For over twenty-five years, we at The Eisner Foundation have had the great fortune to do our part to provide access, opportunity, and justice to the most vulnerable citizens of Southern California, and in more recent years, New York City. We have determined over time through experience and practice, and a lot of listening and observing, 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.

As our country grows more divided, and even fractured, we have a philanthropic obligation to do what we can to bring people together, to find common ground, and to seek a shared vision for our communities. I am proud that in 2023, against a backdrop of division and scapegoating, 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 create bonds between the young and old.

And while I appreciate and respect all our grantees at The Eisner Foundation, nowhere was this work more evident than in the continued development of the Eisner Intergenerational Orchestra, Big Band, and Choir—all located at our partner Heart of Los Angeles. We believe, as Maestro Gustavo Dudamel of the LA Phil states, “that music is a fundamental right” and that everyone of all ages, deserves access to music—to listen, to celebrate, and even, in the case of the Eisner Music Programs at HOLA, to create.

Music can be the quintessential intergenerational program, in that all participants need to strive to find the shared note, to teach each other, to learn from each other, and to literally get on the same page, all for the greater good and a whole larger than the parts. I am so proud of these music programs, and all our other grantees, as they work to affirm our belief that we all have much more in common than we are sometimes led to believe.

On behalf of our staff and our board at The Eisner Foundation, we are so pleased to continue our work in this intergenerational ecosystem. We invite you to join us and hope you will take a little time today to learn about what we have learned and what is ahead. Thank you.

Jane B. Eisner, President, The Eisner Foundation

Working in philanthropy, and specifically, at The Eisner Foundation is a privilege that I do not take lightly. We have the opportunity, through the generosity and the vision of the Eisner family, to bring about positive and lasting change in the lives of those we seek to serve. This job gives me purpose, and we know from the work of our intergenerational grantees, that purpose is the magic elixir that gives life meaning and value.

I wish to thank the Eisner family for making this work possible, and for being willing, even eager, to work in a subject matter as inglorious and unsexy as intergenerational programming. That is certainly not the norm in today’s philanthropic community. I also want to recognize The Eisner Foundation staff, who do the work each day with great professionalism and passion. And most of all, I want to thank our non-profit partners, whether they be current grantees or future ones, for believing that people of all ages have value, and that by bringing the young and the old together, we can solve society’s most intractable problems. In fact, it may be the only way.

Trent Stamp, CEO, The Eisner Foundation
In 2023, The Eisner Foundation continued longtime partnerships and created new ones in Los Angeles County, New York City, and across the country.

Our second year of New York City grantmaking featured a growing number of grantees that demonstrate the impressive intergenerational work happening across the city’s five boroughs. Particularly exciting is the development of a working group comprised of intergenerational program leaders who regularly convene to discuss their work and collaborate on larger efforts.

In Los Angeles County, The Eisner Foundation continued to support organizations leveraging the arts, civic engagement, education, health, and more to bring people of all ages together. As in New York City, many of these nonprofits are garnering increased local and national attention for their intergenerational successes with media coverage, speaking invitations, and requests for collaboration.

As we navigate a world that continues to be plagued by divisions old and new, we applaud these organizations for healing divides across age, race, nationality, and socioeconomic status. Their work truly shows what healing can take place when we come together.
$10,301,340 granted in 2023

826LA* • A Little Rescue • Alliance for Children's Rights* • Amagansett Village Improvement Society • AmeriCares • Angels of the Amazon • Aspen Camp • Aspen Music Festival & School • Aspen Valley Hospital Foundation • Aspen Valley Land Trust • Aspen Words • Bet Tzedek* • Beverly Glen Playgroup, Inc. • Boys & Girls Club of Los Angeles Harbor* • Boys and Girls Club of Laguna Beach • Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Orange Coast • BRIC* • Brooklyn Public Library* • Buck's Rock Camp • California State University, Northridge* • Cancer for College • CASA of Los Angeles* • Cedars-Sinai Medical Center • Center for Reproductive Rights • Central Park Conservancy • Children's Cancer Fund • Children's Institute, Inc. • CicLAvia • Classical KUSC • CODEPINK • CoGenerate* • Communities of Inclusion & Belonging Inc.* • Concerts in Motion* • Dear Jack Foundation • Denison University • DOROT* • Eise*n Health* • Eisner Memorial Red Bank Public Library • El Nido Family Centers* • Eleanor Whitmore Early Childhood Center • Elizabeth House* • EngAGE* • Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund • Exceptional Children's Foundation • Figure Skating In Harlem • Foundation for National Progress (Mother Jones) • Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission* • Generations United* • Georgetown University • GOALS* • Good+Foundation* • Grantmakers in Aging • GrowIN-Intergenerational Community Programming* • Hamilton-Madison House* • Hamptons Whodunit • Harbor Interfaith Services* • Harvard-Westlake School • Heart of Los Angeles* • Hermosa Beach Little League • Holocaust Museum LA* • Hope in A Suitcase • House of Ruth* • Jake Foerster Music Arts Fund • JDRF International • KCRW • Keep Bel-Air Beautiful • Keewaydin Foundation • Koreatown Youth and Community Center* • L.A. Goal • L.A. Works* • LA Opera • Laguna Beach Football Club • Lake View Cemetery Association • Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly* • Los Angeles Conservancy • Los Angeles LGBT Center* • Los Angeles Philharmonic Association* • Marat Daukayev Ballet Theatre • Moms Across America • National Council of Jewish Women • Natural Resources Defense Council • Navy SEAL Foundation • New Roads School • New York Theatre Workshop* • New York University • ONEgeneration* • Pancreatic Cancer Action Network • Project MOST, Inc. • ProPublica • Public Counsel • Putney Open Door Fund • Race to Erase MS • Reading Partners – Los Angeles* • Reading Partners - New York* • Riverdale Neighborhood House* • Ronald McDonald House New York • Roundup River Ranch • Saahas For Cause* • SAGE* • Sages & Seekers* • Santa Catalina School • School on Wheels* • Score • SEEDS Arts and Education • Smithsonian Institution • Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum • Southern California Public Radio (KPCQ) • St. Lawrence University • St. Luke's Episcopal Church • St. Vincent Meals on Wheels* • Stray Cat Alliance • Tashirat Foundation • The Allen-Stevenson School • The American Society of the French Legion of Honor • The Aspen Institute • The Brearley School • The Center for Early Education • The Chapin School • The Ecology Center of San Juan Capistrano* • The Generations Project* • The Heart Foundation* • The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles • The Ladies’ Village Improvement Society of East Hampton, NY • The Lawrenceville School • The Public Theater* • The Metropolitan Opera • The Milken Institute • The Music Center • The Wilson Center • The YM & YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood* • Touch the Future • Tribal Trust Foundation • UCLA Anderson School of Management • UCLA Division of Geriatrics* • UCLA Generation Xchange* • UCLA School of Education & Information Studies • United Neighborhood Houses of New York* • University of Central Florida Rosen College of Hospitality Management • University of Denver • University of Pennsylvania • University of Southern California* • Upper Snowmass Creek Caucus • USC Center on Philanthropy & Public Policy • USC School of Cinematic Arts • USC Verdugo Hills Hospital Foundation • Vincentian Collaborative System* • VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired* • Visiting Neighbors, Inc.* • With My Own Two Hands • World Central Kitchen

*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 first New York City grants were made in the Spring of 2022 to 13 grantees, totaling $1,525,000.

In 2023, New York City organizations continued to surpass expectations, and The Eisner Foundation granted $1,582,000 to 17 organizations, several of which were 2022 grantees. We continue to be impressed by the large number of high-quality, intentional intergenerational programming taking place in the city.
With an increased number of grantee organizations, The Eisner Foundation was able to support an even more varied range of programming. In particular, a number of new grantee partners exemplify New York City’s vibrant arts community with truly intergenerational artistic processes—for instance, programs at The Public Theater and New York Theatre Workshop are leveraging the skills and talents of people of all ages both on and backstage. In addition, organizations like BRIC and Riverdale Neighborhood House are using intergenerational councils to co-create community-based programming, often arts-based, and increase engagement across all ages.

Returning partner organizations are also continuing their community-based intergenerational efforts through intergenerational music, mentorship and tutoring, and friendly visiting programs. Other organizations are deepening their intergenerational advocacy efforts on behalf of low-income neighbors, older adults, LGBTQ+ residents and more.

These organizations are not only executing impressive intergenerational work on their own, but have also begun to come together and collaborate on programming and advocacy initiatives, detailed in a Spotlight later in this report. Their success shows how intergenerational programming can bring people together in ever-evolving ways.
In April 2023, The Eisner Foundation announced the Eisner Prize Fellowships—a new program designed to support leaders pioneering innovations in intergenerational connection.

Since 2011, the Eisner Prize has honored people and organizations doing exceptional intergenerational work across the country. In this next phase in the evolution of the Eisner Prize, The Eisner Foundation is providing financial resources, networking opportunities, and the prestige of the Eisner Prize to leaders with new ideas and perspectives that will propel the field forward.

To create the inaugural cohort, Foundation staff selected five Fellows from across the country from a highly competitive pool of applications. The Fellows first met at the Generations United Global Conference in Washington, D.C. in July 2023, and have continued to meet virtually as their Fellowship progresses. Our Eisner Prize laureates have already proved essential to this cohort and regularly offer their expertise as the Fellowship projects develop.
The 2023/24 Eisner Prize Fellows are pursuing impressive intergenerational projects nationwide:

Marvell Adams Jr. is the CEO of Caregiver Action Network and President & Chair of Communities of Inclusion & Belonging, Inc. He has established a Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) Intergenerational Housing Initiative that is developing a replicable, scalable model for village-based intergenerational community living in connection with HBCUs.

Kenna Embree is the Life Enrichment Coordinator at Vincentian Collaborative System in Pittsburgh. She has launched the new Fur-Ever Friends program, which places foster pets with Vincentian independent living residents who share responsibilities with college students living within the independent living communities as part of the Students-in-Residence program.

Lauren Feyh is the Co-Founder/Co-Executive Director of GrowIN – Intergenerational Community Programming in Columbus, Ohio. They have created “Buds N Blooms,” a new program that creates three-way partnerships involving an older adult who has or wishes to have a garden, a master gardener, and a younger person who enjoys gardening or would like to learn how.

Raquel Padia is the Volunteer Specialist with the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission Foster Grandparent Program and the Program Coordinator for Generations Serving Together, Fresno (GST). She is expanding GST with co-generational volunteer teams producing workshops on emotional literacy and effective coping skills for children, youth, and young adults.

Cynthia Wilkerson has led LBFE Boston’s program design and evaluation efforts as well as its embrace of intergenerational engagement since 2015. She has launched Gen2GenQ, a new program offering intergenerational opportunities for older and college-age queer people to connect, build mutual support, and better understand where the LGBTQ+ community has been and where it’s going.
After launching in 2021 and expanding in 2022, the Eisner Intergenerational Music Programs at Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA) continue to thrive.

The Eisner Intergenerational Orchestra now boasts a roster of more than 150 musicians ranging in age from 14 to 76, and representing many ethnic and racial backgrounds. Led by Music Director Daniel Suk, the orchestra continues to play at an exceptionally high level, performing works by Verdi, Puccini, Bizet, and more.

The newer Eisner Intergenerational Choir and Eisner Intergenerational Big Band completed their first full seasons in 2023 after debuting in the summer of 2022. The Big Band quickly reached capacity with more than 35 musicians aged 13 to 70 years old, and has since been invited to perform at high-profile venues including the Dodger's Blue Diamond Gala, the Huntington Library and Botanical Gardens, and Levitt Pavilion. The Choir is also comprised of more than 35 singers ranging from 13 to 77, and attracts more interest with each performance. Developing partnerships with local schools, churches and other choirs are creating even more opportunities to perform and grow the Choir’s membership.

In April 2023, all three ensembles came together to perform a spring concert at HOLA’s Ezralow Pavilion Lafayette Park. On that beautiful spring day, community members of all ages enjoyed an afternoon of music outdoors, listening to a repertoire reflecting the diversity of each ensemble and of Los Angeles itself.
While these musicians continue to pursue a high level of artistic excellence, the core mission of bringing generations together remains central to each ensemble. Rehearsals regularly include a practice called “Meet the Member,” when a participant shares a bit about themselves and engages with their fellow musicians. This sparks new connections and conversations among the group as people discover shared interests, similar experiences, or other commonalities that help break down age and other barriers.

The success of these programs has not gone unnoticed. Award-winning author and journalist Steve Lopez attended several rehearsals and a performance, and published an in-depth profile of the Eisner Intergenerational Music Programs for the Los Angeles Times. In partnership with The Eisner Foundation, the programs were showcased virtually for Global Intergenerational Week and in-person at the Generations United conference in the summer of 2023, and have been invited to present at the SXSW EDU and American Society on Aging conferences in 2024.
Since 2009, Concerts in Motion (CiM) has brought music to isolated older adults throughout the New York metro area. With an impressive roster of professional and youth musicians, CiM brings free live performances to tens of thousands of older adults in-person and virtually each year.

A core part of CiM is their Youth Program, through which student musicians perform for older members of their communities. CiM works with a range of organizational partners to reach older adults who could benefit from their programs. While live music is important to many of the older adults these organizations serve, it can be expensive or otherwise inaccessible. The partnership provides a cost-effective option to bring music to them.

Favorite artists or musical genres may differ among the older and younger participants, but music and performance are shared loves of all ages. Capitalizing on that, CiM’s newer Intergenerational Open Mic programs create an opportunity for older adults to leave the audience and take the stage themselves. The empowering, inclusive atmosphere encourages musicians of all ages to share their talents and encourage each other.
While intergenerational work was happening in New York City before The Eisner Foundation’s grantmaking expanded there, a welcome development is a new collaborative of intergenerational practitioners representing organizations across the city, including many Foundation grantees. Led by United Neighborhood Houses and CHAI at NYU, the group meets regularly to share their efforts and explore opportunities for collective action.

In June 2023, the group launched a social media campaign to highlight the benefits of their intergenerational programs to the broader community. Posts on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter/X, LinkedIn and more showcased how each organization brings people together and invited local residents to join them. The campaign was a resounding success, reaching thousands of people in all five boroughs and beyond. But the most surprising audience reached was internal. At many of the larger organizations, staff who did not work closely with the intergenerational initiatives weren’t very familiar with those efforts. After the campaign, however, the intergenerational programs were better understood and seen as points of pride for the organizations—deepening the commitment overall to the work.

Bolstered by this success, the collaborative has big future plans for voter outreach, advocacy, and additional social media campaigns.
In July 2023, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a new voluntary nationwide model—the Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience (GUIDE) Model—that aims to support people living with dementia and their unpaid caregivers. The GUIDE Model focuses on dementia care management and aims to improve quality of life for people living with dementia, reduce strain on their unpaid caregivers, and enable people living with dementia to remain in their homes and communities.

Many of the elements of the GUIDE Model are based on the UCLA Alzheimer’s and Dementia Care (ADC) Program, developed with the support of The Eisner Foundation—a heartening example of how Foundation grantees have influenced policy change with intergenerational implications (over half of dementia caregivers are the children of persons with dementia). As research on the UCLA ADC program has shown, both persons with dementia and their caregivers benefit from this kind of care and demonstrate reduced stress and depression symptoms. In the next stage, UCLA is applying to become a GUIDE Model participant, which will provide funds to sustain and grow the program. They will also assist other sites nationwide who plan to structure their GUIDE dementia care program based on their model.
2022 Eisner Prize winner ONEgeneration continued their impressive expansion of intergenerational programming in 2023 as they assumed operation of the Wilkinson Senior Center in Northridge in August. In addition to an ambitious modernization plan, ONEgeneration has also created a robust slate of programming for the facility. Services include case management, delivered and congregate meals, and recreation activities for older adults and younger volunteers and community members.

In the first year alone, ONEgeneration anticipates serving 1,500 older adults at this new location, with a particular focus on integrating intergenerational elements into programming in partnership with LA City Recreation and Parks and the City of Los Angeles Department of Aging.

ONEgeneration's intergenerational efforts in the San Fernando Valley are longstanding, putting the staff in a strong position to advance these programs in a new community and facility. Already, intergenerational volunteers have been critical to the Wilkinson Senior Center’s popular dancing events, including the Fall Ball and Halloween Dance. A partnership with Tierra del Sol also engages young adults to work at the Center’s lunch programs.
The Eisner Foundation has been proud to continue advocating for intergenerational solutions in the media, at conferences, and across philanthropic, nonprofit, governmental, and other sectors, and in doing so, amplifying our grantee partners wherever possible to showcase the great potential of intergenerational connection.

As this movement grows, there has been increased media attention on the many impressive organizations doing this work. Our grantees were regularly cited in publications including the *Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, Fortune, Esquire, Forbes, TIME, PBS, The Wall Street Journal*, and many local media outlets. The Eisner Foundation’s CEO Trent Stamp was also frequently quoted in the media on intergenerational issues.

The Eisner Foundation has also continued to make its mark internationally, and once again served as a U.S. Country Lead for the second annual Global Intergenerational Week, an international celebration of intergenerational practice across several countries and cultures around the world. In partnership with Generations United, The Eisner Foundation amplified the impressive intergenerational work happening across the United States and virtually convened practitioners to inspire practitioners worldwide.
The Eisner Foundation also frequently partnered with grantees to amplify intergenerational programs. Foundation staff presented at several national and international conferences throughout 2023, including the American Society on Aging’s national conference (showcasing the work of Eisner Prize winner the Institute for Empowered Aging at United Neighborhood Houses), the CHANGE Philanthropy Unity Summit (with BRIC and UCLA Generation Xchange), the Grantmakers in Aging conference (highlighting Generations United and the Los Angeles LGBT Center), the International Council on Active Aging conference (featuring ONEgeneration), and the Milken Institute’s Future of Health Summit.

The Eisner Foundation was also a top supporter of the bi-annual Generations United Global Conference in Washington, D.C. During this event, Cathy Choi served on a panel about funding intergenerational programs, and Trent Stamp hosted the closing keynote panel spotlighting the HOLA Eisner Intergenerational Music Programs featuring HOLA CEO Tony Brown and two participating musicians.

It has been gratifying to see the increased attention many national conferences are paying to intergenerational programs and issues, reflected in the growing number of sessions on the topic each year. We look forward to continuing to lead the charge for intergenerational connection, collaboration, and action.