

GUITARS  
OVER  
GUNS



JOIN THE LABEL:

INVESTING IN  
OUR MISSION



GUITARS  
OVER  
GUNS



# TALENT IS EVERYWHERE.

GUITARS  
OVER  
GUNS



# OPPORTUNITY IS NOT.



# UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

SINCE  
2008

innovative arts-based youth  
development organization

Guitars Over Guns has been

using the power of music, mentorship, and the arts

to unlock possibilities for the young people society is failing to reach.







# THE PROBLEM

## DEEPLY CONNECTED, MULTI-FACETED PROBLEMS

Our ability to succeed as an adult can depend on several significant and interrelated factors in our youth:

1. Lack of positive adult relationships
2. Barriers to access to high-quality arts programming
3. Cycle of disenfranchisement and exposure to trauma

Quality after-school programs give children opportunities that help reduce likelihood of taking part in risky behaviors outside of school hours.







# THE PROBLEM

## CRISIS OF CREATIVITY

Complex societal problems are on the rise. Creativity is the engine of problem-solving and innovation, yet creative thinking skills are in decline.

Thriving in today's world demands not only empathy, resilience, and a strong sense of self but also the ability to tackle these challenges with innovative, adaptable solutions. To prepare young people to be leaders and innovators in an ever-changing economy, we must address this crisis of creativity and invest in their potential now.







# THE POWER OF THE ARTS

**MUSIC AND THE ARTS PROVIDE  
A PROVEN PATHWAY, FOR  
ADDRESSING THIS CREATIVITY GAP.**

Research shows that investing in music and the arts significantly enhances creativity, critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and problem-solving: skills that are essential for the success of all young people. Yet, too often, society overlooks the arts as one of the most effective tools for youth development, healing, and mental health.

By cultivating creativity, enhancing academic performance, creating job opportunities, fostering community development, and preparing a future workforce for the innovation economy, an arts education becomes a catalyst for social well-being and long-term economic growth.







## OUR APPROACH

### HOLISTIC MENTORSHIP: THE MISSING LINK



Unlike traditional arts-based programs exclusively focused on creative expression, our trauma-informed approach supports the "whole" child, which drives measurable grade improvement, healthier behaviors, lasting relationship building, and increased well-being.

We've seen firsthand how the combination of mentorship and the arts can break barriers, build bridges, and prepare youth for brighter futures-all while sparking joy and having fun.





## WHERE WE WORK



# MIA

**MIAMI**

**863 students**

**72 mentors**

**35 school and  
community programs**



# CHI

**CHICAGO**

**637 students**

**62 mentors**

**24 school and  
community programs**



# LAX

**LOS ANGELES**

**30 students**

**3 mentors**

**1 school partnership**



# NYC

**NEW YORK CITY**

**23 students**

**4 mentors**

**2 school partnerships**

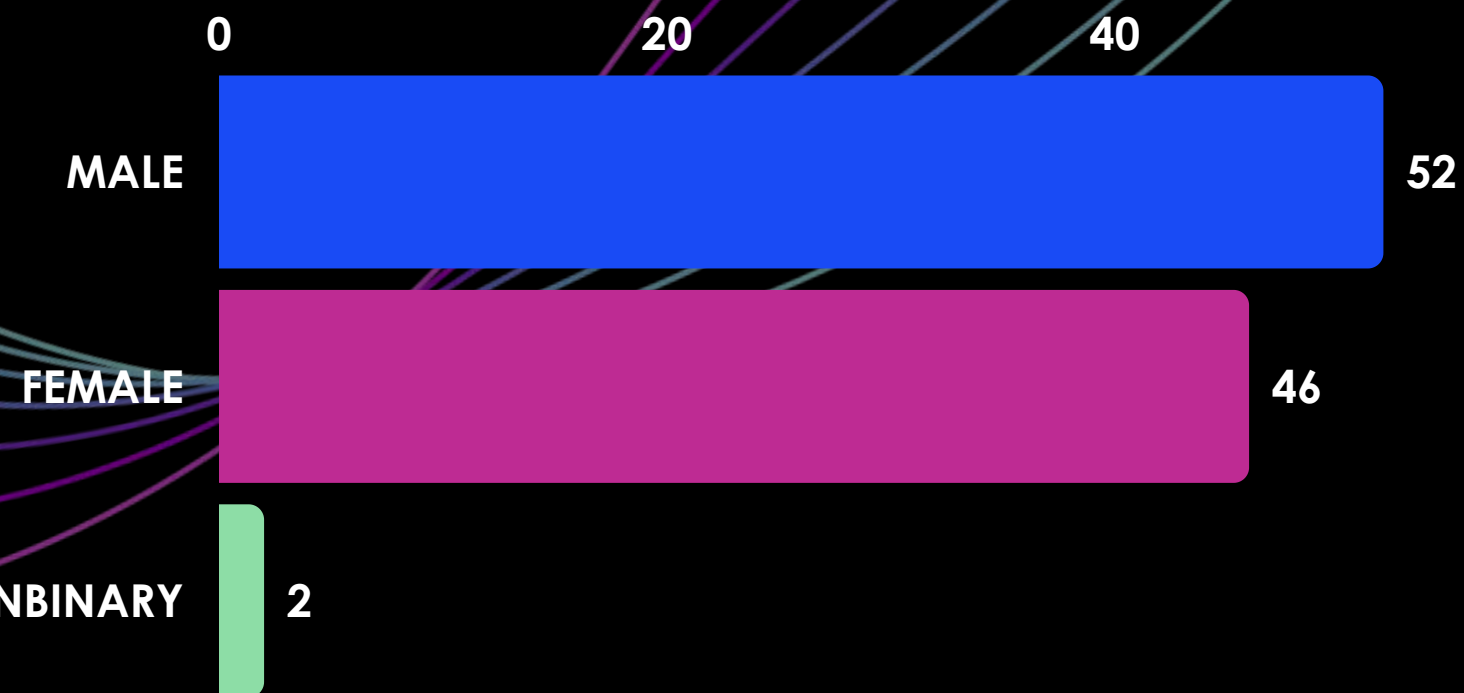
*\*2024-25 school year projection*



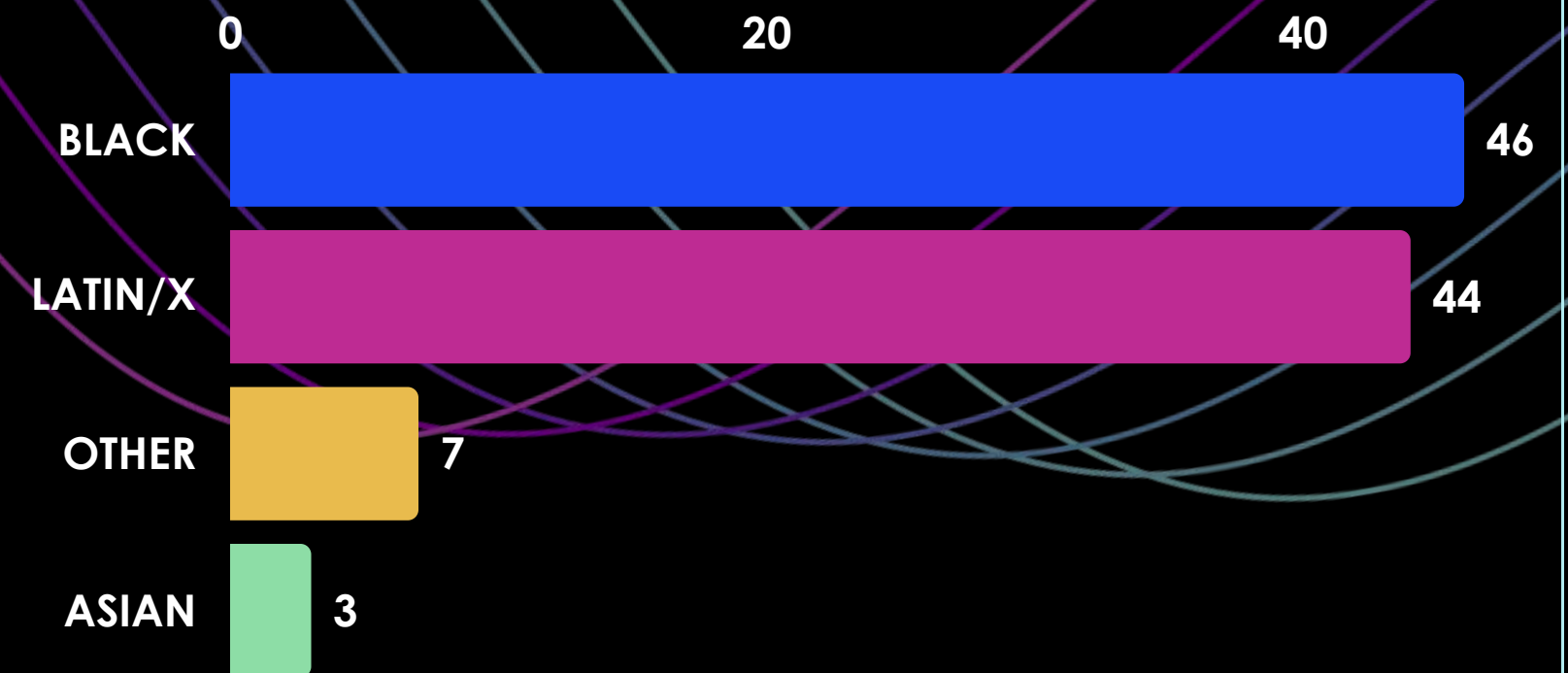


## OUR YOUTH

### GENDER



### RACE/ETHNICITY



**95%** OF STUDENTS ARE AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

**20%** OF STUDENTS IDENTIFY AS HAVING A DISABILITY

\*2024-25 school year





## OUR IMPACT

STUDENTS

1553

MENTORS

141

SITES

62

ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES TAUGHT:

15

- GUITAR
- MODERN BAND
- KEYS
- VOCALS
- PHOTOGRAPHY & DIGITAL MEDIA
- BASS
- MUSIC PRODUCTION
- POETRY AND CREATIVE WRITING
- LATIN PERCUSSION
- VISUAL ART
- DRUMS
- SONGWRITING
- RAP
- SPOKEN WORD
- DJING

\*2023-24 school year





## SIGNATURE EVENTS

### 1. DAY OF GRATITUDE CHICAGO

Students, families, mentors, school partners, and community members enjoy a meaningful celebration of their collective achievements.

### 2. MUSIC VIDEO

Students in every city professionally film and record a collaborative music video. This annual regional project demonstrates the power of music as a universal language that can bridge neighborhood, cultural and other boundaries, finding common ground in the drive toward self-expression, connection, and empathy.

### 3. SPRING SHOWCASE

Watch our students shine on the big stage! Every school performs as their own band ensemble, presenting songs the students have chosen – or even an original song they wrote themselves! We also feature a student art exhibit from our visual art program. The concert vibes will have you on your feet, dancing and cheering our young rockstars on!







## SIGNATURE EVENTS

### 4. CAMP GOGO

Our annual Camp GOGO takes place in Covenant Harbor, a picturesque setting of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Over the course of four days, our young musicians enjoy a journey filled with outdoor adventures, creative exploration, and deep self-reflection. The youth create the theme and record an EP during camp.

### 5. MENTOR INSTITUTE MIAMI

Institute is our foundation for building both individual and collective leadership among our frontline workers. Mentors receive 34 hours of paid training over four days. Workshops cover instrument and song instruction, mental health and wellness, trauma-informed teaching tactics, and culturally affirming teaching practices.







## SIGNATURE EVENTS

### 6. BAND TOGETHER

This fall event, our second annual fundraiser, is hosted in Chicago and features live mentor and student performances, a dynamic silent auction, and uplifting music.

### 7. CHOOSE YOUR SOUND GALA

This memorable gala in Miami will have you dancing and enjoying incredible live performances from Guitars Over Guns mentors, alumni, and special guests.

Last year, our 11th annual Choose Your Sound Gala raised nearly \$900,000!







# WE NEED YOU.

# JOIN THE LABEL

**As an exclusive donor and member of The Label, you will become a distinguished VIP in every audience we captivate.**

**Experience the music like never before, witness our talented youth shine on stage, and revel in the knowledge that your involvement is making a profound difference.**





PEOPLE'S CHOICE:  
**\$250,000+**

#### RECOGNITION

- Your family name/logo/company name will be included as a founding member of The Label in Chicago, Miami, and New York City.
- All benefits of the “Diamond” level in Chicago, Miami, and New York City.
- Opportunity to make remarks at Choose Your Sound Gala.
- Naming opportunities available.





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DIAMOND:

\$100,000+

#### RECOGNITION

- All “Double Platinum” Level benefits in Chicago, Miami, and New York City.
- Title inclusion in signature event.
- On-stage recognition during the awards presentation at Choose Your Sound Gala.







**DOUBLE PLATINUM:**  
**\$50,000+**

#### RECOGNITION

- All “Platinum” Level benefits in Chicago, Miami, and New York City.
- Opportunity to make remarks at GOGO event.
- Prominent recognition in annual magazine.
- Dedicated social media post.
- Spotlight in our newsletter.
- Invitations to signature events.
- Backstage passes to our student showcases.







**PLATINUM:**  
**\$25,000+**

#### RECOGNITION

- National/regional newsletter.
- Inclusion in The Label website page.
- Inclusion as a 'Founding Member' at signature events.
- Recognition in annual magazine.
- Credit at the end of the student music video.
- Highlighted in an annual social media post.







# THE LABEL FOUNDING MEMBERS

• Updated 3/17/25

## DIAMOND (\$100,000+)



YONATHAN  
YEHEZKEL

JORDEN GOLD  
FOUNDATION

DANIEL  
LEWIS

THE MARGARET  
AND DANIEL LOEB  
FOUNDATION

## MULTI PLATINUM (\$75,000+)

MJ AND FRED WRIGHT

## DOUBLE PLATINUM (\$50,000+)



THE HOWARD &  
PAULA TRIENENS  
FUND

THE SINGER  
FAMILY  
CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION

LYNNE & NIGEL ROSS  
CHARITABLE TRUST

## PLATINUM (\$25,000 + )



THE BARRY AND  
MIMI STERNLICHT  
FOUNDATION

ANONYMOUS





# THE LABEL FOUNDING MEMBERS

• Updated 3/17/25

## DOUBLE GOLD (\$10,000+)



MAMMEL  
FAMILY  
FOUNDATION



GEOFFREY  
BATSIYAN

SCOTT &  
BECKI ETZLER

WYNN & JEFF  
ADAM

BOB & KATHY  
BERNSTEIN

THE JACK  
TARVER FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

THE BLUHM  
FAMILY CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION

SUZANNE  
FELSON

SHEILA  
BECHERT

JANE  
HURT

CINDY WALLACE &  
ALLEN MOSELEY

DAVID & LAILA  
CENTNER CHARITABLE  
FOUNDATION

ANONYMOUS

## GOLD (\$5,000+)



JACQUIE  
O'MALLEY

BARBARA  
GARRETT

GARY  
ABRAMSON

AMBAL,  
INC.

MARK &  
CHRISTIE  
OSMOND

JULIANA NEWMAN  
FERNANDEZ & ERIC  
NEWMAN

GOLDEN  
FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

BARRY  
QUIRKE

HIEDE & KEN  
BUCKMAN

HEAR US  
ROAR

ORTEGA FAMILY  
FUND

VAN & LIZ  
MITCHELL

MARK  
MC SHANE

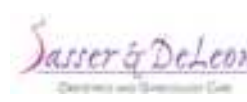
KEARNEY  
POSNER

SARAH FEIL  
LEWIN

JAMES  
ANSIN

TANNER  
LEE

## SILVER (\$2,500 + )



NANCY &  
STEPHEN  
BERNSTEIN

ROD  
TAYLOR

DENISE  
MINAKOWSKI

ROSE ELLEN  
GREENE

CHUCKY AR  
LA FOUNDATION

JONATHAN & CAROLYN  
VITRIOL FAMILY DONOR  
ADVISED FUND

ZACHARY  
BENNING

HUGH K. AND  
ELEANOR D.  
ANDREWS  
FAMILY FUND

LEONARD  
GOODMAN

THE CHICAGO  
COMMUNITY  
TRUST





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# THANK YOU