2022 ANNUAL REPORT
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Cover photo courtesy of Reading Partners Los Angeles
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For twenty-five years, The Eisner Foundation has been committed to providing access and opportunity to Southern California’s most vulnerable citizens. We have determined over time through research and practice that the programs we found the most effective and impactful were those that served children and older adults together, creating positive outcomes not only for both, but for our community and our society. Today, The Eisner Foundation is America’s only foundation focused exclusively on intergenerational programs.

In 2022, America continued to face great challenges and those that we seek to serve were obviously at great risk. Still, I was very proud that The Eisner Foundation was able to provide support to those who were working on the frontlines to protect our elderly, educate our children, unite our citizenry, and vaccinate as many people as possible. While our country continues to be divided along many lines, it was comforting that many of the seniors and children that our partners serve were able to find common ground, and identify their own shared purposes and visions, for themselves and their communities.

I appreciate and respect all of our grantees at The Eisner Foundation, and am so proud of the work they do, but I was especially thrilled this year by our ability to partner with two organizations in particular:

The first was Heart of Los Angeles, where we were able to help them create not only Southern California’s first intergenerational orchestra, but also an intergenerational choir and an intergenerational jazz band. Music is one of the loves of our family, and to see the people of HOLA come together across generations to create such amazing harmonies, it warmed our hearts and reaffirmed our belief that we have more in common than we are sometimes led to believe.

The second organization was our 2022 Eisner Prize for Intergenerational Excellence winner, ONEgeneration. ONEgeneration is a great intergenerational organization best known for their preschool and senior daycare co-housed in the same location. But another program of theirs, Grandparents as Parents, especially resonates with me. Michael and I are the proud grandparents of nine wonderful children, and we know firsthand how special this bond can be, and what joy we can bring to their lives, and they to ours. Through their Grandparents as Parents program, ONEgeneration is able to provide support, education, advocacy, and resources to those that are compelled to parent their grandchildren, usually because of adverse circumstances. We are honored to support this work, and to do what we can to provide a helping hand to our fellow grandparents in the community.

For nearly fifteen of our twenty-five years, we have had the good fortune of having Trent Stamp as the CEO of our foundation. He originally took the risk of moving his young family from New York to Los Angeles to embrace our vision and develop The Eisner Foundation into a first-rate family foundation. It is now an organization that is well-respected in the community, has a clearly defined mission, is transparent and accountable, and has the flexibility to change and grow. Trent is a leader, not only in the philanthropic community of Los Angeles, but nationwide, especially when it comes to intergenerational work. And of course he is not alone in these endeavors, but leads a terrific staff in Cathy Choi, Chelsea Mason, and Christine Dragan.

The Eisner Foundation is pleased to continue our work in this intergenerational ecosystem. We invite you to join us, and hope you will take the time today to learn about what we have learned and what is ahead. Thank you.

Jane B. Eisner, President, The Eisner Foundation
In 2022, The Eisner Foundation continued longtime partnerships and created new ones. After announcing a grantmaking expansion to New York City at the end of 2021, The Eisner Foundation made its first grants totaling more than $1.5 million in the Spring of 2022 to 13 exceptional organizations doing intergenerational work across the five boroughs.

In addition, The Eisner Foundation invested several million dollars in organizations in Los Angeles County and beyond to harness the power of intergenerational connection to address social challenges. As in years past, these organizations represent the breadth of intergenerational programs using the arts, civic engagement, education, health, and more as an opportunity to bring people of all ages together to better their communities.

As our country continues to navigate the long-term effects of the Covid-19 pandemic amid increasing social divisions, our grantees regularly demonstrate how deeper connections can foster lasting positive change. We are in awe of their dedication and expertise, and are proud to support their important work.
$9,547,366
given in 2022

Health & Wellness
Arts
Civic & Community
Children & Families
Education & Training
Aging

826LA* • Abraham's Tent Inc • American Film Institute • AmeriCares • Angels of the Amazon • Animal Haven • ARECMA • Art Production Fund • Aspen Camp • Aspen Valley Hospital Foundation • Aspen Valley Land Trust • Aspen Words • Beat the Streets Wrestling • Bet Tzedek* • Beverly Glen Playgroup • Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor* • Brinkley's Wheelchairs • Broome Street Temple • Buck's Rock Camp • CaringKind, The Heart of Alzheimer’s Caregiving • CASA of Los Angeles* • CASA of Orange County • Cedars-Sinai Medical Center* • Center for Reproductive Rights • Chapin School • Children’s Cancer Fund • CicLAvia • Classical KUSC • CoGenerate* • Common Sense Media • Concerts in Motion* • California State University, Northridge* • Dear Jack Foundation • Denison University • DOROT* • East Hampton Fire Department • Eisner Health* • Eisner Memorial Red Bank Public Library • Eleanor Whitmore Early Childhood Center • Elizabeth House* • EngAGE* • Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund • Exceptional Children’s Foundation • Foundation for National Progress (Mother Jones) • Friendship Foundation* • Garry Marshall Theatre • Generations United* • Georgetown University • GOALS* • God’s Love We Deliver • Good+Foundation* • Grantmakers in Aging • Hamilton-Madison House* • Harvard-Westlake School • Health Advocates for Older People* • Heart of Los Angeles* • Hermosa Beach Little League • Hope in a Suitcase • House of Ruth* • Hudson Guild* • Human Rights First • Huntington’s Disease Society of America OC • International Documentary Association • International Rescue Committee • Jake Foerster Music Arts Fund • KCRW • Keewaydin Foundation • Koreatown Youth and Community Center* • L.A. Goal • LA Opera • L.A. Works* • Ladies' Village Improvement Society • Laguna Art Museum • Laguna Beach FC • Laguna Canyon Foundation • Lide Haiti • Los Angeles Conservancy • Los Angeles County High School for the Arts • Los Angeles County Museum of Art* • Los Angeles Philharmonic Association* • Mar Vista Family Center* • Marat Daukayev Ballet Theatre • Mayor’s Fund for Los Angeles* • Moms Across America • Museum of Make Believe • Natural Resources Defense Council • New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra • New Roads School • New York University* • ONEgeneration* • Operation Jump Start* • P.F. Bresee Foundation* • ProPublica • Putney Open Door Fund • Race to Erase MS • Reading Partners - Los Angeles* • Reading Partners - New York* • Ronald McDonald House of New York • SAGE* • Sages and Seekers* • Santa Catalina School • SCORE • SEEDS Arts and Education • Simon Wiesenthal Center • Smithsonian Institution • Southern California Public Radio (KPPC) • St. Lawrence University • STARS: Illuminate, Educate, Advocate* • Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation • Taking Action for Good • Tashirat Foundation • The Africa Foundation • The Allen-Stevenson School • The Aspen Institute • The Bel Air Association • The Brearley School • The Center for Early Education • The Children's Cancer Fund • The Heart Foundation* • The Lawrenceville School • The New Jewish Home • The UCLA Foundation • The YM & YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood* • Tracy’s Kids • Tribal Trust Foundation • Turnaround Arts CA* • UCLA Anderson School of Management • UCLA Generation XChange* • United Neighborhood Houses of New York* • University of Denver • University of Pennsylvania • Upper Snowmass Creek Caucus • USC Center on Philanthropy & Public Policy • USC School of Cinematic Arts • VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired* • Visiting Neighbors, Inc.*

*Competitive Grant
In December 2021, The Eisner Foundation announced a grantmaking expansion to New York City in conjunction with the celebration of the 2021 Eisner Prize winner, The Institute for Empowered Aging at United Neighborhood Houses of New York (UNH). The Eisner Foundation celebrated the Institute’s work and its grantmaking expansion during a virtual event on December 8, 2021, featuring Michael and Jane Eisner, an in-depth look into the Institute’s work with UNH’s member settlement houses, and an overview of the foundation’s New York City grantmaking process.

In April 2022, The Eisner Foundation awarded its first round of grants to 13 New York City-based organizations.

The new grantmaking program was initially allocated $1 million. But the number of applications representing high-quality, intentional intergenerational programming prompted foundation leaders to increase this amount, ultimately awarding $1,525,000 in grants for the inaugural year.
The Eisner Foundation's first New York City grants supported a wide range of intergenerational programs, demonstrating the impressive programming already underway and a great potential for growth. Grantees included Eisner Prize laureate DOROT, working to expand their Virtual Teen Internship program, and UNH’s Institute for Empowered Aging, working to create intergenerational community centers at four New York City-based settlement houses.

In addition to operating exemplary community-based intergenerational programming, New York City grantees are solving society’s challenges through intergenerational music, mentorship and tutoring, and even walking programs. Other organizations are developing intergenerational advocacy efforts on behalf of low-income neighbors, older adults, LGBTQ+ residents and more. The Eisner Foundation was also gratified to support New York chapters of national programs already being supported in Los Angeles.

As our New York grantmaking program grows, The Eisner Foundation looks forward to building deeper relationships with intergenerational practitioners throughout the city, and supporting new and innovative efforts to bring New Yorkers of all ages together.
In the eleventh year of the Eisner Prize for Intergenerational Excellence, The Eisner Foundation named ONEgeneration the newest winner in December 2022. The prize came with a $250,000 award in recognition of ONEgeneration’s intergenerational work that includes a shared-site Preschool and Adult Day Care program, Grandparents as Parents Kinship Care program, a teen-led tech training support program for older adults, and more.

ONEgeneration is a longtime partner of The Eisner Foundation, and is routinely held up as a model for intergenerational shared sites. Founded in 1978, ONEgeneration began as a senior center founded and operated by volunteers, and over time, expanded their services to meet the needs of local older adults through their nationally accredited Senior Enrichment Center, Adult Day Care Health Center, and Home-Based Case Management support. In 1994, ONEgeneration added a childcare program, which today serves children aged six months to six years old. Throughout the day, ONEgeneration’s older adults and children come together for activities including crafts, gardening, and games, giving older adults a sense of purpose and joy while younger children benefit from relationships with diverse older role models—building mutual respect and a sense of community for all.
Other intergenerational efforts at ONEgeneration include the Grandparents as Parents Kinship Care program, which supports grandparents who have assumed primary care of their grandchildren or other minor relatives. Grandparents in this position are disproportionately low-income and face a range of challenges accessing the material and emotional support they need. Experts in this program help grandparents navigate the complex child welfare system, get them necessary supplies, and host opportunities for connection and restoration. ONEgeneration also welcomes high school and college students into its programming. At the Senior Enrichment Center, students offer tech training to older adults to help them maximize their use of smartphones and computers, building relationships while empowering older adults to access online activities and resources.

The Eisner Foundation has honored a wide range of individuals and nonprofits with The Eisner Prize since it was first awarded to Nancy Henkin and the Temple University Intergenerational Center in 2011. Other previous winners include the Institute for Empowered Aging at United Neighborhood Houses in New York, ARECMA in Puerto Rico, Generations United in Washington, D.C., Bridge Meadows in Portland, and Encore.org in San Francisco.

The Eisner Foundation celebrated ONEgeneration’s work at Stanford University’s Century Summit on December 14, 2022. Convened in collaboration with the Stanford Center on Longevity, the Century Summit brought together leaders across multiple sectors to discuss the impact of people living longer lives, and offered leaders an opportunity to present new visions on rethinking care, promoting and maintaining intergenerational relationships, and rethinking the second half of life in the new age of longevity.
After the pandemic delayed the launch of Heart of Los Angeles’ Intergenerational Orchestra, it finally kicked off in 2021 with great success—which continued in 2022. The orchestra’s overwhelming achievements led The Eisner Foundation to grow its partnership with Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA) by naming and expanding what has become the Eisner Intergenerational Music Programs.

The Eisner Intergenerational Orchestra began its performance season in the summer of 2022 at their new off-site home, the Wilshire Ebell Theatre. To open the concert, The Eisner Foundation premiered a documentary short chronicling the origins of the orchestra, which had been in production since early 2020. The documentary has since been screened at several national and international conferences.

In the summer of 2022, HOLA also launched the new Eisner Intergenerational Choir and the Eisner Intergenerational Big Band. Both programs attracted musicians and vocalists quickly, and began to perform at high-profile venues including the Banc of California Stadium and the Mayor of Los Angeles’ residence within a few short months. The Eisner Intergenerational Music ensembles also collaborated frequently in concert, and in 2023, will hold a combined concert featuring all three programs.
The Eisner Intergenerational Music Programs are popular among musicians of all ages and ethnicities. Since its inception, Orchestra Music Director Daniel Suk has developed a repertoire of orchestral pieces from across the world, reflecting many of the cultures represented in the orchestra itself. The Big Band and Choir have followed suit in their first year as well.

Each ensemble also boasts the participation of several generations, with ages ranging from 17 to 75. HOLA’s previously-established music programs for beginner and intermediate students have and will continue to serve as a pipeline for young participants in the Eisner Intergenerational Music Programs, while word-of-mouth regularly draws older community members.

These programs bring together people of different ages and backgrounds who likely would not otherwise meet. In a city like Los Angeles, with its incredible but somewhat segregated diversity, creating connections and opportunities for people to learn about each other and break down stereotypes is vital. Coupled with the well-established benefits of music and civic engagement to one’s well-being, the Eisner Intergenerational Music Programs uplift not only the participants, but everyone around them.
Operation Jump Start is a Long Beach-based organization that helps low-resourced, high-potential first-generation students get in, stay in, and graduate from a four-year college. The organization offers a range of opportunities for students, including academic support and tutoring, emotional support, and cultural and social events in addition to mentoring.

That structure is part of what makes the program attractive to mentors like Mark, who has been a mentor for more than three years. "Operation Jump Start is great because mentors will often fall into a tutoring role, but they have tutors. They have counseling services. I can focus on being a mentor—someone who is simply there."

While the program’s advantages to the students are clear, the mentors also benefit. For Mark, mentoring replaced the things he had at work before retiring: social interaction, intellectual activity, and problem solving. Operation Jump Start checked all his boxes, while allowing him to make a difference for the next generation at the same time. Mark loves the opportunity to build a long-term relationship with his mentee, with whom he’s worked since he was in eighth grade. "I know mentors who have attended their mentee’s college graduation, and I got to tell you, I’m looking forward to that," he said.
Now entering its fourth year, Creative Acts is an organization that uses the arts as a tool to combat some of our country’s most pressing social justice issues, particularly around incarceration and re-entry.

In addition to innovative opportunities like their virtual reality re-entry program, Creative Acts also brings their Art Attacks program to youth in juvenile facilities. This program brings together young people who are incarcerated, older people with lived experience, Teaching Artists of all ages, and youth activists. Using theater games, poetry, and drawn art, the program helps incarcerated young people discover the value of their voice and the importance of participating in civic life, while also connecting with adults who share their stories.

Major Bunton became Creative Acts’ Director of Programs after a couple years as a Teaching Artist. He knows firsthand the importance of programs like this from the time he was incarcerated himself. "I was in every program you can think of," he said. "I just really wanted to change, and now I want to find every way to make amends to the community." Now, he’s been back to the very facilities that once held him to be a resource. "My lived experience has a lot to give to the kids inside," he said.
Since 2019, a commercial kitchen at the Los Angeles LGBT Center has been home to the Center’s intergenerational Culinary Arts program. Centered in the heart of the Anita May Rosenstein campus and surrounded by youth and senior housing, the kitchen has become a place where older and younger people learn skills and find purpose together. The intensive three-month program includes lessons in knife skills, food safety, and basic techniques, as well as the support to pursue culinary jobs. After an initial “boot camp,” the program participants move over to meal production. Each day, the program produces hundreds of meals for youth and seniors experiencing food insecurity, including residents of the Center’s two senior housing locations.

But as the leaders of the program have found, they also learn much more. The older adults become role models for the youth, setting standards for professionalism and dedication, and often provide friendly support as mentors to the younger members of their cohort. Says Executive Chef Leslie Riley, “some of the seniors tell the youth that they wish they had a program like this at their age. A lot of our LGBT youth are from out of state, and they have no family to interact with and get advice from. But it works both ways—one older participant suffering from depression says the program saved her life, being around the youth.”
House of Ruth has been providing domestic violence services to communities in both Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties for the past 45 years. Dedicated to the prevention of domestic violence and ensuring the safety and well-being of those impacted by it, House of Ruth fosters intergenerational connections within several of their programs.

For House of Ruth, providing culturally responsive services comes from drawing on the wisdom and practices of all cultures. Because a core part of their mission is to end the cycle of violence often passed down in communities and families, leveraging intergenerational connections is key to breaking this trend. With older volunteers and mentors, House of Ruth facilitates the connections and provides the resources survivors of domestic violence need.

As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month in October 2022, House of Ruth hosted Emerging Voices: From Healing to Wholeness, an intimate conversation with survivors of domestic violence. A panel of six survivors had an open conversation about their stories, sharing how the resources and intergenerational support at House of Ruth enabled them to understand and move out of cycles of abuse. But most importantly, House of Ruth helped them re-establish hope for their future, belief in themselves, and the empowerment to place the safety of themselves and their children first.
2022 saw increased attention to intergenerational solutions. Through news coverage, thought leadership, and speaking opportunities, foundation staff and grantees had frequent opportunities to share the promise of intergenerational connection.

Throughout the pandemic, news outlets highlighted the increasing rate of loneliness among people of all ages, and the innovative intergenerational programs that acted to assuage it. But as most pre-Covid efforts resumed in-person operations, programs like Sages & Seekers, which matches older adults and high schoolers in an eight-week program to develop relationships and break down ageism in both directions, and Generation Xchange, which places older adults in elementary classrooms, also saw increased media attention.

The Eisner Foundation’s CEO Trent Stamp was also frequently quoted in the media on intergenerational issues, including matters related to housing and the arts. The intergenerational mission of The Eisner Foundation itself was also of interest, as Inside Philanthropy published in-depth features on both the Eisner Intergenerational Music Programs at Heart of Los Angeles and the Eisner family’s philanthropic legacy.
The Eisner Foundation also frequently partnered with grantees to amplify intergenerational programs. Foundation staff presented at several national and international conferences throughout 2022, including the American Society on Aging’s national conference (showcasing the work of Generation Xchange), the World Community Development Conference (highlighting the Eisner Intergenerational Orchestra at Heart of Los Angeles) and the Milken Institute’s Future of Health Summit. In addition, CEO Trent Stamp co-authored “Force for Good: Older Adults and the Impact of Intergenerational Programs” in the Journal on Active Aging with Terry Kaelber, Director of Eisner Prize winner The Institute for Empowered Aging at United Neighborhood Houses.

Trent Stamp and Julie Lacouture’s acclaimed podcast “How We Run” also premiered its fifth season, and featured nonprofit leaders discussing subjects including mergers, succession planning, and organizational strategic planning.

Finally, The Eisner Foundation served as a U.S. Country Lead for the first Global Intergenerational Week, an international celebration and collaboration of intergenerational practitioners from different countries and cultures around the world. In partnership with Generations United, The Eisner Foundation amplified intergenerational programs across the United States, shared our vision with an international group of funders, and virtually convened practitioners to inspire leaders worldwide to pursue and grow their own intergenerational efforts.