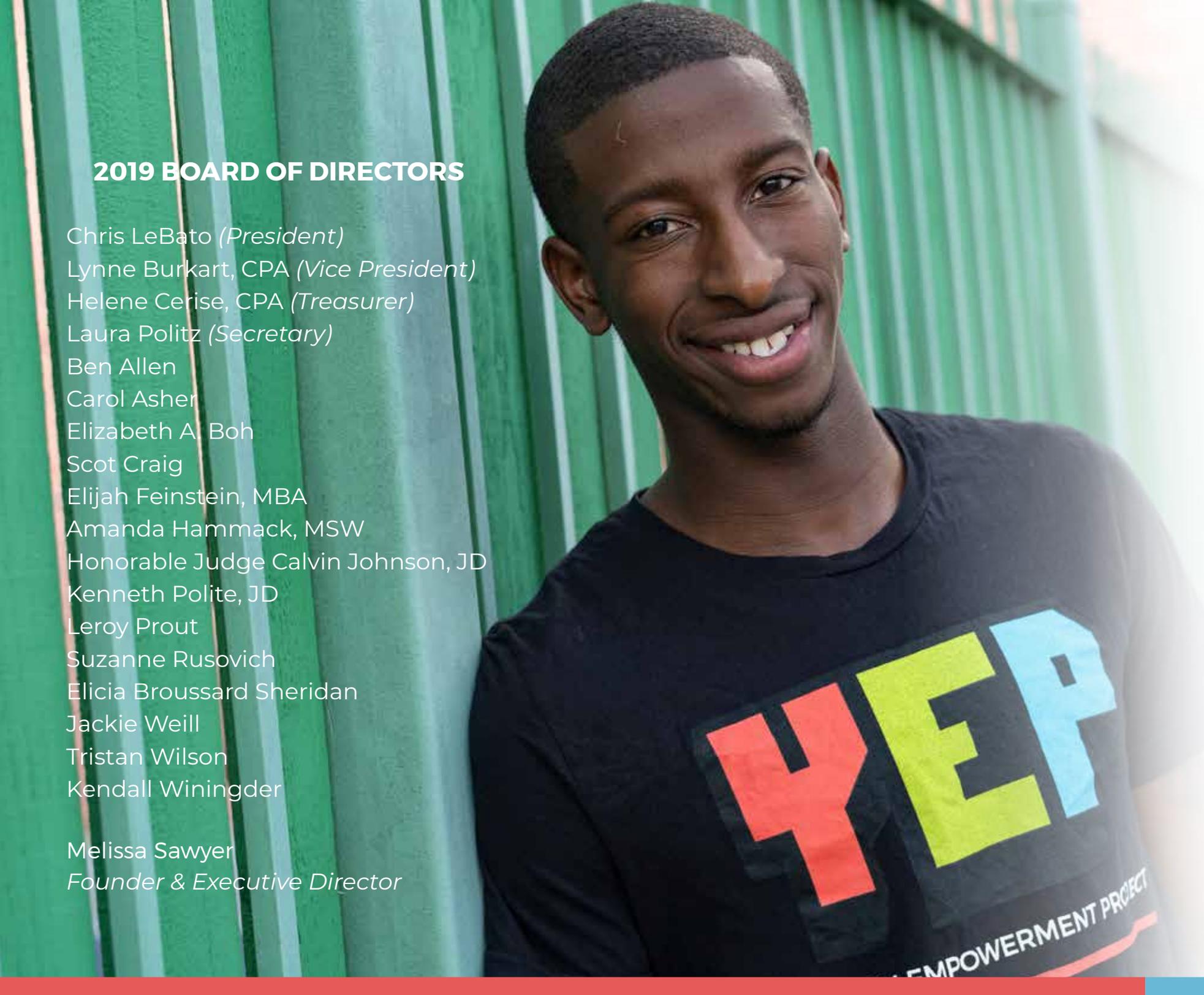




YOUTH
EMPOWERMENT
PROJECT

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2019**



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHO WE ARE.....	2-3
WHO WE SERVE.....	4-5
OUR PROGRAMS.....	6-7
YEP TURNS 15.....	8-9
SUCCESS STORIES.....	10-13
THE CLASS OF 2019.....	14-15
DRUMLINE & DANCE TEAM.....	16-17
FINANCIALS.....	18-19
GET INVOLVED.....	20-21

WE BELIEVE

Every young person should feel safe, supported, and confident in their future.

Yet in New Orleans, **1 in 3 children live in poverty**, and nearly 50% show signs of PTSD. We're working to change that by **empowering young people to improve their lives and the lives of others**.

OUR MISSION

We engage underserved young people through **community-based education, mentoring, employment readiness, and enrichment programs** to help them develop skills and strengthen ties to family and community.

OUR VISION

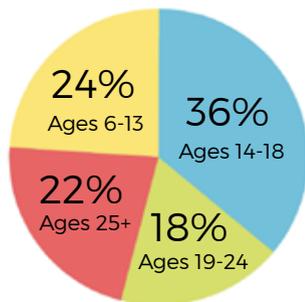
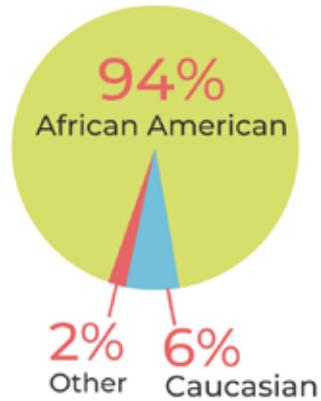
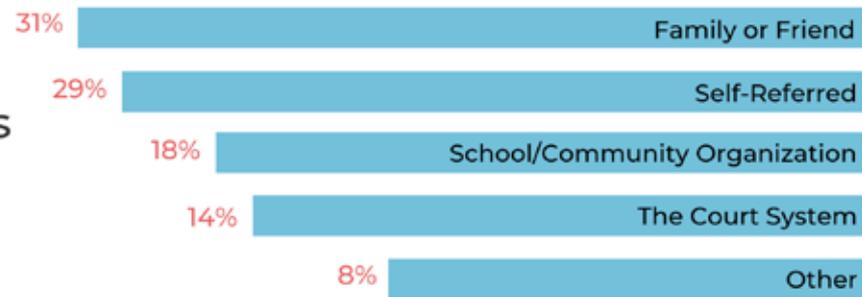
We envision a community where all people have **access to the opportunities, skills, resources, and relationships** needed to actualize their potential.



WHO WE SERVE

1,230 participants in 2019

How did participants hear about YEP?



58% Male Participants



42% Female Participants



of YEP households live below the poverty line



of YEP participants live with a single parent



of YEP participants were previously involved in the justice system



of YEP participants said the program gave them hope for a better future



OUR PROGRAMS 2019

YEP EDUCATES

YEP provides youth, ages 16 and up, with adult basic education and high school equivalency preparation, college and financial aid application assistance, and help with basic needs, such as transportation and testing fees.

640

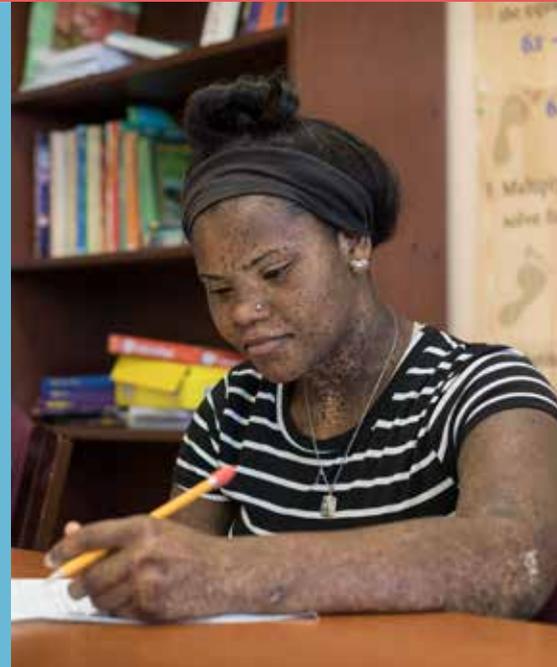
total adult learners served

52

high school equivalency diplomas earned

93%

of adult learners demonstrated at least one grade level gain



YEP MENTORS

YEP provides youth, ages 8-21, with individualized goal setting, mentoring, and case management in order to prevent or reduce involvement with the juvenile justice system. Our trained youth advocates and social workers coordinate with family members, teachers, and other involved adults to provide services.

175

total youth served

7,812

contacts made between youth and YEP staff

92%

of youth said the program helped them avoid crime & violence



YEP WORKS

YEP provides youth, ages 16-24, with paid employment readiness training, life skills, and career exploration. Young people gain real-world experience working in our bike shop, thrift store, and graphic design studio. After completing a seven-week training program, our staff helps program graduates with job placement and retention assistance.

166

total youth served

\$220,971

income generated by youth-run businesses

98%

of youth demonstrated a gain in life skills



YEP ENRICHES

YEP provides youth, ages 7-18, with art, music, and a recreational afterschool program and summer camp. Young people have access to mentoring, homework help, healthy meals, and caring adults during out-of-school time. YEP partners with the Eluna Network to operate Camp Mariposa, a national addiction prevention and mentoring program for children ages 9-12.

293

total youth served

6,294

healthy meals served to youth

91%

of youth said the knowledge and skills they gained will help them reach their goals

YEP TURNS 15

2004-2019

YEP BEGINS



YEP was founded by three juvenile justice advocates, Angela Conyers, Rebecca Kendig, and Melissa Sawyer, who saw the need for a community based organization that supported

youth when they returned home from juvenile prison. YEP provided wraparound case management and advocacy to meet the practical needs of young people trying to improve their lives.

2004

2005

2006

YEP LAUNCHES SUMMER CAMP



YEP started a summer camp for youth between the ages of 7 and 12. The camp includes weekly field trips, daily hot meals, twice weekly swim lessons, arts and crafts, basketball, and other enrichment activities.

2009

2010

YEP WORKS BEGINS



With seed funding from the Trafigura Foundation, YEP launched YEP Works, an employment readiness program for 16 to 24 year olds. Today, participants earn an educational stipend while learning on-the-job skills in our bike shop, thrift store, and graphic design studio.

2012

2015

YEP TODAY



Today, YEP serves more than 1,200 young people each year through community-based education, mentoring, employment readiness, and enrichment programs. Our core purpose is to empower young people to improve their lives and the lives of others.

2019

YEP survives Hurricane Katrina and goes to work helping to reconnect youth and families and provide assistance with basic needs.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, YEP launched YEP Educates, which specializes in providing adult basic education and high school equivalency to out-of-school youth ages 16 and up. To date, 464 students have earned their high school equivalency through YEP.

YEP EDUCATES BEGINS



YEP launched its Afterschool Program for youth, ages 7 to 18, providing structured recreation and enrichment programming.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM BEGINS



YEP successfully raised the money to purchase the YEP Youth Center on Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard, establishing a permanent presence in Central City. In 2014, YEP purchased its headquarters across the street.

YEP PURCHASES ITS FIRST BUILDING



CAMP MARIPOSA BEGINS



YEP began partnering with the Eluna Network to start the first Camp Mariposa in Louisiana. Camp Mariposa is a national mentoring and addiction prevention program for youth who have been impacted by the substance abuse of a family member. YEP hosts six weekend overnight camps a year for children ages 9 to 12.

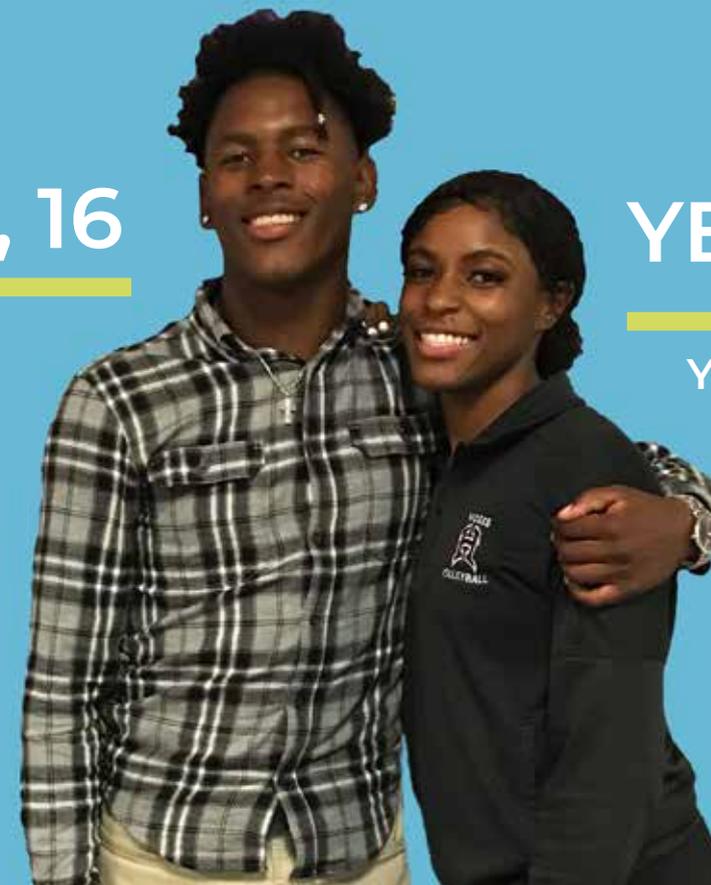
TYRELL, 18

YEP EDUCATES



SHAMARR, 16

YEP MENTORS



YELAH, 18

YEP MENTORS

Tyrell had to grow up quickly, becoming a caregiver to her younger siblings. “I had to take care of my sisters and even people in my family who were older than me,” Tyrell says of her upbringing. “I still have to take care of everybody.”

Tyrell also had to move homes often. Every two to three years, Tyrell moved to a new house in a new city, sometimes without her mother and siblings. In five years, Tyrell lived in four different cities.

She currently lives with and cares for her great-grandmother in New Orleans.

One semester before graduating high school, Tyrell stopped attending school because she kept moving further away and transportation became too difficult. She was already working at YEP Thrift Works and decided to finish school with YEP too.

A month later, she earned her high school equivalency diploma, graduating earlier than she would have at school.

Tyrell likes YEP because she feels loved and supported. “I know it’s not just me here,” she says. “I can ask anybody for help. We all have an understanding, and we’ve built a relationship with each other.”

Tyrell is now enrolled at Delgado Community College studying Business & Management, and she still works part-time at YEP Thrift Works. In her free time, Tyrell mentors other young people participating in YEP programs.

Yelah and Shamarr came to YEP when they were 13 and 14 years old. The siblings recall being angry and outspoken. “I was written up too many times for willful disobedience,” Yelah, now 18, says. “I had a problem talking back,” Shamarr recalls. Both kids struggled to control their feelings of anger and frustration, whether it was towards their estranged father, their school environment, or something silly.

“YEP really helped me become more open about not having a dad in my

life because I would never talk about it,” says Yelah. For Shamarr, the only boy in a family of six, YEP provided a place for him to feel understood. “My mother, my sister—I’ve always felt supported by them, but my mother has been a single mom as long as I can remember. If there were things I couldn’t talk to her about just because she’s a female and I’m a male, I had Mr. John,” his YEP Youth Advocate.

While at YEP, Yelah and Shamarr discovered a love for sports. Having no

previous interest in joining a team, Yelah is now on the girls’ varsity basketball, volleyball, and track teams, and Shamarr is a star on the football and basketball teams. Both siblings are currently being recruited by colleges for athletic scholarships.

“I’m proud of the person I’ve come to be,” Yelah says. “I’m still working on myself, but I’ve come really far with being able to control myself.” Shamarr says it’s important to him to “persevere and stay focused on the future.”

LYDIA, 11

YEP ENRICHES



ROSE, 12

YEP ENRICHES



Rose and Lydia have been coming to YEP for as long as they can remember. After seeing their older sisters attend Camp Mariposa, a mentoring and addiction prevention program for youth impacted by the substance abuse of a family member, the 11 and 12-year-old sisters signed up as soon as they were old enough to join. “I started seeing them going, and I wanted to go when I was 8 years old,” Lydia says. “When I made 9, I was happy I could finally come because it’s a good program. It teaches you

about addictions.” Due to their family members’ struggles with substance abuse, Rose and Lydia have moved in with different relatives, sometimes living apart from one another.

During times of uncertainty, YEP provided Rose and Lydia with a safe place to grow and be themselves. They participate in Afterschool, Summer Camp, and Camp Mariposa. “When I’m at camp, I don’t worry about anything,” says Lydia. “I know nothing bad is going to happen.”

The girls love being outdoors, especially climbing and swimming, but they also enjoy learning how to protect themselves and their futures. “It’s really important to learn,” Rose says, “so when you’re grown, you won’t follow in anybody’s bad footsteps.”

After several months apart, Rose and Lydia reunited with their mother and five other siblings. “They’ve been different since I got them back,” says Ms. Donna, the girls’ mother. “They’ve grown so much. YEP has really become an extension of our family.”



MALIK, 22

YEP WORKS

Growing up, Malik often felt unseen. He felt mistrusted and misunderstood, and he didn’t have a place to be himself. From a young age, Malik searched for opportunities to explore his creative spark through the rich diversity in New Orleans. Then Hurricane Katrina came, uprooting Malik and his family to Shreveport. “My grandma’s house and everything that had to do with the whole neighborhood got washed away,” he says.

Malik suddenly found himself in an environment that made him feel

damaged. As an outsider, he was in a classroom with all the displaced residents from New Orleans and separated from the other kids.

“I grew up thinking everything was my fault because all these people at school would tell me I was crazy,” he says, “I had a lot of PTSD, but no one was sensitive about it. Everyone made me feel like I was a monster.”

By the time Malik’s family moved back to New Orleans, he was really struggling to accept certain parts of himself.

Shortly after, his grandmother, who helped raise him, passed away.

“After she died, I realized I have to stop living in fear and just be who I want to be. I have to stop omitting parts of me because at the end of the day, I’m just hurting myself.” Malik came to YEP to nurture his creative needs.

Now, Malik spends his days in YEP’s graphic design studio where he has learned to trust himself and give voice to his talents. “I’m finally being seen. I’m important, and the things I do are important.”

YEP EDUCATES CLASS OF 2019



At YEP, we believe it's never too late to graduate.

And earlier this year, we celebrated the success of 52 new high school equivalency graduates, ages 16 to 54, as they walked across the stage at Mahalia Jackson Theater to receive their diplomas. Many of the graduates have experienced significant hardships that made a traditional school environment a difficult place to learn.

At YEP, our graduates work tirelessly to achieve their goals, earn the education they deserve, and create a new path toward their aspirations. Many of these students are going on to college to pursue careers in nursing, social work, and cosmetology. We wish all of our graduates the best of luck! They know they always have a home at YEP.

Thanks to your support, our graduates have the opportunity to earn a high school equivalency degree and go out into the world with the skills they need to achieve success.

2019 YEP Educates Graduates

Aladdia Anderson	Jarren Grinds	Isabella Nunez
Ju'Waine Ashford	Laci Hargrove	James Richardson
Juan Astorga	Zyaire Hart	Shavon Riley
Jonesha Barrow	Treshonda Henry	Anita Ross
Tasia Brooks	Dajah Jackson	Rockeisha Samuels
Keith Brown	Cha'on Jones	Jaloni Sanford
Levon Buckhalter	Kobey Joseph	Daniel Sartin
Kevon Burfect	Enjoli Kaufman	Akelah Sherman
Eric Clemmons	Vernell Kelly	Johnnie Shorts
Alexander Collins	Anjenae Lane	Chavarria Smith-Donaldson
Kiarra Cook	Christian Lawson	Joshua Spencer
Arie Darensbourg	Tristan LeBlanc	Chandler Stokes
Cobe Davis	Jer'nea Lewis	Shania Taylor
Desiree Donovan	Julianne Lewis	Latesha Vinnett
Shanique Duhon	Kaylah Llopis	Jourdan Weysham
Ashlynn Ellis	Arianna Lowry	Josey Willis
Quaneka Fisher	Kobe Miller	Summer Willis
Trenell Garner Sr.	Dominique Morgan	Jeremiah Wilson

DRUMLINE & DANCE TEAM



Five years ago, a drumline dream was born on buckets during a regular day of YEP Summer Camp. Using odd buckets borrowed from the storage closet, YEP staff created a musical experience for youth to explore, and it was a hit. As more kids asked to get involved, the new program took shape.

YEP partnered with the ELMA Music Foundation to fund a drumline and dance team that could perform at events across the city, and our sponsors at Strong City purchased new uniforms for the whole squad. Before we knew it, we had 25 drummers, 15 dancers, and a whole lot of new-found confidence.

In 2019, the YEP Drumline and Dance Team reached a new level. We kicked off our first performance at Audubon Zoo Lights, and we made our Mardi Gras debut marching in the Krewe of Iris. For the rest of the year, the drumline and dance team were hard at work preparing for Mardi Gras 2020, where you can catch us marching in the Krewe of Nyx and Krewe of Iris!

Thanks to your support, our young people have the opportunity to express themselves in new ways and build the confidence they need to pursue their aspirations.

2019 FINANCIALS

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash & cash equivalents	\$414,859
Investments	\$47,064
Unconditional Promises to give	\$1,195,148
Reimbursement receivable	\$308,185
Inventory	\$53,005
Prepaid expenses	\$26,818
Employee Advances	\$5,120

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS **\$2,050,199**

Assets restricted to investment in property, Furniture and equipment cost less accumulated depreciation	\$1,212,291
Operating lease right-of-use asset	\$145,606

TOTAL ASSETS **\$3,408,096**

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts payable	\$67,704
Operating lease liability	\$36,342
Mortgage payable	\$23,584

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES **\$127,630**

Operating lease liability	\$109,264
Mortgage payable, net of current maturities	\$473,103

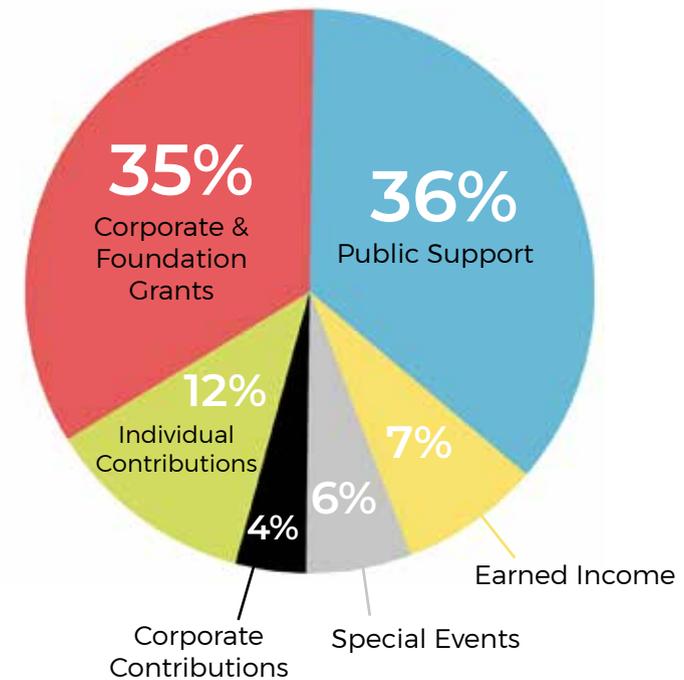
TOTAL LIABILITIES **\$709,997**

Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	\$1,417,018
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	\$1,281,081

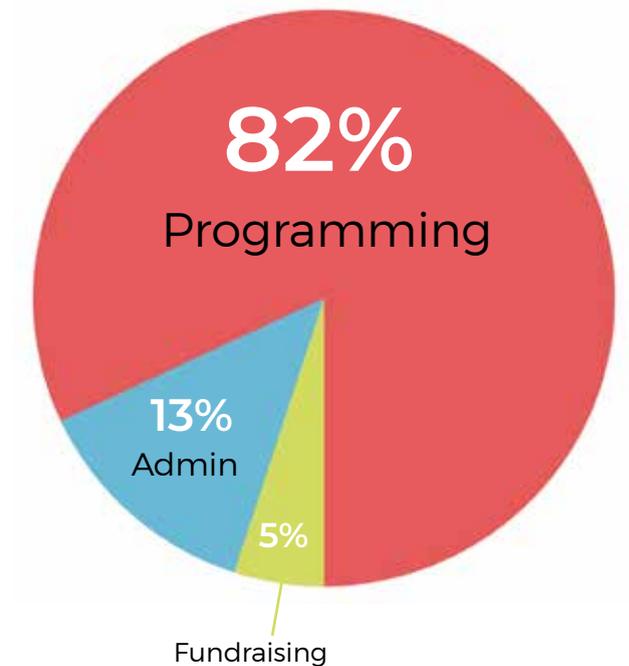
TOTAL NET ASSETS **\$2,698,099**

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS **\$3,408,096**

SOURCES OF REVENUE



EXPENSES





YOUR SUPPORT EMPOWERS A GENERATION

DONATE

We will put your gift to work right away to provide basic needs like food, clothing, and transportation, as well as education, mentoring, and life skills for young people in need.

SPONSOR

Each year, businesses provide funding for some of our most essential community services and events. We hope you'll consider partnering with us to provide young people in the Greater New Orleans region the opportunities, resources, and relationships they need to thrive.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are an important part of YEP, from career exploration to events and beautification projects. Volunteer today to make a difference in a young person's life.

SHOP

YEP operates a youth-run bike shop, thrift store, and graphic design studio. All of our businesses are located on Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard in Central City. We hope you'll come visit us to shop and see our programs in action.



YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Main Office

1600 Oretha Castle Haley Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70113

(504) 522-1316

www.youthempowermentproject.org

Follow us: @yepnola

