 25 Years of Art Creation and Education

## Dear Friends,

25 years! Sustaining relevance for a quarter-century places Hope Stone in unique company within the Houston arts community. We have experienced unimaginable growth and change since 1997, learning to creatively navigate through all the challenges. Continually moving us forward is the generosity of donors, corporations, foundations, schools, Board members, and government organizations who believe in our mission – to unlock the innate creativity of young people and adults through the arts. We bow with deep gratitude to all of you.

Hope Stone is in the business of creativity. We must keep teaching it, nurturing it, and making it an essential part of our lives, for creativity gives us the power to see more than one way, to not lose hope. One of our favorite stories is from a Veteran in 2017:

*“When I started the Hope Stone free drumming class offered to Veterans in the fall of 2015, it was a very bleak time in my life. I felt everything was terrible. But having this art really turned my life around. I was feeling very hopeless, but not with Hope Stone around. It brought a lot of hope when hope just wasn’t there. It was having something to get my heart beating again. It was watching Vets helping Vets. The class really freed my soul. In fact, it freed a lot of me, and led me to get my job and really move back into owning my life.”*

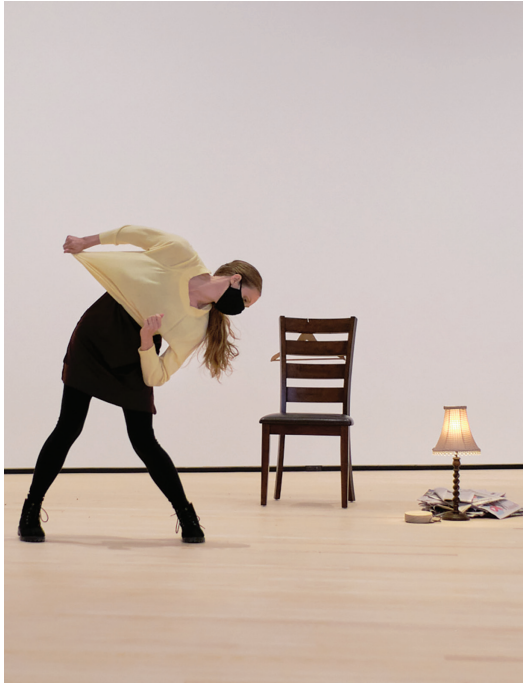
There is power in unlocking creativity. For all that we have faced over the last several years, we hope the words and images of those throughout this annual report move you to unlock your own creativity and see what doors may open for you, too.



**Amy Pearl**  
Executive Director

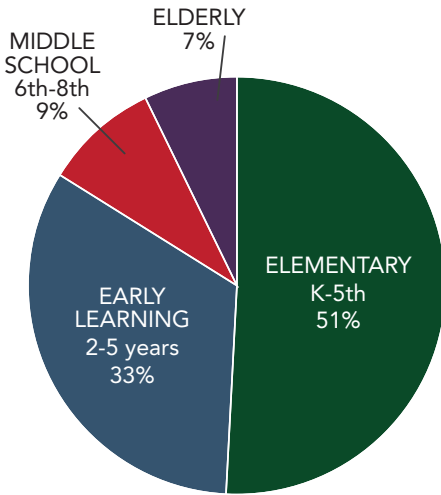
**Jane Weiner**  
Founder & President

Photography by  
Tati Vicedomine



# THE HOPE PROJECT

Hope Stone's mindful arts education outreach program serves children and adults in their schools and facilities through arts classes taught by professional artists. Over 700 students (95% economically disadvantaged) in 7 schools/organizations receive classes in music, theater, dance, photography, digital arts, and sewing/fashion design.



**700 students**  
**7 community partners**  
**1,305 classes a year**  
**62 classes a week**

*"Our children have experienced ongoing serious trauma in their lives. This is often manifested in their behavior as short attention span, needing chaos for normalcy, and not being able to self-regulate. Your team provides structure with expectations for the children, which helps the children learn self-regulation. Including the families with a dance showing helped the children exhibit their new skills and gave value to the parents being involved. I witnessed tears of joy and surprise at what their children could accomplish."*

-Program Manager, SEARCH Homeless Services' House of Tiny Treasures



*“Hope Stone sparks creativity, energy and focus in our students by allowing them the freedom of expression in art, music and dance.”*

–Program Manager, SEARCH Homeless Services’ House of Tiny Treasures

*“Your classes engage our children in diverse opportunities that foster developmentally age appropriate skills, generate a positive social/emotional mindset, and enable our children to grow a better understanding of the world around them.”*

–Program Director,  
Small Steps Nurturing Center





*“For many scholars at Clemente Martinez, Wednesdays are their favorite day of the week. This is the day Hope Stone and all their staff descend upon our campus. Our scholars are able to feel the positive energy on campus, all the smiling faces. Hope Stone is not only a fine arts program, it is an experience. Room after room filled with students engaged in the fine arts, noise coming from upstairs, downstairs, laughter, and the most important element, joy!”*

—Principal, Clemente Martinez Elementary School





*“Hope Stone and its teachers have what it takes to provide our students with a creative outlet to do and be more. We are proud to be a Hope Stone partner.”*

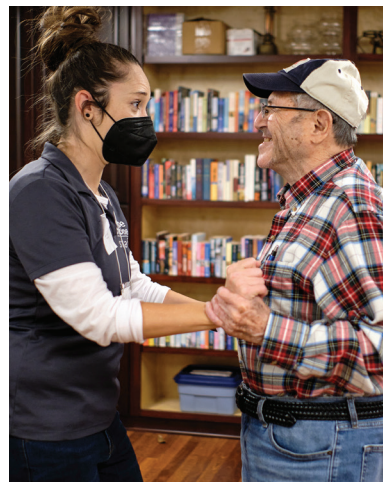
—Principal, Marshall Middle School





***“Our seniors have unlocked their creativity and increased their self-esteem and so look forward to what the next class may bring!”***

**–Resident Program Director,  
Brookdale Senior Living Solutions**





*"It was wonderful to see Hope Stone's commitment to us during the pandemic when in-person classes were not possible. They stayed committed to us, always asking, 'What can we do to help? What do you need?' Hope Stone provided electronics, help with our garden, Thanksgiving meals for our most struggling families, and back to school supplies. They also provided their 'take 5' videos – short mindfulness videos to help with the anxiety, trauma, and overall stress the students were experiencing.*

*We're excited for Hope Stone to return to our students. We again want to offer our students contemporary art classes with skills for today's workforce, and Hope Stone responds with their bevy of talented teaching artists. Sewing/design and photography will be on the schedule with a twice-a-week class, which allows students to really immerse into the study of these art forms.*

*Hope Stone is a caring organization that has stood by us and with us, providing our students with a safe space to express their creativity. We share in their vision of Art for All."*

*–Principal, Marshall Middle School*



Through the generous support of donors and foundations and in partnership with Stages, Hope Stone created and filmed during the pandemic a robust digital arts library called “smART breaks.” This fun series of 34 music, dance, and theater classes are introduced by two longtime friends – Captain Hope and Mr. Zo – who have just moved from Nice, CA to Houston, TX. Settled into their new home at Stages, they invite their teaching artist friends and neighbors over to teach classes. This joyful and engaging programming gives students the opportunity to experience movement, play music, and use their voices.



[smARTbreaks.org](https://smARTbreaks.org)



*“smART breaks classes bring out the curiosity in the quieter scholars. After participating in smART breaks, students ask more questions and the level of participation in the lesson increases. My students request smART breaks when attending my small group intervention. They say it ‘wakes them up.’ It’s rare to find an activity in education that engages EVERY student. smART breaks is one of those rare activities.”*

–Reading Specialist, Browning Elementary School



Funding for smART breaks provided in part by

KEATING FAMILY FOUNDATION

**B** THE BROWN FOUNDATION, INC.

# HOPE STONE DANCE



*From an outdoor show at the Moody Center for the Arts at Rice University, to an intimate performance at the Makers Space at Marshall Middle, and a film creation/screening at the Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Hope Stone Dance continued to create and present its work – reflections on the pandemic, on the absurd, and on connection – to audiences hungry for art.*

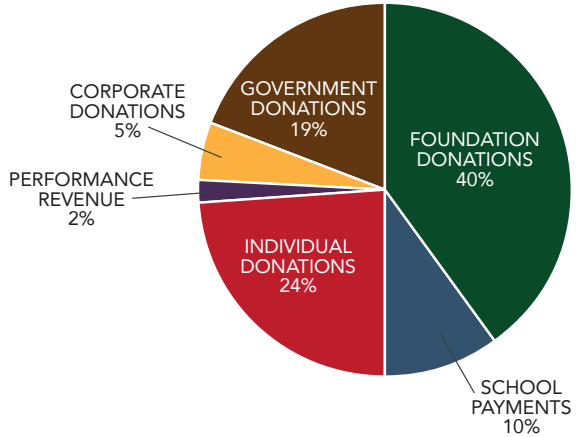




# FINANCIAL REVIEW

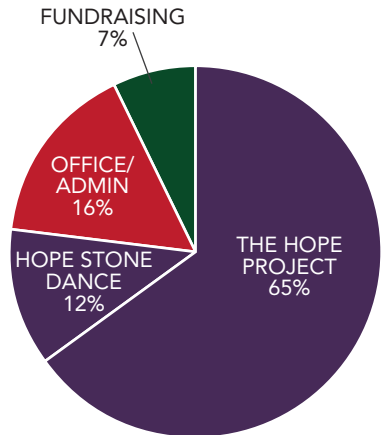
## REVENUES

While the largest portion of our funding comes from foundations, we continually strive to create a more balanced revenue profile. We are grateful for 25 years of community support, for together we make the most impact.



## EXPENSES

The majority of the total expenses (77%) are allocated towards the services we provide through our two programs – The Hope Project and Hope Stone Dance. We continue to be good stewards of donors' generosity by deeply focusing our resources on the children and adults we serve.



# HOPE STONE LEADERSHIP

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Douglas Newman**, MWM Partners – *Chair*

**Jessica Henderson**, RYDE – *Vice-Chair*

**Lisa Shorb**, Boy Scouts of America – *Treasurer*

**Gabrielle Greiner**, MWM Partners – *Secretary*

**Lauren Anderson**, Houston Ballet

**Matt Harris**, MH Contractors

**Kyle Kubin**, Targa Resources

**Shannon Mann**, Mann Designs Studio

**Monica Rhodes**, Manifest Creative, LLC

**Brad Thien**, QuVa Pharma, Inc.

**Emily Weinstein**, Community Advocate/Educator

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Joy Posoli





**Hope Stone, Inc.**  
[www.hopestoneinc.org](http://www.hopestoneinc.org)

Unlocking the innate creativity of young people  
and adults through the arts since 1997.