

GUITARS
OVER
GUNS



JOIN THE LABEL

INVESTING IN OUR MISSION

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**TALENT IS
EVERYWHERE.**

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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.



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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.



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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.

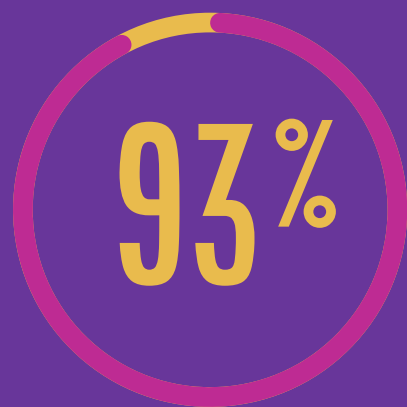
We've seen firsthand how the combination of mentorship and the arts can break barriers, build bridges, and prepare youth for brighter futures—all while sparking joy and having fun.



SPOTLIGHT ON POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT: M-POWER MENTAL WELLNESS PROGRAM

M-Power is our programmatic approach to serving our students' and alumni's diverse mental health needs. M-Power brings trauma-informed, healing-centered practices and content directly to our youth.

Our social work interns and wellness mentors work hand in hand with arts mentors to support students' creative and holistic growth.



of Guitars Over Guns students increased or maintained their score on the Childhood Global Assessment Scale (C-GAS)*

*MIAMI REGION DATA, SPRING 2023

M-POWER IN NEW YORK

3 - YEAR VISION

- 100% of NYC sites are staffed with Wellness Mentors and/or social work interns
- Hire a full-time M-Power Regional Manager to oversee mental wellness programming, grow strategic partnerships, & serve as a credentialed on-staff mental health professional
- Offer students, mentors, and partnering schools a robust resource ecosystem in the form of internal case management capacity and external referral network of peer service organizations



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EXPERIENCE CIRCLE

MUSIC EXPOSURE AND MUSICIANSHIP

- » Quality mentorship
- » Introduction to instruments
- » Methodology

NON-COGNITIVE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- » Self-efficacy
- » Self-esteem
- » Collaboration
- » Discipline
- » Integrity

PIPELINE

- » Holistic support: creative, academic, personal & professional
- » Continuum of services from year 1 to alumni hood
- » Mentees becoming mentors



M-POWER & ALUMNI WRAPAROUND SERVICES

- » Mental health & wellness support services for students, parents, and school partners
- » Staff & mentor trainings on trauma-informed practices
- » Continued artistic & professional support and opportunities for alumni
- » Upskilling our alumni, mentors and staff for internal hires & promotions
- » Track a virtuous alumni network to provide youth with continued ongoing support



WHY NEW YORK

From proof of concept in Miami to proof of scale in Chicago and LA, Guitars Over Guns is poised to exponentially grow its impact on youth nationwide.

New York has one of the most concentrated populations of artists in the country, and its communities face the challenges that make our work relevant and timely. The city's unique ecosystem of resources, opportunities, collaborators, and philanthropy – along with its role as an epicenter for the entertainment industry – excite and inspire us to work on the ground with community leaders and industry partners to ensure that young people in the city create, succeed, and thrive.



of youth under 18 in Harlem live at or below the poverty line.

Northeast Harlem had the 9th most gun violence incidents in New York City in 2021.



of students in District 5 (Harlem) were chronically absent in 2022-23, compared to 22% before COVID.

**\$1.4
MILLION**

were cut from the New York state budget for after-school programs in Harlem in 2024.

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SIGNATURE EVENTS:

1ST ANNUAL OPEN MIC

Students, families, mentors, school partners, and community members enjoy a chance to share the stage together at our 1st annual open mic.

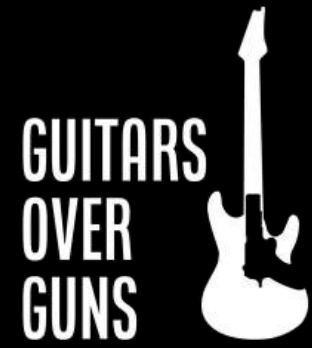
MUSIC VIDEO

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 boudaries, finding common ground In the drive toward self-expression, connection, and empathy.

END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

At the end of the school year, we celebrate our youth and mentors! All star students receive musical Instruments/equipment and our metnors receive their annual plaques. We also premiere our student music video and our youth are filled with joy and pride to see themselves on the big screen.





SIGNATURE EVENTS:



MENTOR INSTITUTE

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.

CHOOSE-YOUR-SOUND GALA

This memorable gala will have you on your feet 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!

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PROJECTED
GROWTH

2024 -25 SCHOOL YEAR

2

SCHOOLS

60

STUDENTS

4

MENTORS

2025 -26 SCHOOL YEAR

4

SCHOOLS

100

STUDENTS

8

MENTORS

2025 -26 SCHOOL YEAR

6

SCHOOLS

120

STUDENTS

12

MENTORS



MEET THE MENTORS



CHRISTIAN BRAVO RAP MENTOR

- Graduated with Bachelor of Arts in Theatre
- Skilled conguero
- Ferocious battle rapper



SHONTAI HOLLINGSWORTH WELLNESS MENTOR

- Graduated with Bachelor of Arts in English
- Wrote for Vibe Magazine
- Experienced youth strategist



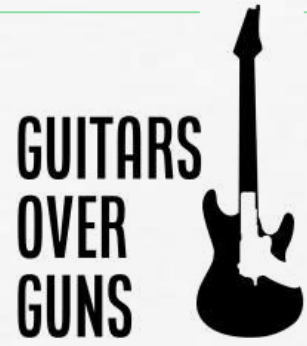
KRYS PINTO GUITAR MENTOR

- Emotional leader of the NYC team & a positivity generator
- Besides guitar, exceptional drummer
- Has an impressive sneaker collection



JUVI LAPORTE MUSIC PRODUCTION MENTOR

- Recently released an instrumental album on streaming platforms
- Ambassador of UK "Grime" in NYC
- Secretly moonlights as a highflying luchador



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.

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SILVER:
\$2,500+

RECOGNITION

- Logo or Name in the Guitars Over Guns New York newsletter.
- Visit a school site to see our students and mentors in action.
- Behind-the-scenes filming of the student music video.



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GOLD:
\$5,000+

RECOGNITION

- All “Silver” Level benefits in New York.
- Invited and introduced at all Guitars Over Guns events as a Gold Label partner.
- Recognition in the Guitars Over Guns annual magazine.
- Credit at the end of the student music video.



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DOUBLE GOLD:
\$10,000+

RECOGNITION

- All “Gold” Level benefits in New York.
- Invited and introduced at all Guitars Over Guns events as a Double Gold partner.
- Join us at the recording of the student music video.
- Included in annual social post.
- Join mentors, students, and families for annual open mic session.



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PLATINUM:
\$25,000+

RECOGNITION

- All “Double Gold” Level benefits in New York.
- Invited and introduced at all Guitars Over Guns events as a Platinum partner.
- National newsletter logo inclusion, social media post & music video credit.
- 1 dedicated article in the Guitars Over Guns New York newsletter.
- Backstage passes to private screening of the annual music video.



GUITARS
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DOUBLE PLATINUM:
\$50,000+

RECOGNITION

- All “Platinum” Level benefits in New York.
- Invited and introduced at all Guitars Over Guns events as a Double Platinum partner.
- National newsletter logo inclusion, social media post & music video credit.
- 1 dedicated article in the Guitars Over Guns New York newsletter.
- Join us at the annual Mentor Institute.



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DIAMOND:
\$100,000+

RECOGNITION

- All “Double Platinum” Level benefits in New York.
- Invited and introduced at all Guitars Over Guns events as Diamond partner.
- Title inclusion in signature event.
- National newsletter logo inclusion, social media post & music video credit.
- On-stage recognition during the organization's annual awards presentation at Choose Your Sound Gala.



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THE LABEL FOUNDERS

• Updated 3/17/25

DIAMOND (\$100,000+)

**THE MARGARET AND
DANIEL LOEB FOUNDATION**

DOUBLE PLATINUM (\$50,000+)

**THE SINGER FAMILY
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION**

PLATINUM (\$25,000+)



**THE BARRY AND MIMI
STERNLICHT FOUNDATION**

ANONYMOUS

DOUBLE GOLD (\$10,000+)

**THE JACK
TARVER FAMILY
FOUNDATION**

ANONYMOUS

GOLD (\$5,000+)

**KEARNEY
POSNER**

**SARAH FEIL
LEWIN**

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THANK YOU

RECOGNITION

- Donations of any amount are always appreciated!
- For gifts under the Silver Level, please visit our [New York Expansion Campaign](#).
- For in-kind gifts, please reach out to us directly.





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THANK YOU!