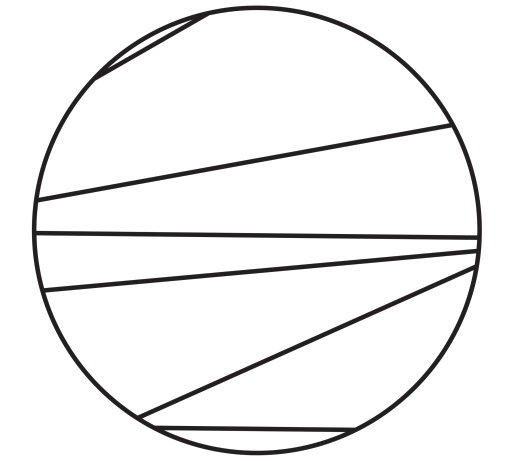


elevated thought®

ANNUAL

REPORT
2019



i AM ART. i AM CHANGE.

ADDRESS

15 Union St. Suite #120
Lawrence, MA 01840

PHONE

HQ: 978.552.3439
Mobile: 978.420.7920

EMAIL

info@elevatedthought.org
marquis@elevatedthought.org

WEBSITE

www.elevatedthought.org



“

i spit for...the kids who knew oppression before Freire,
and dance around revolution, reading Davis,
i spit for the ones who set the stage for me to say this
for the ones who taught me God made this, too

”

James-Valentín Mora
ET Collaborating Artist



MISSION AND VISION

Our Mission



Elevated Thought is an art and social justice Lawrence-based 501(c)(3) organization that actively serves and develops communities through creative youth development curriculum, beautification projects, youth organizing, and public outreach. At a grassroots level, we believe art has the power to generate awareness and investment in social issues. In centering on youth who are persistently experiencing the devastating consequences of inequality, Elevated Thought provides opportunities for youth and communities to expand their understanding of art's liberating power.

Our Vision



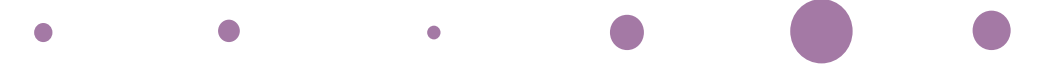
Elevated Thought's long-term vision is to be a model for youth knowledge-building, experience-building, creative youth development as action, and strategic problem-solving; and to provide a place and resources for youth to build themselves as individuals in a way that seeps into the community in ways that support progressive change.



MARQUIS VICTOR

Founding Executive Director

“Create a foundation of self, **then you’ll be able to put your mind & eyes toward the social landscape, identify issues, challenge social norms & begin to develop creative solutions to pervasive social inequities.**”



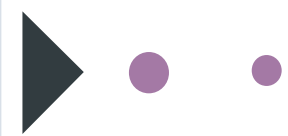
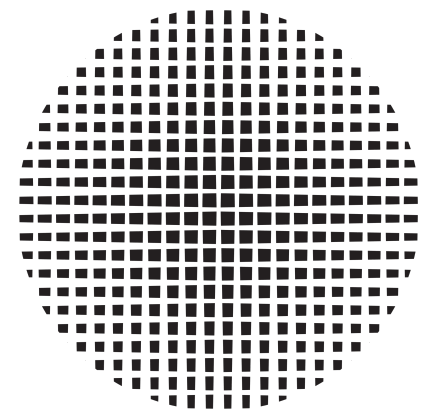
ET believes that all young people should and could have access to wide-ranging, creative and alternative learning opportunities. We believe art can create change agents and that the most powerful change agents are youth.

Whether you are new to practicing forms of creativity or an aspiring professional artist; it doesn’t matter. To be involved with ET, all you have to be willing to do is think. To support ET, all you have to do is believe in art’s liberating power.

A handwritten signature of Marquis Victor in black ink.

YEAR IN REVIEW

HIGHLIGHTS



JAN



FEB



MAR



Healthy on the Block / Bodegas Saludables

In partnership with organizations across the city, ET youth produced a mini-documentary focused on Lawrence Bodegas participating in the Healthy on the Block Program.

Winter Program Launch

Creative Mentors and ET youth spent the month of January revamping our program space and curriculum and relaunched at the start of February; doubling the number of participants from the fall.

Cormier Youth Center Mural

Produced by Alex J. Brien and assisted by ET Creative Coordinator, Wilfred Acosta, the Cormier mural was the second production we've done for the Center.



APR



MAY



JUN

Our Finale Exhibit

Our Finale, showcased and celebrated the commitment and creativity of our senior participants from the past year.

Straight from the Source

The release and public forum of a reflection and informational guide to the youth created Bill of Rights based on feedback from over 150 Lawrence youth and supplemental research from the Rennie Center of Education.

The Future is...

Femme and queer inspired gallery featuring a total of 42 artist; our largest gallery to date.



• • ● JUL • AUG • SEP • • •

‘Building Better Together’

ET Art Director, Alex J. Brien completed our largest mural to date for Bell Tower Development reflecting a number of businesses and organizations in the building including the Spicket River Brewery

ET in Puerto Rico

Sponsored by Andover Bread Loaf, our Program Director, Amaryllis, and Art Curator, Celeste, facilitated a workshop with educators, organizers, and youth workers in Puerto Rico; interrogating what education means to them and how they center youth voice in their work.

The Boiler Project

This youth-led documentary film held its second public premiere at the 35th Annual Bread & Roses Heritage Festival on Labor Day. Youth from Phoenix Academy helped facilitate a community forum centered around the gas crisis.



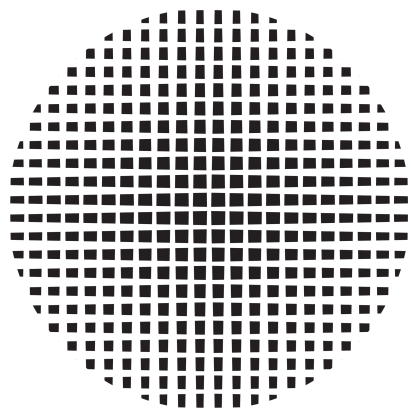
OCT



NOV



DEC



Foster Kids

This ET youth produced mini-documentary, highlights Camila, who, through tremendous adversity, found a second home through Foster Families of the Merrimack Valley.

Shape your Journey

Produced by Alex J. Brien with support from Wilfred Acosta, SYJ represents the power young people have in building up their world and includes a collaborative poem created by NECC students during a workshop with ET's Celeste Cruz & James-Valentín.

Social Innovation Forum

ET was selected for the 2020 Social Innovator cohort. Through the accelerator program, ET will receive capacity-building support valued at \$150,000 to help us gain visibility, expand our networks, and strengthen our impact.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

10

During my time at ET, as a member of the program, I got the opportunity to explore my passion for poetry, fiction, and social activism. Transitioning into college, that exploration gave me a big advantage **because already I knew what it was I wanted to study: English and Philosophy.**



First week of classes I was scared. I thought I wasn't prepared. I thought I wasn't smart enough. I thought I wasn't going to make it to December. But as the weeks rolled by, I was consistent in creating--and meeting--small goals, holding myself accountable, and managing a balance between academics and social life. It was a successful first semester. All I needed to do was find a rhythm and stick to it. Sometimes I got off beat but I persisted. I'm personally not one who thinks GPA's are the ultimate measure of academic success but I'm very proud of earning that 3.9. I worked hard.

I never believed people when they said "love what you do and it will never feel like work" There was hardly a tedious moment during my studies because I loved what I was studying. I give a lot of credit to Elevated Thought for helping discover what it is I love to do.

During my time at ET as a staff member, after high school and before college (I had to take a gap year), I was given a lot of responsibility. Facilitating the Community Advocacy wing while helping build out the music studio, along with reports, reflections and other deadlines, was a lot to juggle for a kid right out of high school. But having access to the support of ET, who along with helping me manage my time also helped me manage my wellbeing, developed great work and self-care habits that kept me in rhythm my first semester. After making it through my first semester, I'm excited for the challenges of the next seven semesters.



DANIEL CARRERO
Freshman @ Providence College
Former ET Program Coordinator

ET GROWTH PROFILE

Youth Program Hours Per Week



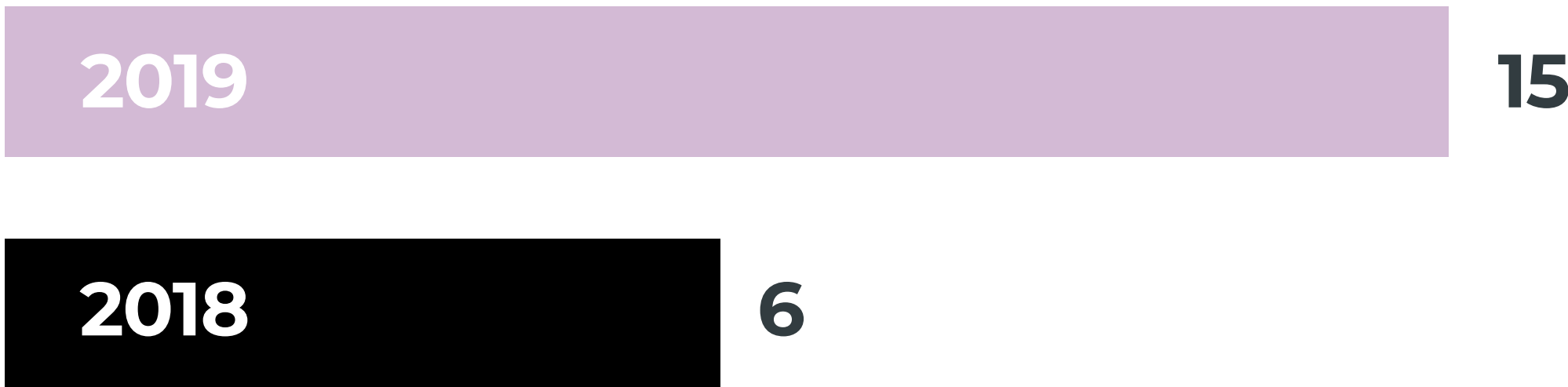
Youth Support Staff



Youth Led Beautification Projects



Youth Led Community Workshops



ET GROWTH PROFILE

New Community Partners



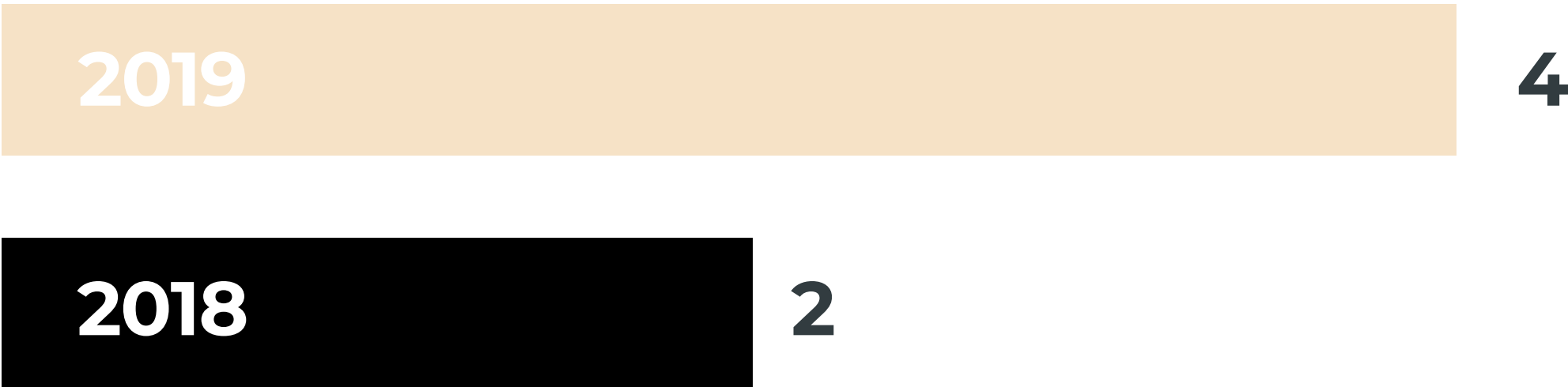
New Grant Funders



Commissions



Youth Program Contracts



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



EARNED INCOME

+ 44%

YOUTH STIPENDS

+ 72%



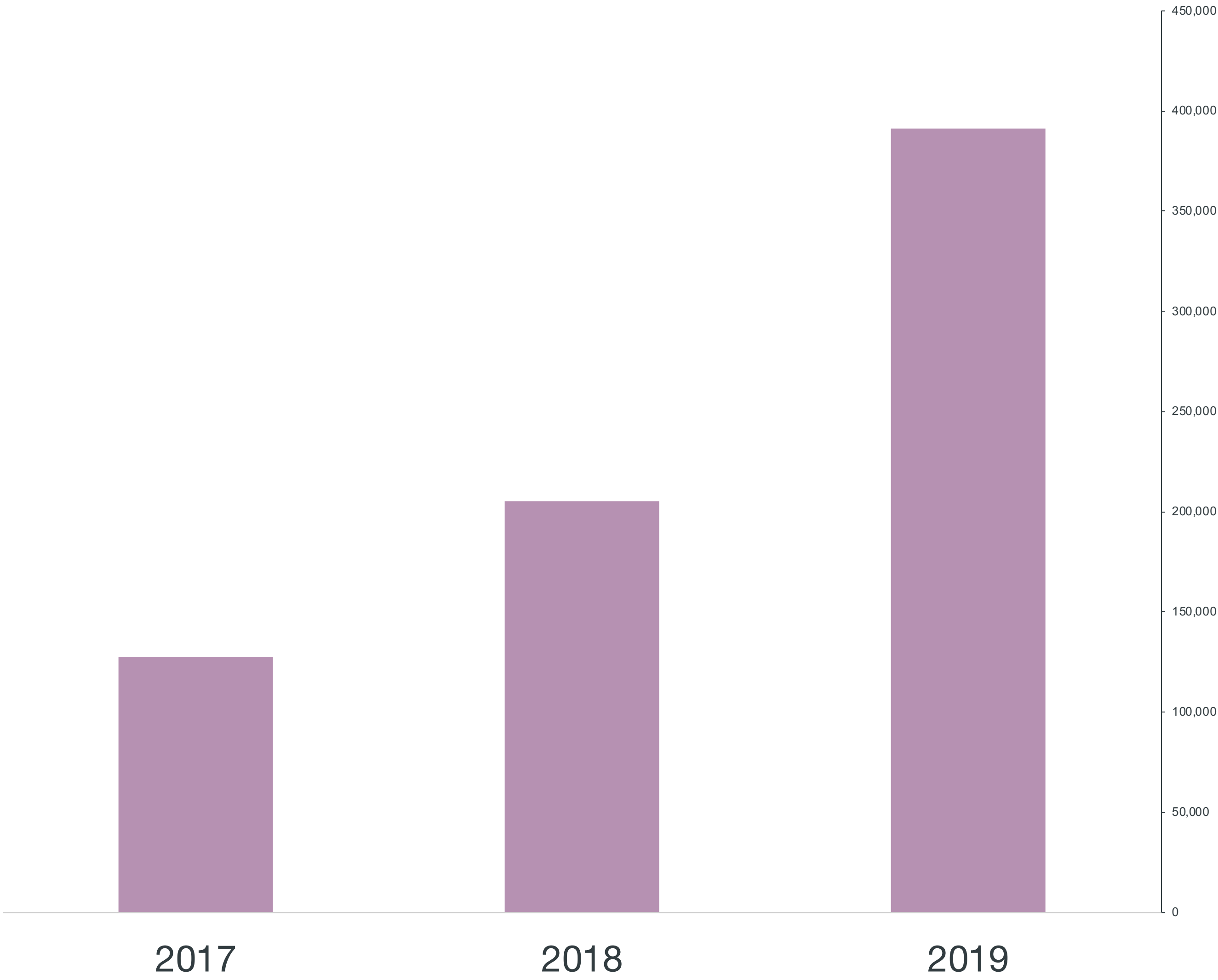
DIRECT PUBLIC SUPPORT

+ 44%

GRANT FUNDING

+ 56%

YEARLY BUDGET GROWTH



Our annual budget increased by 54% from 2018 to 2019.



2019 FUNDING SOURCES

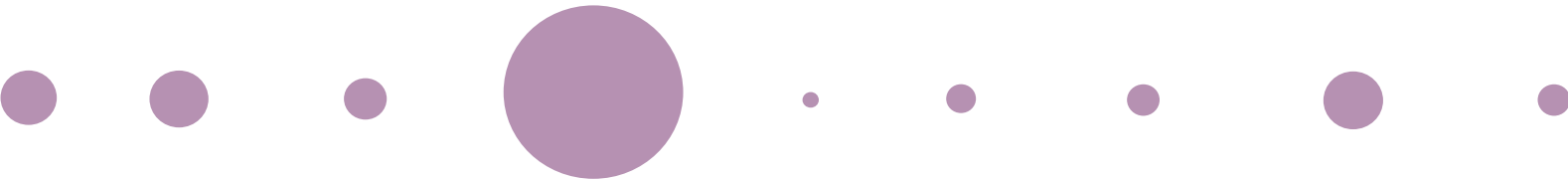
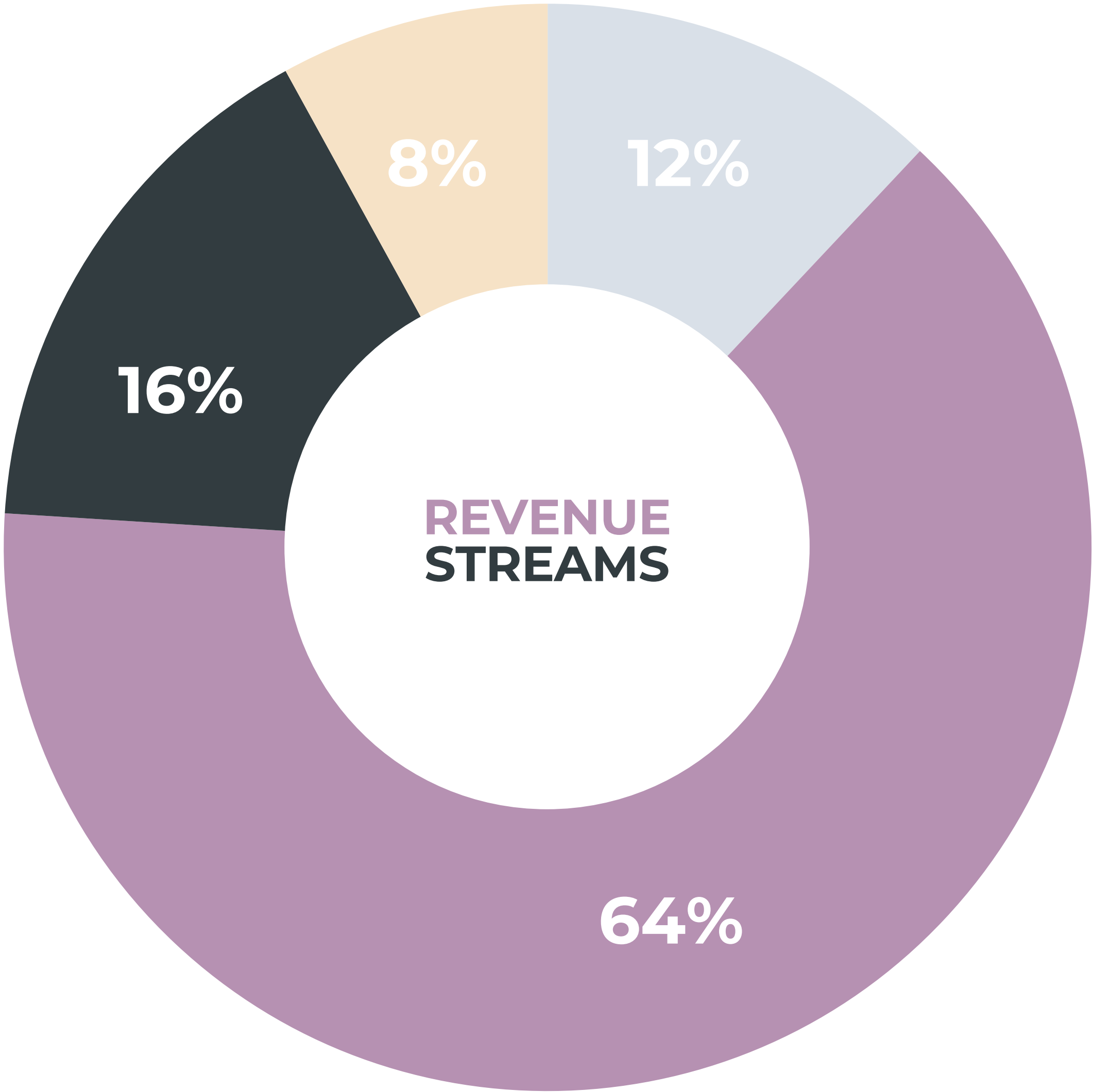
- 1

Commissions
- 2

Grants
- 3

Individual & Corporate Giving
- 4

Youth Program Services



THANK YOU

