



CALDERA

IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022

Creativity, Nature, and Community





Caldera has always been a place where I could begin to think about all the things I needed to say, and all the ways I could begin to say them.

—Caldera alumna

OUR MISSION:

Caldera's mission is to inspire and support youth from underserved rural and urban communities by awakening the potential of their creative voice.

OUR VISION:

We believe that when youth are given access to the explosive power of creativity, they can change their world, and even the world at large.

Dear Friends,

Like many social impact organizations, Caldera's fiscal year 2022 (July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022) was a time to retreat, regroup, and rediscover. The pandemic provided an opportunity for many businesses (whether nonprofit or for profit) to reimagine what is possible in building community around purpose.

For Caldera that meant preparing to bring learners back to Blue Lake in the summer. That also meant bringing in new executive leadership to guide all staff and board in a planning process that would drive the organization for the next nine to 12 months to develop some organizational clarity. And still the core work continued. Caldera:

- Invested \$3,363 per learner for a year-round Caldera experience that included 8–10 days at Blue Lake during the summer
- Provided 397 hours of structured learning that engaged whole-brain thinking
- Enabled learners to uncover tools and resources that Caldera learners can apply in meaningful ways, like resilience, freedom to fail, intercultural competency, and belonging and curiosity

For Caldera that involved reorganizing some core internal functions and galvanizing the community around a refreshed mission, belief, and methodology statements.

All of this prepared us for the next fiscal year, 2023, which you'll see in our FY23 Impact Report coming out in January. Sneak peek: It was a year of restoring confidence, a year of reimagining the current state, and a year of envisioning Caldera NextGen.

Caldera, like many of you, is looking to build a sustainable future for Caldera learners. I became the executive director in January 2022 with a background in corporate-side community impact, statewide arts and cultural advocacy, and theater artistry. This gives me a perspective that nothing happens in a vacuum—this is a collective effort.

Thank you for being a constant champion. Thank you for your generous support through the pandemic and beyond. Stay tuned for more.

Warm regards,

Kimberly Howard Wade
Executive Director

OUR LEARNERS

We work with schools to engage and mentor underserved youth experiencing systemic opportunity gaps. We typically partner with school counselors to identify youth who would benefit from increased creative learning opportunities in a mentor-led, supportive peer community.



WHO WE SERVE

70%

of the students we serve are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

70%

of the youth we serve are from underserved populations, including students from low-income families, rural communities, students of color, and youth in the foster care system.

60%

of learners are from Central Oregon.

40%

from the Portland region, on average.

OUR PROGRAMS

Caldera offers no-cost, year-round arts programs, alongside long-term mentoring, for youth from underserved rural and urban communities. Students thrive academically, develop socially, and become leaders among their peers when they have opportunities to express themselves creatively.

INVITE A GROUP OF LEARNERS

who have been and currently are excluded and/or under-resourced—to be away from home, in a natural space, for 8 to 10 days.

ADD LEARNERS FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE STATE,

with different backgrounds; add caring adults; add a natural environment; add a daily Connect Circle where learners intentionally explore their identities and place in their community.

ADD REGULAR CREATIVE PRACTICE—

African drumming, photography, visual art; written and spoken word, and filmmaking; add eight days of eating and sleeping outdoors, a challenge course, and a 40-foot dream tree climbing experience.

MEET THEM IN THEIR WORLD, YEAR-ROUND;

follow them to high school— provide them with a project-based learning project every year; include tangible deliverables that provide creative solutions for a community-based organizations.

BRING THEM BACK TO THE OUTDOORS EACH SUMMER,

for a total of seven years, to rinse and repeat— each summer deepens the experience until it becomes practice that can be called upon in any situation.

LAUNCH THEM INTO YOUNG ADULTHOOD WITH INTERNSHIP, INCUBATOR, AND ACCELERATOR OPPORTUNITIES,

and a Community Advisory Board— made up of Caldera alumni and peers from business and industry. (Launching in 2024)

OUR IMPACT



At Caldera, we know students thrive academically, develop socially, and become leaders among their peers when they have opportunities to express themselves creatively. We serve ~350 youth (6th– 12th grades) in Portland and Central Oregon through 1,000+ hours of arts and nature-based learning to cultivate a regular creative practice through a variety of artistic mediums, including supporting emotional and mental health needs and building authentic relationships for youth. Our model is unique because we continue to mentor the same youth from middle school into early adulthood (~7 years) through a layered support system of artists, mentors, and environmentalists.

As rebuilding from COVID-19's health, social, educational, and economic impact continues to disproportionately affect BIPOC and low-income communities, the continuation of programming remains a priority.

Our learners are resilient, and mentors have been a stabilizing force for young people— we often hear that youth appreciate knowing their mentor is always there for them. For many students served, Caldera's programs are one of the only mentoring and arts education opportunities available, and they play an important role in their personal and academic success. Caldera provides a vital sense of belonging, community, and confidence-boosting affirmation.

OUR IMPACT

Student survey results indicate the following outcomes/changes:

74%

report feeling connected to other youth at Caldera.

72%

report that Caldera challenged them to understand the experiences of others.

81%

report feeling connected to nature and the environment.



Caldera understands the importance of infusing arts education into the lives of underserved youth who face a lack of access to opportunities. Our programming focuses on bolstering the following 21st century skills for our youth:

LEARNING SKILLS

critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity.

LIFE SKILLS

flexibility, initiative, social skills, productivity, and leadership.

LITERACY SKILLS

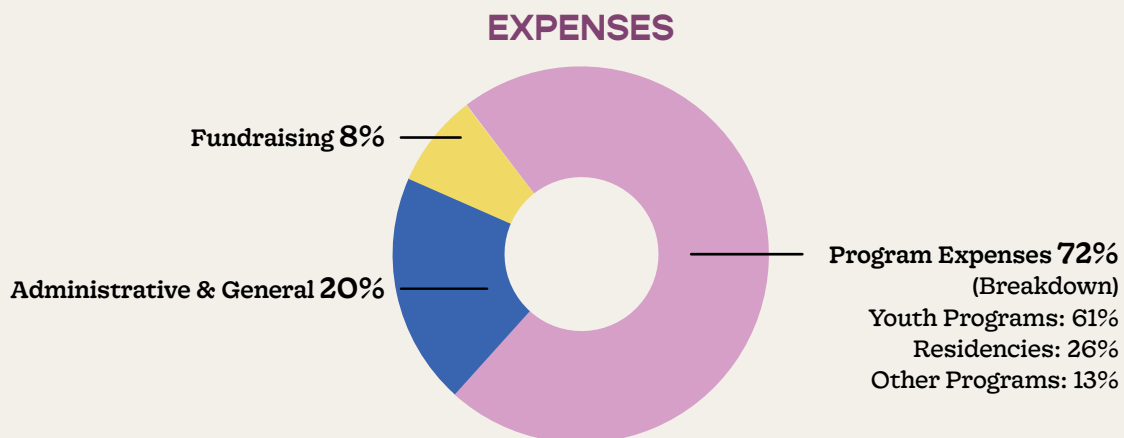
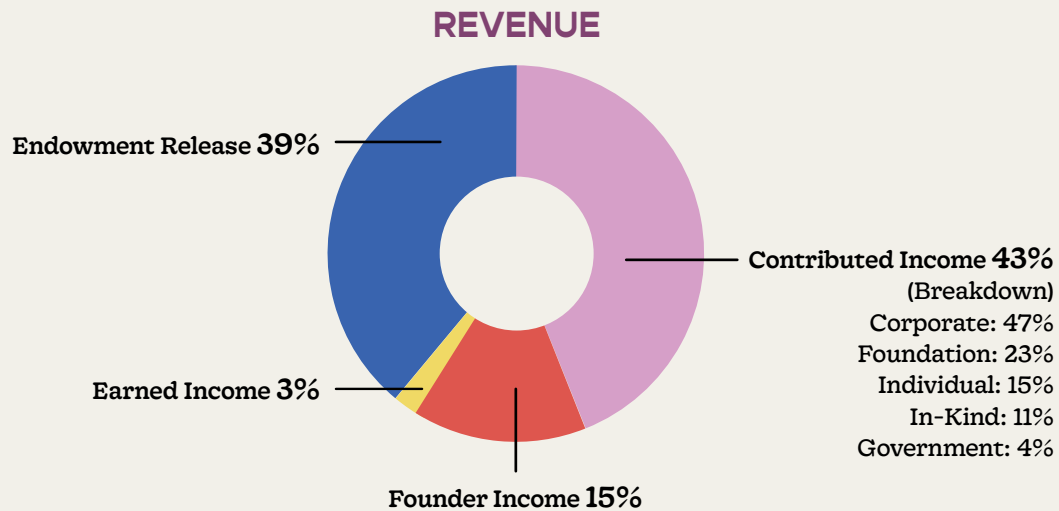
information literacy, media literacy, and technology literacy.

OUR FINANCIALS & IMPACT

July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022

Caldera's financial statements have been audited by independent certified public accountants and are available on our website.

Your gift of support to Caldera is an investment in the future of learners and artists from throughout Oregon. We take your generosity seriously and work to ensure our financial integrity as an organization. Take a look at the ways your contribution becomes part of our operating budget.



Note: Caldera's Arts Center (land and facilities) are operated under a previously established endowment which was created by our founders to ensure that no significant costs associated with the stewardship of the land should detract from funds contributed for purposes of program delivery.

It is the express intent of the founders that this endowment ensures all Individual, Foundation, and Government support accomplishes its intended purpose of providing resources for the learners and artists we serve. While endowment distributions represent a significant percentage of Caldera's annual budget, they expressly offset the cost of facilities stewardship and do not negate our need to generate Operational Revenue each year.

OUR SUPPORTERS (DONORS)

Caldera gratefully acknowledges the individual and institutional donors who make our work possible. Thank you to these supporters who gave between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022.

CORPORATE GIVING:

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Charity Gift Certificates (Charity Choice)
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GOVERNMENT:

Oregon Arts Commission
Oregon Cultural Trust

INDIVIDUALS:

Laurie & Harry Achilles
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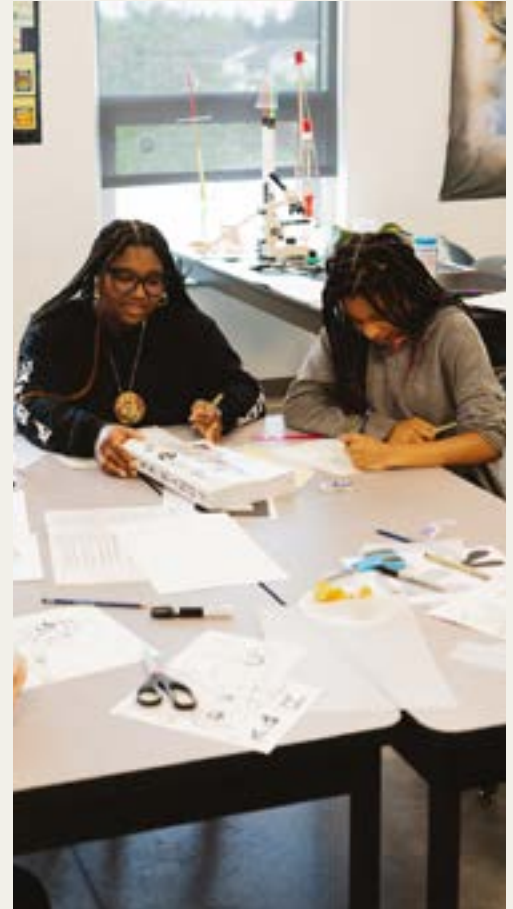
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Charles Wolford
Susan Wright
Hui Chen Ou Yang
*Special thanks to the family
of Jared Pastega*



OUR LEADERSHIP

We celebrate the identities of all involved in Caldera, past and present. We are an inclusive creative community that welcomes marginalized voices and historically excluded people and groups. We are an organization that strives to respect the race, ethnicity, ancestry, color, size, disability, national origin, age, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, criminal background, religious background, marital status, military status, strengths, and differences of all people.

Read our full Equity Statement here: calderaarts.org/about-us

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: FISCAL YEAR 2022

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Global Integrated Production
at Marcom in Apple

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Board Co-Chair**
Arts, Education, and Environmental
Advocate

Dave Luhr, Treasurer
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Mary Normand, Secretary
Executive Assistant, Wieden+Kennedy

Joy Fowler, Immediate Past Board Chair
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