

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

# A DECADE OF IMPACT



STEM FROM DANCE



As we approach our 10th Anniversary at STEM From Dance, **we celebrate not only what we accomplished in this past, momentous year, but what we have accomplished - together - in the past decade.**

In 2008, I was a college freshman at MIT. I walked into my first mechanical engineering class with a lot of excitement, a healthy dose of nerves, and an eagerness to begin the next journey of my life with a new community of peers. Perhaps I shouldn't have been surprised to find that I was one of a few Black women in the room, but it still shook me. **I had worked hard to**

**get to MIT, but I knew I wasn't so special that I should be one of the only women of color in this room full of future STEM leaders.**

When I look back at that moment now, I recognize it as **the beginning of my movement.** A movement that evolved into an idea; an idea that became an organization; an organization that opened up to a classroom of girls who were, like me on that first day at MIT, both nervous and excited about what was possible for their future.

SFD's movement, I am humbled to say, is now far greater than me, fueled by hundreds of bold and brilliant girls of color across dozens of states and multiple countries.

**What's next in our movement?** Read on. Dream on. Join us.

Sincerely,

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

While our individual journeys to STEM From Dance are varied, our belief in SFD's innovative and powerful mission is shared. Why are we a part of the movement?

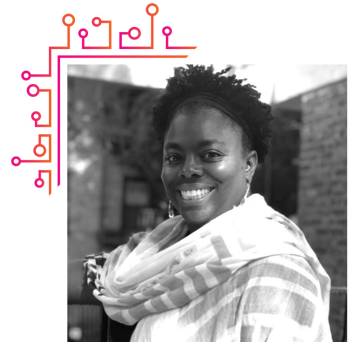


"Every year I'm more inspired by the young people who participate in STEM From Dance. Their creativity and confidence shines through in their performances. Watching them **gives me hope** that STEM fields will have a more dynamic and talented workforce than ever before."

— Caitlin Teres

"Encouraging curiosity creates a pathway to transform perspectives and envision new possibilities. STEM From Dance encourages young women of color to be curious about STEAM at every touch point. **I am so proud of the new possibilities Yamilée and the SFD community are creating daily.**"

— Nakia James-Jenkins



"'Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn.' - Benjamin Franklin. STEM from Dance's ability to **celebrate, motivate, and activate** young women of color to get involved is a model to be copied and admired."

- Bryan Ballegeer

## 10 YEARS OF GROWTH

2010

### DREAM

Yamilée Toussaint Beach dreams up the idea of STEM From Dance after her experiences as a lifelong dancer and one of a few women of color at MIT.

2012

### PREMIER

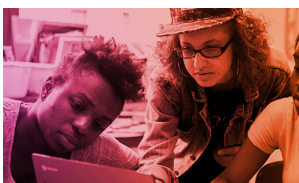
SFD opens its first school residency at WATCH High School in Brooklyn with a math and dance curriculum.



2014

### REFINE

SFD launches a new program model, shifting from a combination of robotics, math tutoring, and dance to its current, innovative integration of dance and tech performance.



2016

### RECOGNIZE

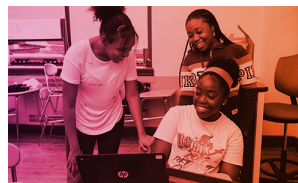
SFD begins receiving national attention from Essence Magazine, Fast Company (2017), and Forbes (2020) and as the recipient of the AnitaB.org's Educational Innovation Award (2019).



2012

### LAUNCH

Yamilée officially launches SFD using \$4,320 from a friends and family crowdfunding campaign.



2013

### INVEST

SFD wins seed funding from Teach For America's Social Innovation Award, allowing it to hire its first employee, run a pilot program, and attract more resources.

2014

### INNOVATE

SFD's summer program, soon to be called Girls Rise Up, premieres at Achievement First High School, with 19 girls participating in two weeks of dancing and animations.



2020

## EXPAND

SFD hosts its first program outside of the US in partnership with Vive Bailando in Colombia, South America.

2020

## PIVOT

Along with the rest of the world, SFD shifts to a virtual platform in the wake of COVID-19, growing to reach girls in 11 states through its innovative application of remote learning.



2021

## ACTIVATE

SFD pilots its first STEM-dance-social justice module, "No Breath, No Justice," in which participants learn about the science behind the respiratory system and connect their choreography to current social justice movements.

2022

## PERSIST

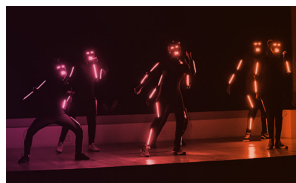
SFD will celebrate 10 years of inspiring girls of color to reach their full potential.



2017

## ELEVATE

SFD's first student to major in STEM in college enters the Environmental Science Department at Union College.



2020

## REPRESENT

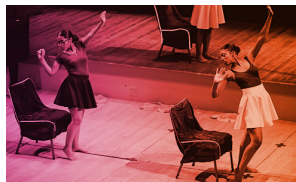
A statue of Yamilée is created as part of an exhibit by IF/THEN®, an initiative of Lyda Hill Philanthropies, that represents the most statues of women ever assembled in one location.



2021

## GROW

SFD hosts its first in-person programs outside of NYC in Atlanta and Orlando.



2021

## EMPOWER

SFD awards its first alumni scholarship to Makeda Neavill, who says, "At STEM From Dance, what I had to say and what I achieved mattered. I went from being a quiet kid in my classroom to the girl that was leading the change at my school."

## ABOUT STEM FROM DANCE

At STEM From Dance, **we get girls of color excited about science and technology.**

Our mission is to give girls the awareness and preparation for a STEM education through the creative and confidence-building aspects of dance.

Since its founding, SFD has **innovated the STEM education world** through its unique use of a culturally relevant activity - dance - to unlock the potential of girls of color. In addition to teaching the “hard skills” of computer science and the arts, our girls

gain the confidence needed to take risks in the classroom, persist, and explore their intellectual curiosity – all characteristics of a student who excels in STEM.

Through year-long school residencies and an immersive multi-week summer program, girls choreograph an original dance enhanced with a technological program they learn to code. The final showcase is the girls’ opportunity to prove to themselves and boldly demonstrate to others that **they are in fact capable of anything.** Experience the impact [here](#).



ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
THROUGH THE YEARS

1,088

GIRLS SERVED



1,660

HOURS TAUGHT



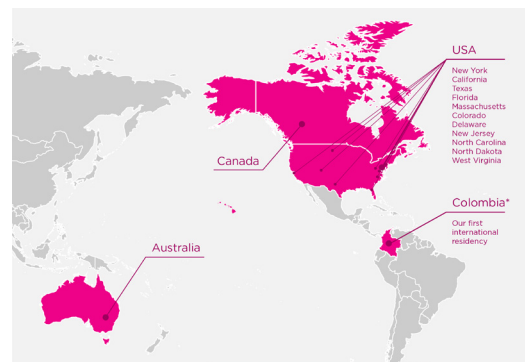
50

SCHOOL AND  
COMMUNITY BASED  
PARTNERS

NINE

UNIQUE MODULES OF  
SFD'S CURRICULUM

14 states &  
3 countries  
reached







OF GIRLS HAVE  
A BETTER  
UNDERSTANDING  
OF STEM



OF GIRLS SERVED  
COME FROM  
HISTORICALLY  
UNDERREPRESENTED  
GROUPS IN TECH

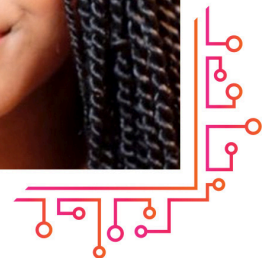
### WHAT DO THESE NUMBERS MEAN IN THE LIFE OF A GIRL?

Meet Jonay.

When Jonay first applied to STEM From Dance, her **overriding emotion was fear.**

At the time, Jonay felt incapable of mathematical or quantitative thinking on a grand scale - it was a realm that seemed far out of her reach.

However, Jonay says, “through hard work, an amazing learning process, and encouraging staff, **SFD became instrumental in building my confidence as a Black woman** in professional spaces largely dominated by white men. SFD showed me that there are amazing things



I can create once I apply myself and believe in my analytical abilities.”

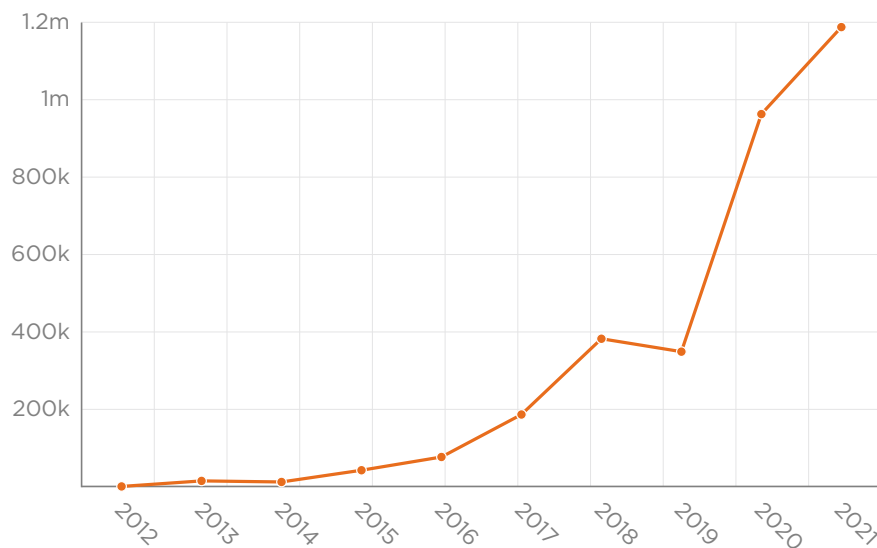
Now a college sophomore, Jonay says, “If not for SFD, I would not have been able to find my passions. **I will forever be grateful** to this organization and all it has taught me, both from a STEM perspective as well as a personal development perspective.”



## FINANCIALS

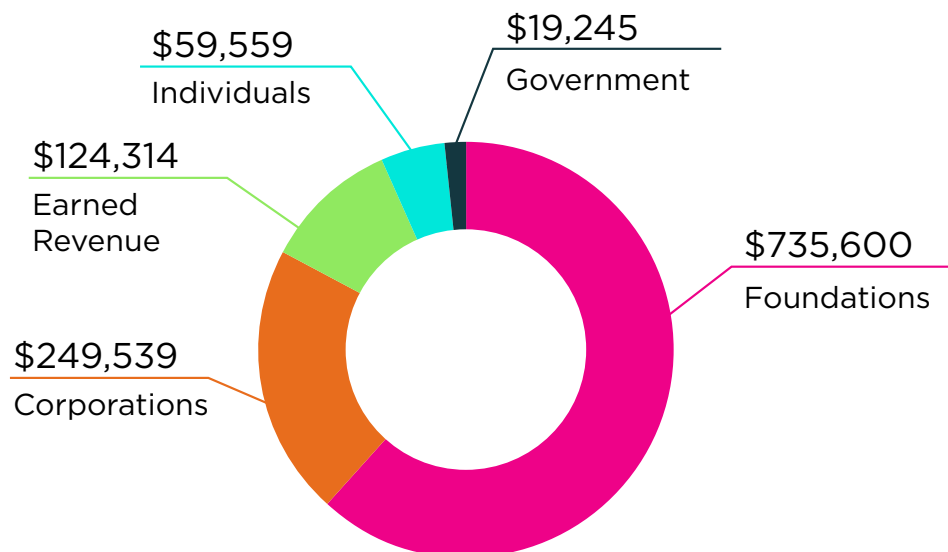
Since our very first contributions from family and friends to present-day, SFD has aimed to leverage every single dollar of investment to maximum impact. Our financials demonstrate an organization that is fiscally sound and poised for continued upward momentum.

### FINANCIALS BY YEAR

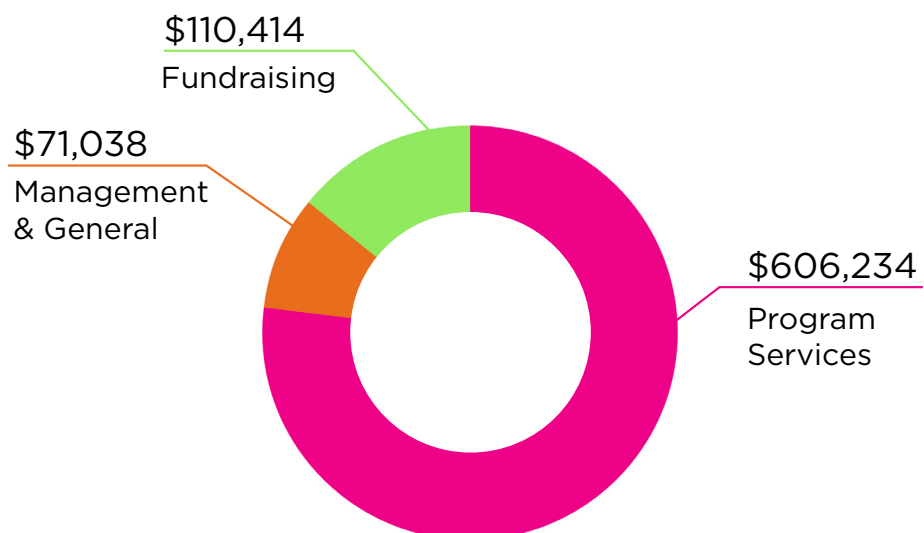


*Financials continue on next page*

## 2021 REVENUE BREAKDOWN



## 2021 EXPENSES BREAKDOWN



## FUNDER SPOTLIGHT

STEM From Dance knows that our movement is possible only with the support of a diverse network of partners, volunteers, and funders.

We thank the thousands of individuals and institutions who have championed our work over the past 10 years and we proudly spotlight some of our most ardent supporters whose timely investments created pivotal opportunities to increase our impact:



Seed funding from the Science Sandbox, an initiative of the Simons Foundations, in 2020 allowed SFD to launch Girls Rise Up, the only dance-tech summer program for girls of color in the country. Since its initial commitment, Science Sandbox has sustained its role as a major supporter of GRU, giving more than 250 girls the opportunity to dance, code, and dream over the summer.



In the midst of a global pandemic, Zoom recognized SFD out of applications from 73 countries around the world as a Zoom EdInnovation Award Winner. Zoom not only provided critical financial support amidst a crisis but elevated SFD's work to a global stage.



A long-standing funder, the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust's consistent, multi-year support has given SFD a foundation of stability on which to dream, experiment, fail forward, and thrive. We are deeply grateful to the Trust for their belief in our vision for a more equitable world.

## SPONSORS



## IN THE NEWS

SFD's programs and leadership were featured across a variety of media outlets, amplifying our message and broadening our community:



### BROOKLYN

For our inaugural Brooklyn's 50 Most Fascinating People list, Brooklyn Magazine is paying tribute to the most engrossing people in the borough right now, across multiple disciplines. [Read more](#)



Yamilée Toussaint Beach combines her love of STEM with her love of dance. Check out the segment to see what they put together!

[Watch for more](#)



### IF/THEN

The Exhibit features 122 3-D printed statues of contemporary female STEM professionals and role models from a variety of industries including...our CEO Yamilée Toussaint Beach. [Read more](#)



### girls who code

Girls Who Code launched "Make That Change" campaign to showcase women in tech, including our CEO Yamilée Toussaint Beach. [Read more](#)

## CALL TO ACTION

At the time of this report's release, SFD is deeply engaged in our strategic planning process, with a three-year vision to:

### **MAGNIFY THE IMPACT OF OUR SIGNATURE MODEL**

- Build a Cohesive & Comprehensive School to Career STEM Pipeline
- Establish Thought Leadership Around the Intersection of STEM and Performance Arts

### **REACH MORE GIRLS**

- Establish a National Footprint
- Establish a Global Presence

### **BUILD THE INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE OUR BOLD VISION**

- Build the Team We Need to Scale
- Develop the Finance Model to Support Our Ability to Scale

We invite you to join us as we enter our second decade of impact, shaping the future of STEM:

### **VOLUNTEER**

Share your time and talent as a mentor, Board Member, or volunteer to amplify our mission and impact. Email [rocio@stemfromdance.org](mailto:rocio@stemfromdance.org)

### **CONNECT**

Make introductions to schools, companies, or individuals who will be as inspired by our work as you are, building SFD's community and generating greater awareness of our work. Email [claire@stemfromdance.org](mailto:claire@stemfromdance.org)

### **GIVE**

Donate to support SFD's vision of a world where underrepresented minority girls are creative, confident, and equipped to be leaders and innovators in STEM: [stemfromdance.org/donate](https://stemfromdance.org/donate)