

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 THIS CREATIVITY GAP.**



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.



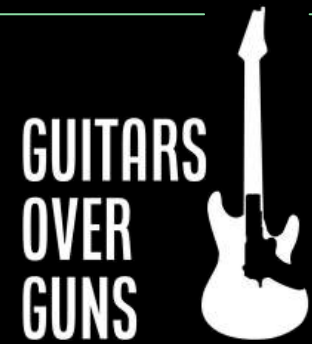
OUR APPROACH

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.



WHERE WE WORK



MIAMI

863 students

72 mentors

35 school and
community programs



CHICAGO

637 students

62 mentors

24 school and
community programs



LOS ANGELES

30 students

3 mentors

1 school partnership



NEW YORK CITY

23 students

4 mentors

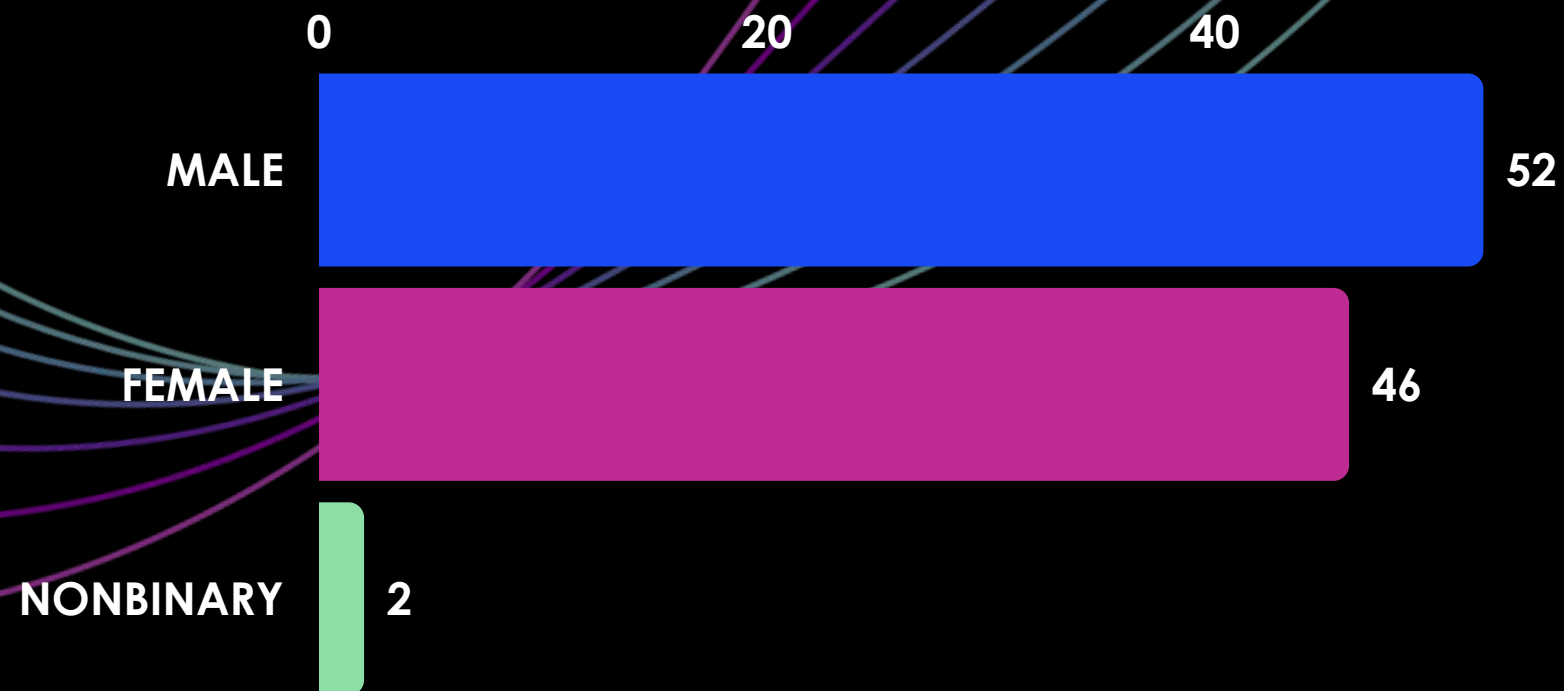
2 school partnerships

*2024-25 school year projection

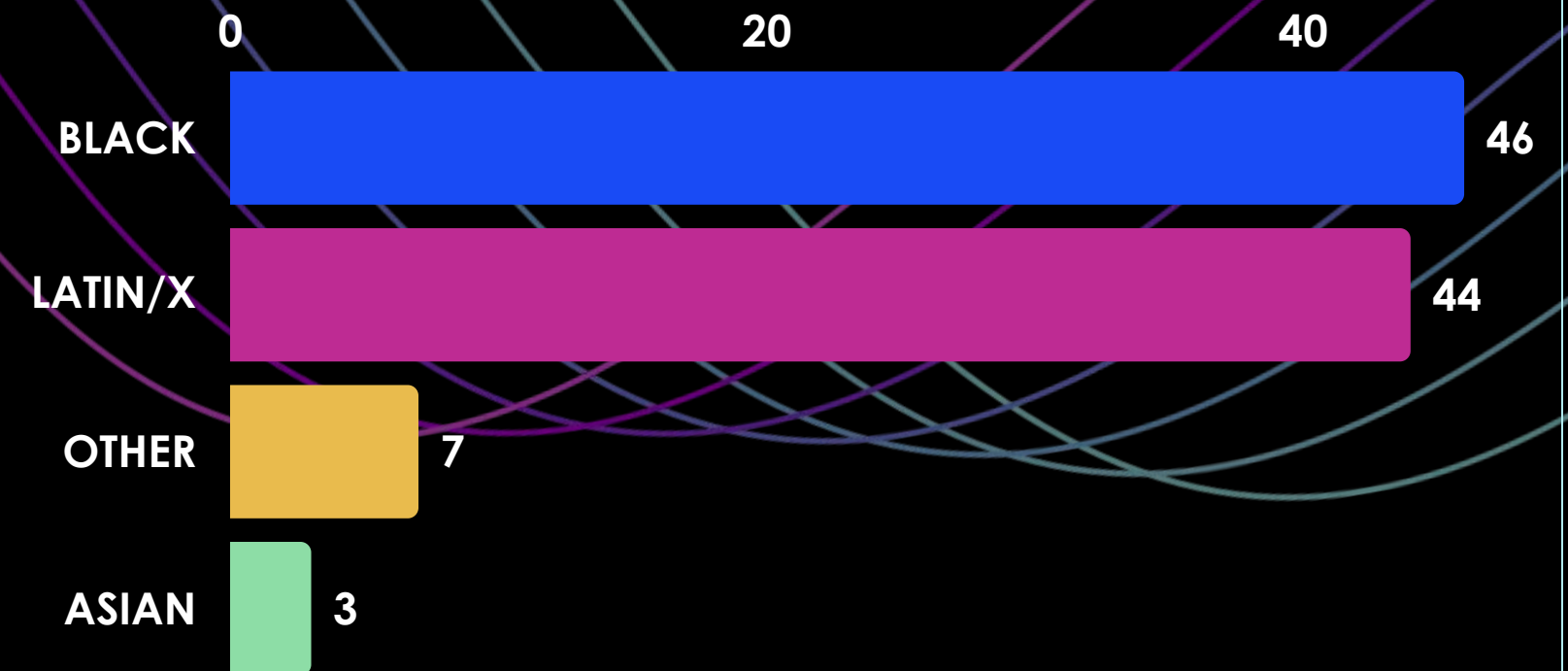


OUR YOUTH

GENDER



RACE/ETHNICITY



95% OF STUDENTS ARE AT OR BELOW THE POVERTY LINE

20% OF STUDENTS IDENTIFY AS HAVING A DISABILITY

*2024-25 school year



OUR IMPACT

STUDENTS

1553

MENTORS

141

SITES

62

ARTISTIC DISCIPLINES TAUGHT:

15

- GUITAR
- MODERN BAND
- KEYS
- VOCALS
- PHOTOGRAPHY & DIGITAL MEDIA
- BASS
- MUSIC PRODUCTION
- POETRY AND CREATIVE WRITING
- LATIN PERCUSSION
- VISUAL ART
- DRUMS
- SONGWRITING
- RAP
- SPOKEN WORD
- DJING

*2023-24 school year



SIGNATURE EVENTS

1. DAY OF GRATITUDE CHICAGO

Students, families, mentors, school partners, and community members enjoy a meaningful celebration of their collective achievements.

2. MUSIC VIDEO

Students in every city professionally film and record 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. CAMP GOGO

Our annual Camp GOGO takes place in Covenant Harbor, a picturesque setting of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Over the course of four days, our young musicians enjoy a journey filled with outdoor adventures, creative exploration, and deep self-reflection. The youth create the theme and record an EP during camp.

5. MENTOR INSTITUTE MIAMI

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. BAND TOGETHER

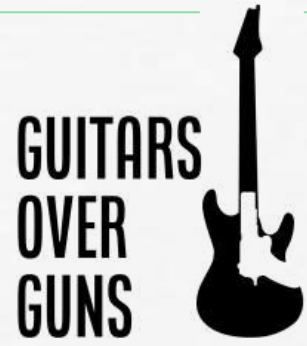
This fall event, our second annual fundraiser, is hosted in Chicago and features live mentor and student performances, a dynamic silent auction, and uplifting music.

7. CHOOSE YOUR SOUND GALA

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

Last year, our 11th annual Choose Your Sound Gala raised nearly \$900,000!





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.**



PEOPLE'S CHOICE:
\$250,000+

RECOGNITION

- Your family name/logo/company name will be included as a founding member of The Label in Chicago, Miami, and New York City.
- All benefits of the “Diamond” level in Chicago, Miami, and New York City.
- Opportunity to make remarks at Choose Your Sound Gala.
- Naming opportunities available.



GUITARS
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DIAMOND:

\$100,000+

RECOGNITION

- All “Double Platinum” Level benefits in Chicago, Miami, and New York City.
- Title inclusion in signature event.
- On-stage recognition during the awards presentation at Choose Your Sound Gala.



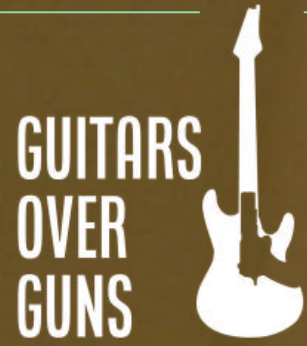


DOUBLE PLATINUM:
\$50,000+

RECOGNITION

- All “Platinum” Level benefits in Chicago, Miami, and New York City.
- Opportunity to make remarks at GOGO event.
- Prominent recognition in annual magazine.
- Dedicated social media post.
- Spotlight in our newsletter.
- Invitations to signature events.
- Backstage passes to our student showcases.





PLATINUM:
\$25,000+

RECOGNITION

- National/regional newsletter.
- Inclusion in The Label website page.
- Inclusion as a 'Founding Member' at signature events.
- Recognition in annual magazine.
- Credit at the end of the student music video.
- Highlighted in an annual social media post.





THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 - 2025 PARTNERS

• Updated 4/24/25

FOUNDING DIAMOND MEMBER (\$100,000+)

JORDEN GOLD
GIVING FUND

MULTI PLATINUM (\$75,000+)

MJ AND FRED WRIGHT

DIAMOND (\$100,000+)



VALERIE
DILLON &
DANIEL
LEWIS

YONATHAN
YEHEZKEL

THE MARGARET &
DANIEL LOEB
FOUNDATION

DOUBLE PLATINUM (\$50,000+)



GENSTONE
REALTY

THE HOWARD &
PAULA TRIENENS
FUND

THE SINGER
FAMILY
CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

LYNNE & NIGEL ROSS
CHARITABLE TRUST

PLATINUM (\$25,000 +)



THE BARRY AND
MIMI STERNLICHT
FOUNDATION

LESLIE MILLER
SAIONTZ

ANONYMOUS



THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 - 2025 PARTNERS

• Updated 4/24/25

DOUBLE GOLD (\$10,000+)



GEOFFREY
BATSIYAN

SCOTT & BECKI
ETZLER

WYNN & JEFF
ADAM

BOB & KATHY
BERNSTEIN

THE JACK TARVER
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

THE BLUHM
FAMILY CHARITABLE
FOUNDATION

SUZANNE
FELSON

SHEILA
BECHERT

JANE
HURT

CINDY WALLACE &
ALLEN MOSELEY

DAVID & LAILA CENTNER
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

MAMMEL FAMILY
FOUNDATION

ANONYMOUS

GOLD (\$5,000+)



FLORIDAVALUE
PARTNERS



MANUEL
MEDINA

BARBARA
GARRETT

GARY
ABRAMSON

AMBAL,
INC.

MARK &
CHRISTIE
OSMOND

JULIANA NEWMAN
FERNANDEZ & ERIC
NEWMAN

GOLDEN
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

BARRY
QUIRKE

HIEDE & KEN
BUCKMAN

HEAR US
ROAR

ORTEGA FAMILY
FUND

VAN & LIZ
MITCHELL

MARK
MC SHANE

KEARNEY
POSNER

SARAH FEIL LEWIN
& JONATHAN
LEWIN

JAMES
ANSIN

TANNER
LEE

CARESSA
LANIER

SILVER (\$2,500 +)



CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS



NANCY &
STEPHEN
BERNSTEIN

ROD
TAYLOR

DENISE
MINAKOWSKI

CHUCKY AR
LA FOUNDATION

ZACHARY
BENNING

HUGH K. AND
ELEANOR D.
ANDREWS
FAMILY FUND

LEONARD
GOODMAN

BARRY
ISSENBERG

CRISTINA
PEREZ

JACQUIE
O'MALLEY

ROSE ELLEN
GREENE

JULIE & MARTIN
FRANKLIN

THE CHICAGO
COMMUNITY
TRUST

JONATHAN & CAROLYN
VITRIOL FAMILY DONOR
ADVISED FUND



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THANK YOU