

IRREDUCIBLE GRACE FOUNDATION



2023

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FOUNDER



DR. DARLENE FRY
Executive Director

It seems like 2024 has just begun, yet we are at the close of it. But it is never too late to reflect on the good works of our past. For the Irreducible Grace Foundation 2023 was a year of monumental learning! Having moved into our new building, the Black Youth Healing Arts Center in September of 2022, we learned the in's and out's of the site, the highs and challenges of running a site, and new patterns of

youth development work. 2023 also marked our transition from a small to a mid-sized non-profit, this jump has meant much in the way of operational organization for us. During our growth period we never took our eyes off of our mission of "creating safe spaces and healing opportunities with youth of color". Thank you to all of our youth leaders, staff, supporters, and community partners for making 2023 a year of new success with us!!!

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darlene Fry".

There's gifts they give us.

They greet us. Offer a welcoming mat. They don't stop, They build on top like building blocks until the sky scrapes the top but they still don't stop. They won't let nothing happen to the one who brings the water.

Dr. D. brings the water.

**-Kimani,
IGF Poetry Lab Participant**

Our Team

Our growing leadership team supports the day to day operations of IGF and our building, the Black Youth Healing Arts Center. Additionally, they provide support to our young adults and elders who lead our weekly programming, special events, and who are part of our pop-up team.

Our pop-up brings our work to the local community by engaging participants in an interactive manner at schools, non-profits, colleges, governmental organizations and more!



Top: IGF young leaders pose with Elder Melvin Giles.
Bottom: IGF young leaders guide participants through a breathing tool in a Pop Up Workshop.



Dr. Darlene Fry

Executive Director



Sister Patricia Brown

Director of Programming & Engagement



Tara Reddinger-Adams

Director of Operations



Isiah Dennis

Coordinator of Community Engagement



Deborah Honore

Facilities and Events Coordinator



Jan Mandell

Program Coordinator



Natalia Davis

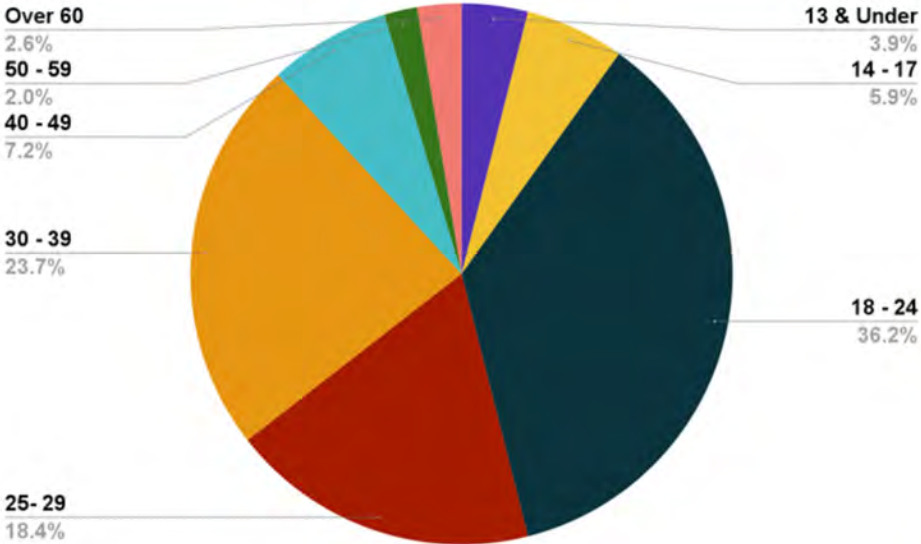
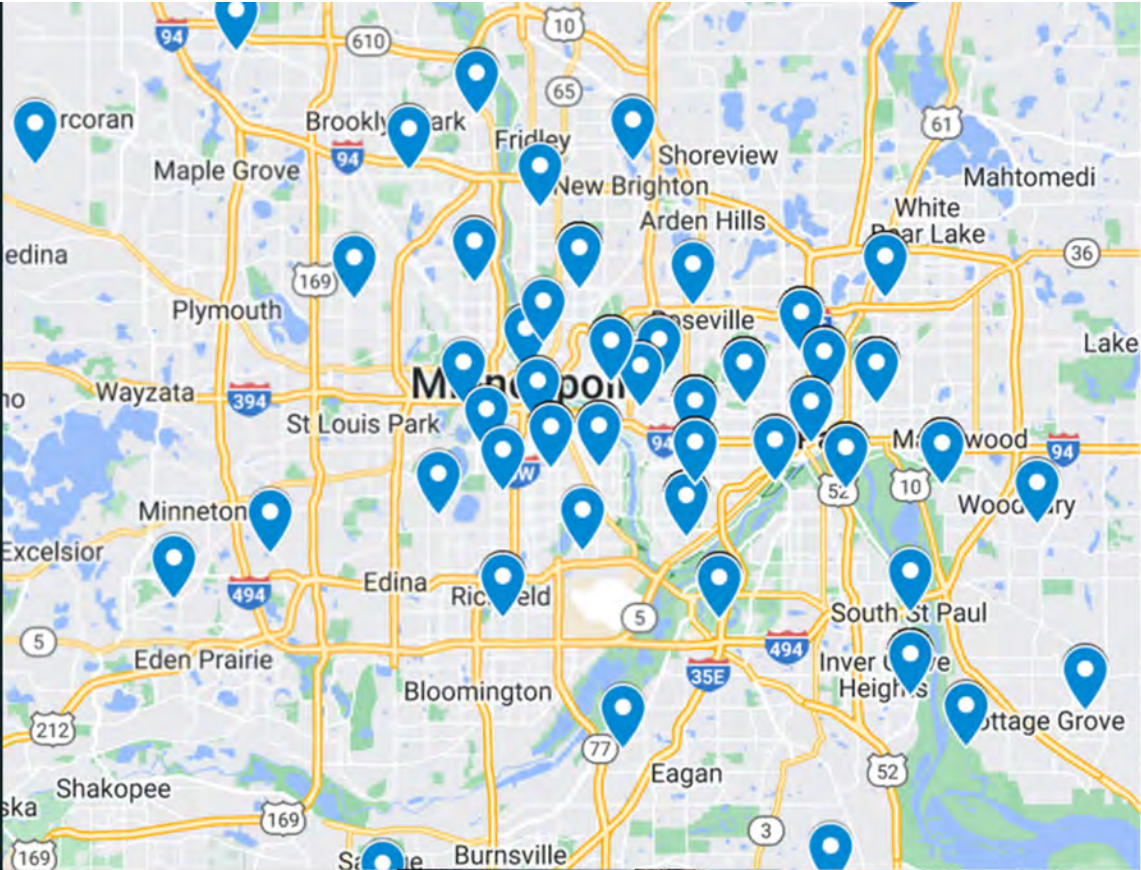
Artistic Coordinator

Our Participants

In 2023, we welcomed over 700 young people to the BYHAC for our weekly programming which included drumming, yoga, sewing, cooking, Poetry Lab with acclaimed poet Danez Smith, Healing Circles with Drake Powe, singing classes with local theater legends T. Mychael Rambo, Aimee K. Bryant, Thomasina Petrus and more! In addition, we hosted summer camps for elementary school students and community events including Halloween Face Painting.

Our participants come from all over the Twin Cities metropolitan area with more than half of our participants coming from 55103, 55104, 55106, and 55119 zip codes which include the Frogtown, University, Rondo, Battle Creek, Dayton's Bluff, and the East Side neighborhoods of Saint Paul.

36% of our participants are between the ages of 18 - 24 years of age, with 30 - 39 year olds making up the second largest group at over 23%.



84%
of participants identify as Black, African or African American



"This activity continues to exceed my expectations. the sessions with Drake this month have been so uplifting and a time I look forward to every day."

-Healing Circle Participant

2023 In Review



35%
of participants
attend
Drumming



“I feel incredibly affirmed in this space. Thank you for being consistent programming, it benefits me heavily, so much.”

-Poetry Participant



“I came pretty stressed with school but the drumming helped calm down and be in the now.”

-Participant



23%
of participants
attend
Poetry Lab

“This activity continues to exceed my expectations.”

-Healing Circle Participant



“It lifted my mind/heart-body to a higher energy state. I feel more ready to end the day and make the transition to tomorrow and all it entails/may entail. I’m grateful. Thank you.”

- Yoga Participant



“IGF & BYHAC hold space for empowering positive feedback loops for myself and others.”

-Program Participant

20%
of participants
attend
Yoga



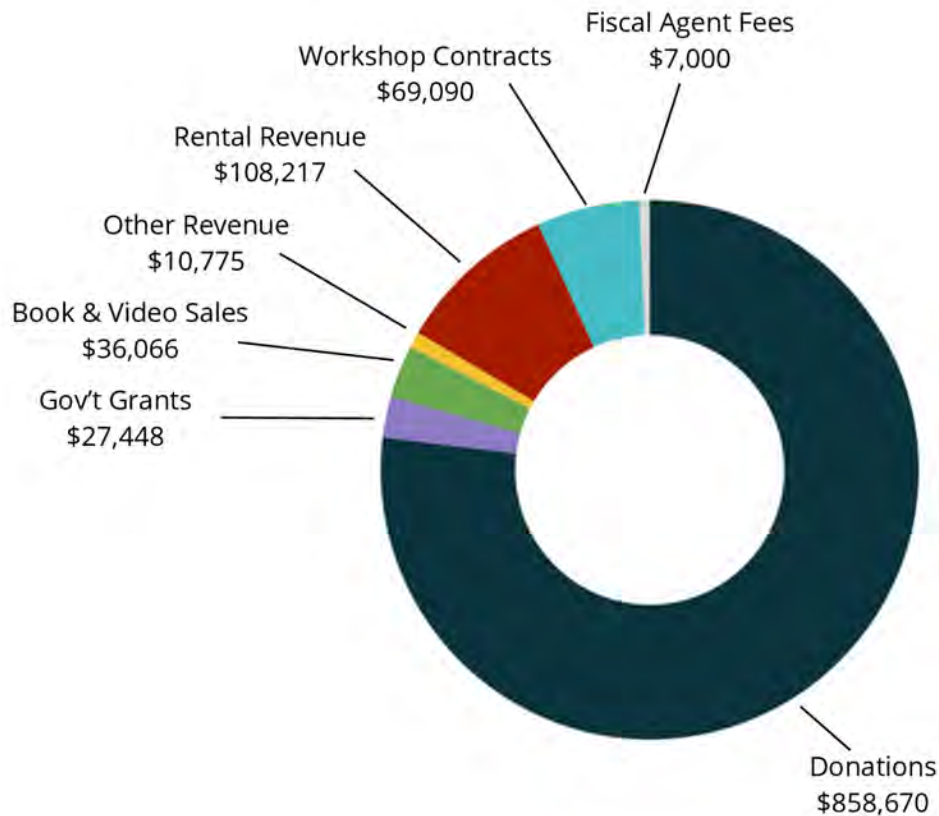
2023 FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT



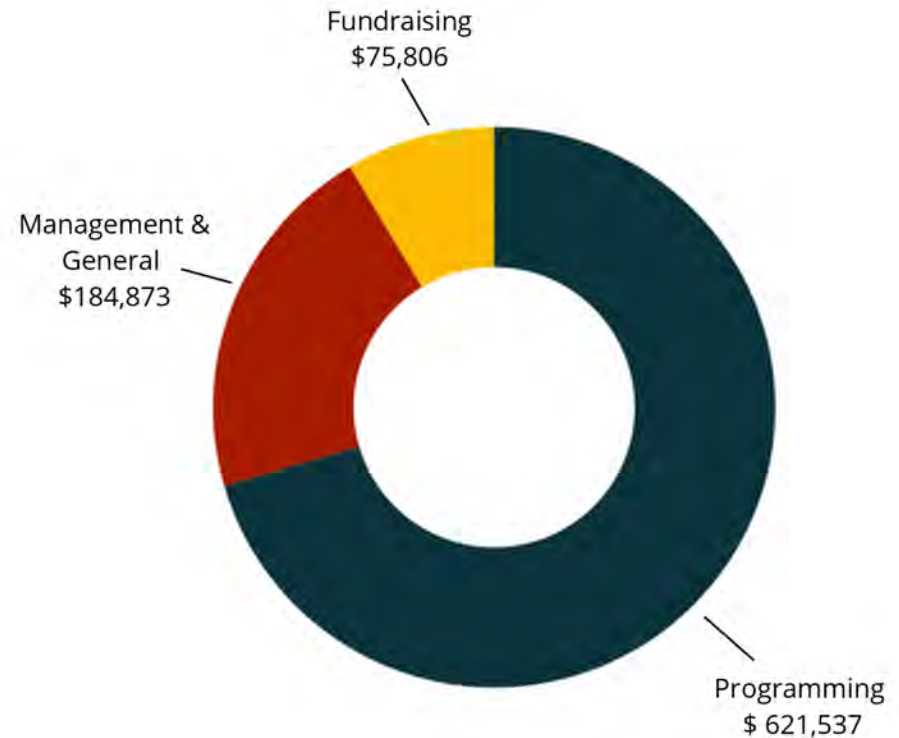
We received financial support from foundations including Bigelow, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota, George Family, Greater Twin Cities United Way, Mardag, Mortenson, Pohlad, and the Saint Paul and Minnesota Foundations, in addition to private donations of \$270,00.00. This support helped fund our general operating and programming expenses. You can help support IGF through a financial contribution at www.irgrace.org/store

2023 was our first full year of renting space at the BYHAC to outside organizations and individuals as a source of revenue and brought in over \$100,000.00 of revenue. Learn more about hosting your next event at the BYHAC by visiting www.irgrace.org/room-rentals

Income



Expenses





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**“Amazing, it has changed my life and world view
and view of myself and self-confidence and
connection with others, especially Black people.”**

**-Building Blocks Towards African Consciousness Book Club
Participant**



**“So amazing my soul is
rejoicing.”**

-Program Participant



www.irgrace.org