

GUITARS
OVER
GUNS



JOIN THE LABEL:
INVESTING IN OUR MISSION

GUITARS
OVER
GUNS



**TALENT IS
EVERYWHERE.**

GUITARS
OVER
GUNS



OPPORTUNITY IS NOT.



UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

SINCE
2008

Innovative arts-based youth
development organization

Guitars Over Guns has been

using the power of music, mentorship, and the arts

to unlock possibilities for the young people society is failing to reach.





THE PROBLEM

DEEPLY CONNECTED, MULTI-FACETED PROBLEMS

Our ability to succeed as an adult can depend on several significant and interrelated factors in our youth:

1. Lack of positive adult relationships
2. Barriers to access to high-quality arts programming
3. Cycle of disenfranchisement and exposure to trauma

Quality after-school programs give children opportunities that help reduce likelihood of taking part in risky behaviors outside of school hours.





THE PROBLEM

CRISIS OF CREATIVITY

Complex societal problems are on the rise. Creativity is the engine of problem-solving and innovation, yet creative thinking skills are in decline.

Thriving in today's world demands not only empathy, resilience, and a strong sense of self but also the ability to tackle these challenges with innovative, adaptable solutions. To prepare young people to be leaders and innovators in an ever-changing economy, we must address this crisis of creativity and invest in their potential now.





THE POWER OF THE ARTS

MUSIC AND THE ARTS PROVIDE A PROVEN PATHWAY FOR ADDRESSING THESE PROBLEMS



Research shows that investing in music and the arts significantly enhances creativity, critical thinking, emotional intelligence, and problem-solving: skills that are essential for the success of all young people. Yet, too often, society overlooks the arts as one of the most effective tools for youth development, healing, and mental health.

By cultivating creativity, enhancing academic performance, creating job opportunities, fostering community development, and preparing a future workforce for the innovation economy, an arts education becomes a catalyst for social well-being and long-term economic growth.



OUR APPROACH

HOLISTIC MENTORSHIP: THE MISSING LINK



Unlike traditional arts-based programs exclusively focused on creative expression, our trauma-informed approach supports the "whole" child, which drives measurable grade improvement, healthier behaviors, lasting relationship building, and increased well-being.

We've seen firsthand how the combination of mentorship and the arts can break barriers, build bridges, and prepare youth for brighter futures-all while sparking joy and having fun. By protecting a safe environment, GOGO equips youth with the tools, resources, and support to discover their creative voice, unlock their passion, and redefine their vision of success.



OUR METHOD

GOGO METHODOLOGY: THE SIGNATURE SESSION



We currently operate after school programs at 19 middle schools, 4 high schools, 5 community studios, and 9 summer camps.

At the beginning of a session, students gather up in a circle, where Mentors use grounding activities to facilitate a discussion asking students to reflect on their day. Students then break up into small groups with their mentor to practice their chosen artistic discipline.

Every 8 weeks students are given performance opportunities to build their confidence and test out their team work whether at their school during an open mic or at a professional venue on stage.

PROVEN IMPACT

Neighborhoods Served



MIAMI GARDENS:

Carol City Middle School, Lake Stevens Middle School, Miami Carol City Senior High School, Myrtle Grove K-8 Center, North County K-8 Center

NORTH MIAMI:

Linda Lentin K-8 Center, North Miami Middle School, North Miami Senior High School, North Dade Middle School

BROWNSVILLE/ALLAPATTAH:

Brownsville Middle School,
Georgia Jones-Ayers Middle School

SOUTH MIAMI-DADE:

Cutler Bay Middle School, Homestead Middle School, Homestead Senior High School, Richmond Heights Middle School, Miami Southridge Senior High School, Redland Middle School, South Dade Middle School, Leisure City K-8, Coconut Palm K-8, Mandarin K-8, West Homestead K-8

LITTLE HAVANA:

Citrus Grove K-8 Center

Community-based Programs:

GATE Program @ Jackson Health, GOGO Studio Homestead @ Live Like Bella Park, Demps Park, Oak Grove Park, Papa Keith Music & Media Studio @ Gwen Cherry Park, Overtown Youth Center, Student Band - Atomic Lollipops, North Dade Ambassador Band



EXPERIENCE CIRCLE

MUSIC EXPOSURE AND MUSICIANSHIP

- » Quality mentorship
- » Introduction to instruments
- » Methodology

NON-COGNITIVE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

- » Self-efficacy
- » Self-esteem
- » Collaboration
- » Discipline
- » Integrity

PIPELINE

- » Holistic support: creative, academic, personal & professional
- » Continuum of services from year 1 to alumni hood
- » Mentees becoming mentors



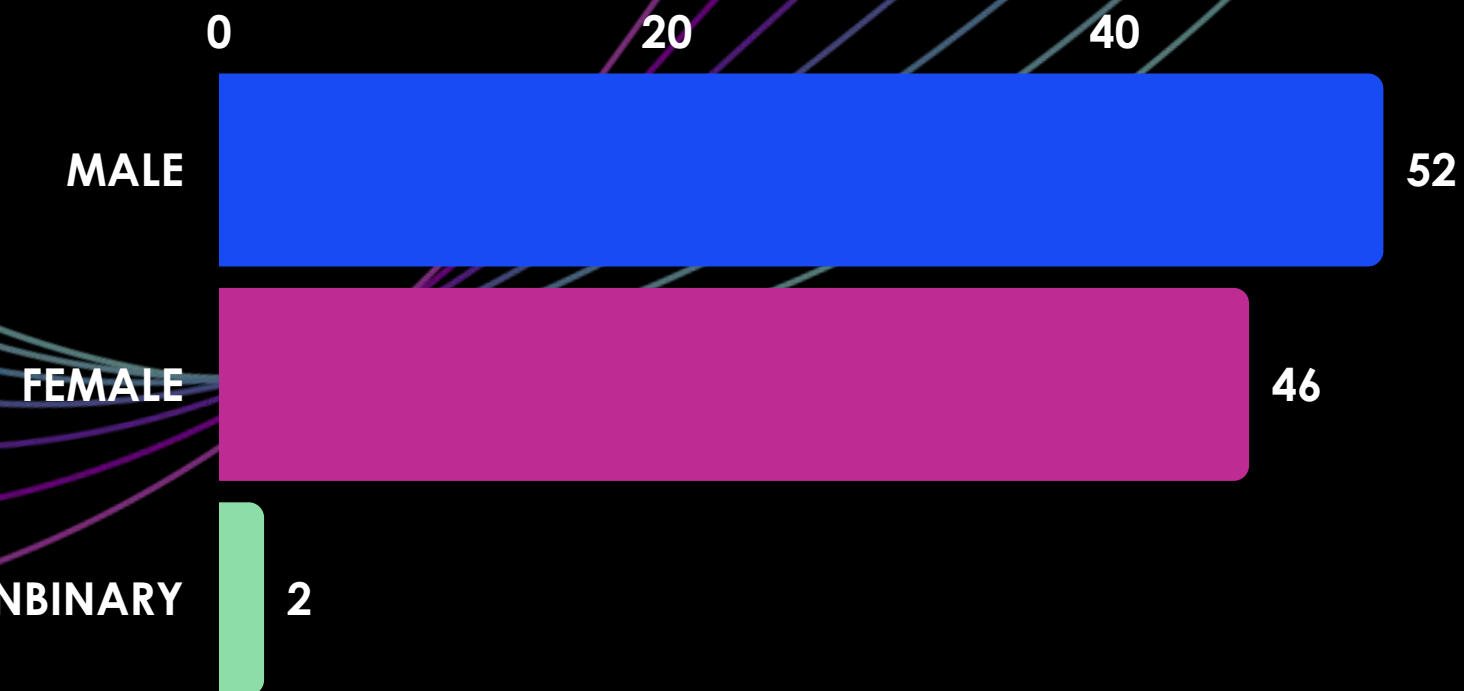
M-POWER & ALUMNI WRAPAROUND SERVICES

- » Mental health & wellness support services for students, parents, and school partners
- » Staff & mentor trainings on trauma-informed practices
- » Continued artistic & professional support and opportunities for alumni
- » Upskilling our alumni, mentors and staff for internal hires & promotions
- » Track a virtuous alumni network to provide youth with continued ongoing support

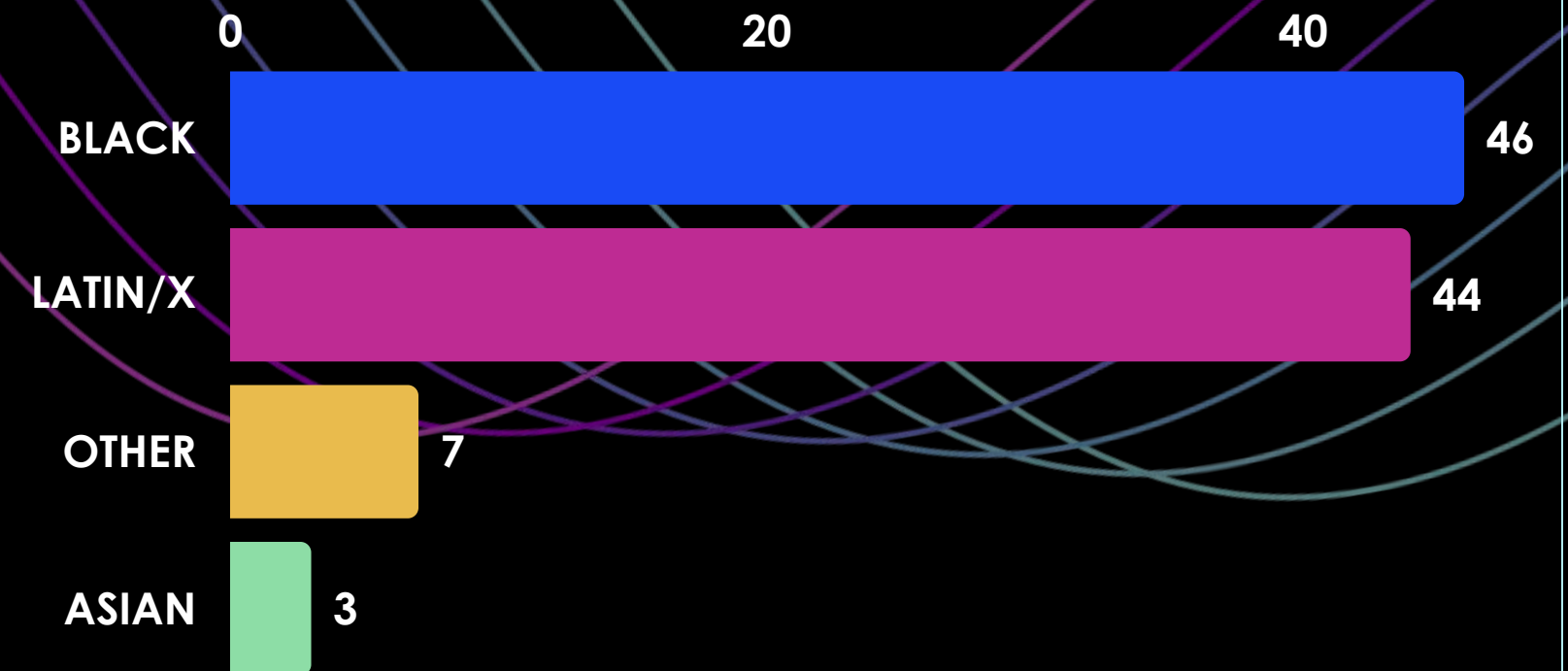


OUR YOUTH

GENDER



RACE/ETHNICITY



95% OF STUDENTS ARE AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

20% OF STUDENTS IDENTIFY AS HAVING A DISABILITY

*2023-24 school year



OUR IMPACT

STUDENTS

863

MENTORS

72

SITES

35

ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES TAUGHT:

12

- GUITAR
- BASS
- DRUMS

- MUSIC PRODUCTION
- SONGWRITING
- DJING

- KEYS
- POETRY AND
CREATIVE WRITING
- RAP

- VOCALS
- SPOKEN WORD
- VISUAL ART

*2023-24 school year



OUR IMPACT

99%

HAVE GRADUATED OR
ADVANCED TO THE NEXT
GRADE ON TIME

92%

ARE MORE AWARE OF THEIR
OWN TALENTS AND ABILITIES

94%

OF GUITARS OVER GUNS
STUDENTS HAVE IMPROVED
THEIR GPA AND THEIR
ATTENDANCE

87%

CAN IDENTIFY A PERSONAL
GOAL THEY SET AND
ACHIEVED WITH THE HELP OF
THEIR MENTORS

92%

FEEL MORE CONFIDENT
TAKING HEALTHY RISKS AND
TRYING NEW THINGS

85%

USE THE SKILLS THEY LEARN
TO HELP THEM MAKE
POSITIVE DECISIONS IN THEIR
EVERYDAY LIVES



MIAMI SIGNATURE EVENTS

1. OPEN MIC/ COMMUNITY MIXER

Students, families, mentors, school partners, and community members enjoy a chance to share the stage together at our (optional) open mic. All attendees welcome.

2. MUSIC VIDEO

Students in every city are professionally filmed and recorded in a collaborative music video. This annual regional project demonstrates the power of music as a universal language that can bridge neighborhood, cultural and other boundaries, finding common ground in the drive toward self-expression, connection, and empathy.

3. SPRING SHOWCASE

Watch our students shine on the big stage! Every school performs as their own band ensemble, presenting songs the students have chosen – or even an original song they wrote themselves! We also feature a student art exhibit from our visual art program. The concert vibes will have you on your feet, dancing and cheering our young rockstars on!





SIGNATURE EVENTS

4. END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

At the end of the school year we celebrate our youth and mentors! Our youth are surprised with a keynote speaker. All star students receive musical instruments/equipment and our mentors receive their annual plaques. We also premiere our student music video and our youth are filled with joy and pride to see themselves on the big screen.

5. MENTOR INSTITUTE

Institute is our foundation for building both individual and collective leadership among our frontline workers. Mentors receive 34 hours of paid training over four days. Workshops cover instrument and song instruction, mental health and wellness, trauma-informed teaching tactics, and culturally affirming teaching practices.





SIGNATURE EVENTS

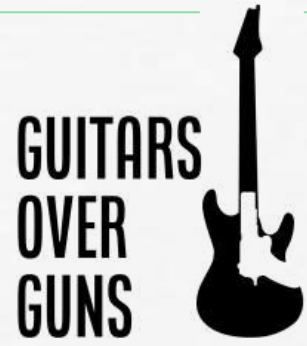
6. CHOOSE YOUR SOUND GALA

This memorable gala will have you on your feet dancing and enjoying incredible live performances from Guitars Over Guns mentors, alumni, and special guests.

Includes dinner, drinks and an unbelievable silent auction.

Save the date for our 12th annual
Choose Your Sound Gala
October 18 | 6:30 - 11pm
Hilton Miami Downtown





WE NEED YOU.

JOIN THE LABEL

As an exclusive donor and member of The Label,
you will become a distinguished VIP in every audience we captivate.

Experience the music like never before, witness our talented youth shine on stage,
and revel in the knowledge that your involvement is making a profound difference.

GUITARS
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DIAMOND:

\$100,000+

RECOGNITION & ENGAGEMENT

- Title inclusion for Choose Your Sound Gala & on-stage recognition during the awards presentation.
- “Music Match” your name printed on two students’ instruments.
- National newsletter logo inclusion, social media post & music video credit.
- Centerfold 2-page advertisement in annual magazine.
- Premier VIP seating for 20 guests at Choose Your Sound Gala.
- Champagne at Choose Your Sound Gala.
- Limited edition branded T-shirt design for 20 guests.
- Opportunity to attend one annual exclusive donor recognition dinner.





MULTI PLATINUM:
\$75,000+

RECOGNITION & ENGAGEMENT

- VIP Presenting Partner, recognition during awards presentation at the gala.
- “Music Match” your name printed on two students’ instruments.
- National newsletter logo inclusion, social media post & music video credit.
- Back cover advertisement in annual magazine.
- VIP seating for 20 guests at Choose Your Sound Gala.
- Unique gifts for 20 guests at Choose Your Sound Gala.
- Champagne at Choose Your Sound Gala.
- Opportunity to attend one annual exclusive donor recognition dinner.





DOUBLE PLATINUM:
\$50,000+

RECOGNITION & ENGAGEMENT

- Presenting Partner at Choose Your Sound Gala, recognition during awards presentation.
- “Music Match” your name printed on one student instrument.
- National newsletter logo inclusion, social media post & music video credit.
- 2-page advertisement in annual magazine, premiere placement.
- VIP seating for 20 guests at Choose Your Sound Gala.
- Champagne at Choose Your Sound Gala.
- Opportunity to attend one annual exclusive donor recognition dinner.





PLATINUM:
\$25,000+

RECOGNITION & ENGAGEMENT

- Inclusion in Choose Your Sound Gala marketing materials.
- VIP seating for 10 guests at Choose Your Sound Gala.
- National newsletter logo inclusion, social media post & music video credit.
- Champagne at Choose Your Sound Gala.
- 1-page advertisement in annual magazine.
- Opportunity to attend one annual exclusive donor recognition dinner.





DOUBLE GOLD:
\$10,000+

RECOGNITION & ENGAGEMENT

- Inclusion in Choose Your Sound Gala on-site marketing materials.
- Highlighted in an annual social media post, listed in music video credit.
- 1-page advertisement in annual magazine.
- Preferred seating for 10 guests at Choose Your Sound Gala.





GOLD:
\$5,000+

RECOGNITION & ENGAGEMENT

- Inclusion in Choose Your Sound Gala on-site marketing materials.
- 1/2 page advertisement in annual magazine.
- Highlighted in an annual social media post, listed in music video credit.
- Seating for 6 guests at Choose Your Sound Gala.





SILVER:
\$2,500+

RECOGNITION & ENGAGEMENT

- Inclusion in Choose Your Sound Gala on-site marketing materials.
- 1/4 page advertisement in annual magazine.
- Seating for 4 guests at Choose Your Sound Gala.
- Recognized in all Label Branding





THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 - 2025 PARTNERS

• Updated 4/17/25

FOUNDING DIAMOND MEMBER (\$100,000+)

**JORDEN
GOLD GIVING FUND**

MULTI PLATINUM (\$75,000+)

MJ AND FRED WRIGHT

DIAMOND (\$100,000+)



**YONATHAN
YEHEZKEL**

**VALERIE DILLON &
DANIEL
LEWIS**

DOUBLE PLATINUM (\$50,000+)



**GENSTONE
REALTY**

**LYNNE & NIGEL ROSS
CHARITABLE TRUST**

PLATINUM (\$25,000 +)



**THE
INVICTUS
COLLECTIVE**

**LESLIE MILLER
SAIONTZ**



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 - 2025 PARTNERS

• Updated 4/17/25

DOUBLE GOLD (\$10,000+)



JANE
HURT

SHEILA
BECHERT



GEOFFREY
BATSIYAN

SCOTT &
BECKI ETZLER

WYNN & JEFF
ADAM

BOB & KATHY
BERNSTEIN

CINDY WALLACE &
ALLEN MOSELEY

THE BLUHM
FAMILY CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

GOLD (\$5,000+)



JULIANA
NEWMAN
FERNANDEZ

BARBARA
GARRETT

GARY
ABRAMSON

ORTEGA
FAMILY
FUND

CARESSA
LANIER

MANUEL
MEDINA

SARAH
FEIL LEWIN

AMBAL,
INC.

JAMES
ANSIN

TANNER
LEE

SILVER (\$2,500 +)



ROD
TAYLOR

JACQUIE
O'MALLEY

JULIE &
MARTIN
FRANKLIN

ROSE
ELLEN
GREENE

CRISTINA
PEREZ

NANCY &
STEPHEN
BERNSTEIN

BARRY
ISSENBERG

DENISE
MINAKOWSKI



CONTACT:
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THANK YOU



MIAMI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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