

# POPS

THE CLUB

## 2019 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



# Sharing

Sharing means everything to POPS the Club. We share space and meals, stories and time, joys and sorrows, laughter and tears. In sharing, we all come to understand that we belong.

Dear Friends,

Our 2019 Annual Impact Report is a way of sharing the extraordinary work our POPS the Club youth, volunteers, and teacher sponsors pour into our organization, and into our lives. They inspire us every day.

Over time we have come to understand that at the core of everything we do, at the center of every POPS club, is the heart asset of SHARING. POPS youth not only share safe spaces, meals, and stories, they share sacred moments, sorrows and joys, challenges and triumphs, compassion and tenderness, laughter and tears. At POPS sharing means listening, connecting, belonging, building support systems and positive relationships, possibilities and promises.

There's much more to tell, and we hope you'll enjoy a deeper look at these stories.

We continue to be amazed and honored by the generosity and kindness of our donors and funders. Thank you for believing in our model and our young people, and we hope you too feel buoyed and inspired by a sense of sharing.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Friedman".

Amy Friedman,  
Executive Director

# We Believe in Transformation

The mission of POPS the Club is to create a safe, empowering space in high schools for the children and other loved ones of the incarcerated. POPS uses self-expression, self-empowerment and community engagement to transform stigma and shame into hope and dignity.



# POPS Highlights





# Staffing & Developing LEADERSHIP

We have always had an unspoken but understood goal of enhancing leadership and job opportunities for all POPS students and graduates. With our growth, and thanks to the support of our funders and donors, POPS was able to meet a longtime dream of beginning to hire our graduates. In January 2019, three young people who were POPS club members in high school began interning with us. In July, we were excited to be able to hire one of those interns, Valeria De La Torre, as our Volunteer Coordinator. Over time, we envision an organization led by those who have personally experienced the impact of incarceration.

# POPS Clubs Build Positive Identity

POPS clubs engage students in activities and creative work that build positive identities. These, in return, encourage adolescents to believe in their own self-worth and to feel that they have control over their lives and futures.

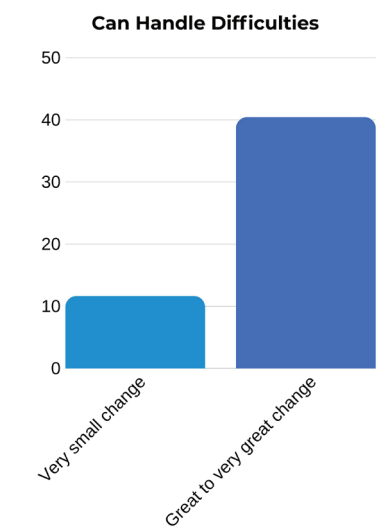
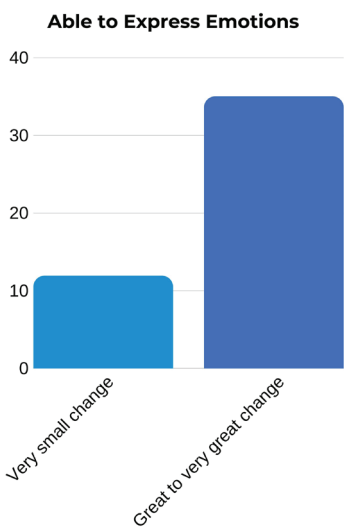
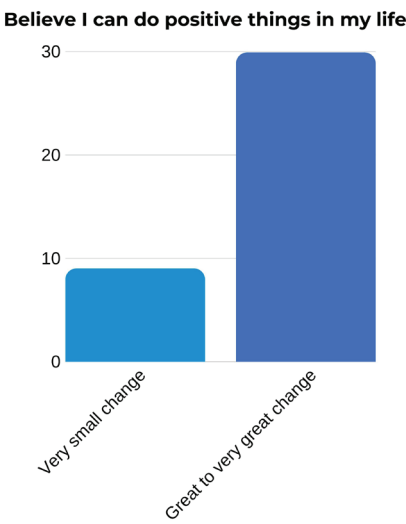
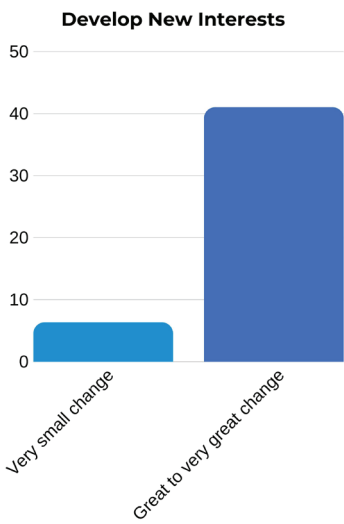
The four components of positive identity encouraged in POPS include:

- Personal power
- Self-esteem
- Sense of purpose
- Positive view of their personal future

## Outcomes Across Developmental Categories

30% - 40% of all students reported “great” to “very great” changes as a result of participating in a POPS club. By the time students had participated for 10 weeks, that figure increased to 50% - 55%.

# Life Changes After POPS



# Partnering for Success

We worked hard in 2019 to create significant social impact with a number of partners. We know that collaboration can change the world, and we are deeply grateful to our partners today--and to those we look to work with in the future.



Through a 5-year grant and ongoing support, we have been able to enhance our curriculum by filming speaker videos and creating films of our students speaking and performing their work.



POPS youth from Venice High School in Los Angeles have served as guest speakers and mentors for the children of the incarcerated at Mark Twain middle school. It has been a powerful leadership opportunity.



An ongoing partnership has enabled us to have a space to hold summer meetings and participate in joint workshops.



Julie Parrino and Marta Ferro have changed the landscape of opportunities for POPS, enhancing our grant writing and management, board development, and board support.



OPEN WINDOW  
MINDFULNESS



Kate Savage of Open Window Mindfulness in partnership with Insight LA worked with POPS to update and expand our self-empowerment curriculum centering around the practice of mindfulness.

# Sharing OUR STORIES



Each year POPS the Club publishes a collection of writing and artwork created by our members. On June 1, 2019, POPS launched its 6th anthology, *We Got Game*, at the Actor's Gang Theater in Los Angeles, with artwork, readings, dance, and music created and performed by POPS students and alumni.



***“But I identify myself as strong and happy even if the pain bothers me... Perfectly Imperfect.”***

**- Ellie Perez Sanchez**



# Curriculum

The POPS curriculum promotes social competencies so that adolescents can effectively communicate with their peers, make difficult decisions, and cope with new situations. The 5 core competencies encouraged in POPS include: planning and decision-making; interpersonal competence; cultural competence; resistance skills; peaceful conflict resolution.



## SELF EXPRESSION

Through writing, visual art, and performance, POPS students discover, heal, and share their truths.



## SELF EMPOWERMENT

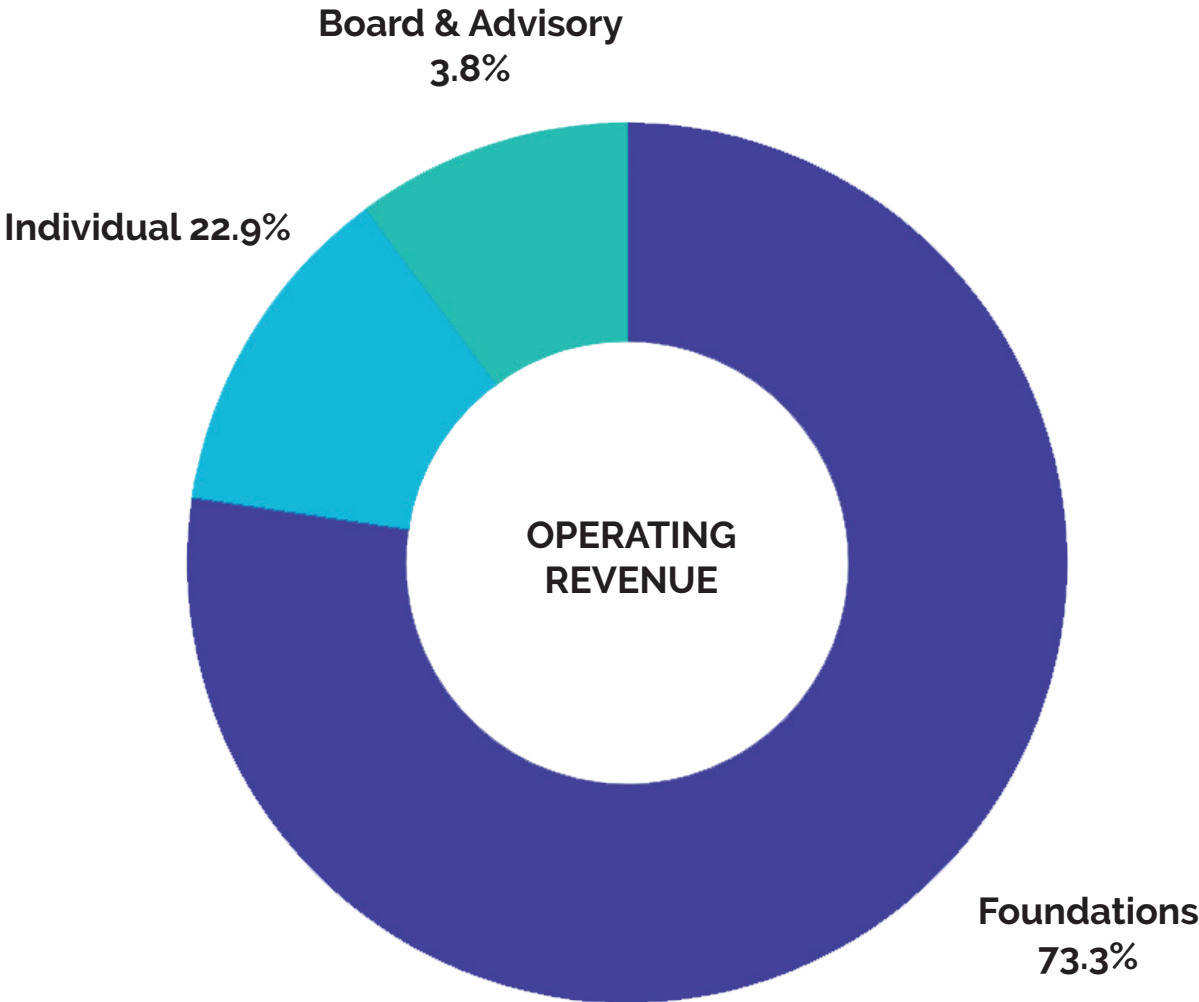
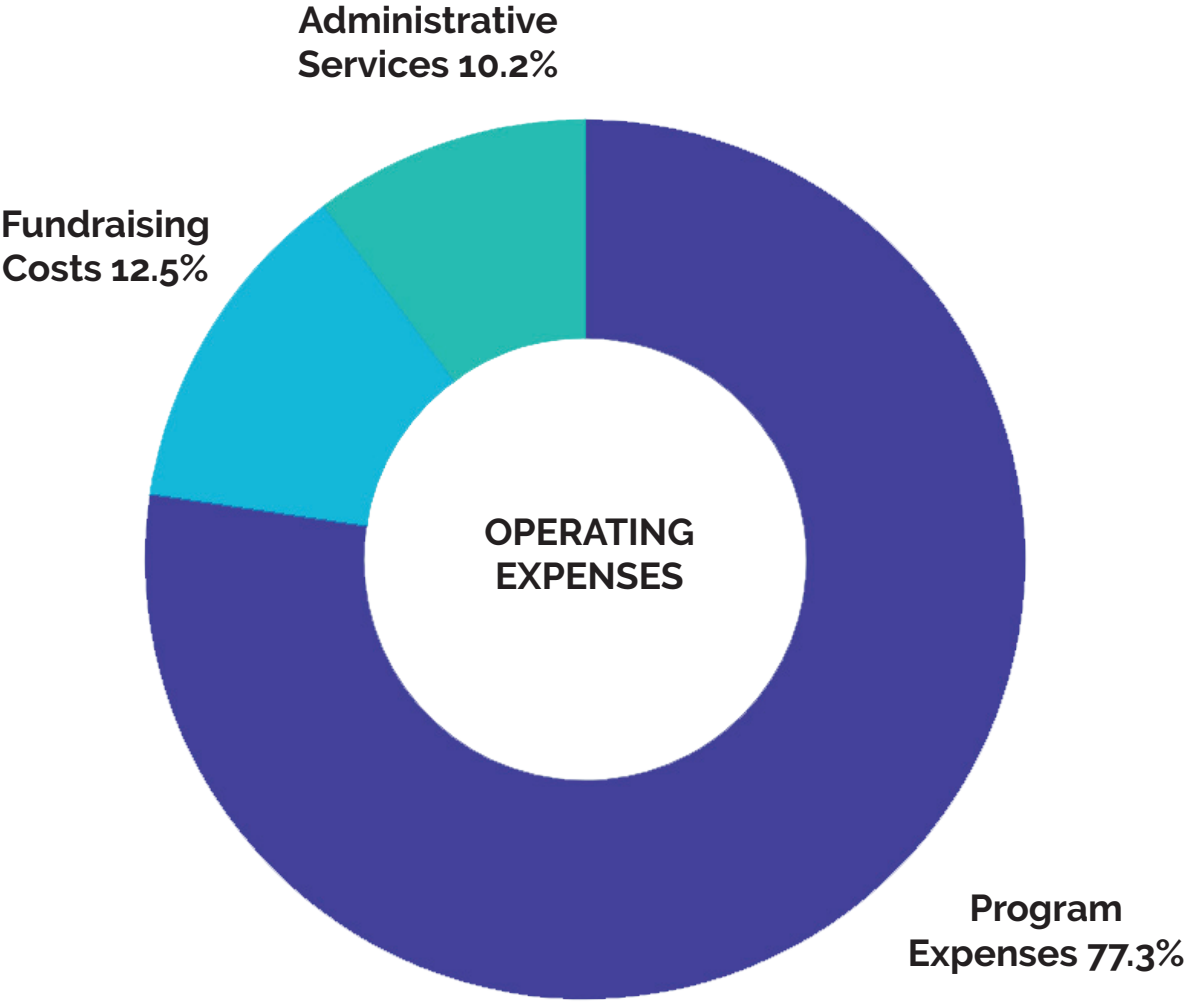
Through mindfulness practices, POPS students learn to cope with stress, increase attention, self-regulate emotions, and build resilience.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Through publishing, visiting guest speakers and student speaking opportunities, POPS youth connect to their larger communities.

# Financial Impact



Program Expenses	\$275,613.00
Fundraising Costs	\$44,510.00
Administrative Services	\$36,350.00
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Operating Expenses Total: \$356,473.00	

Foundations	\$298,765
Individual	\$93,406
Board & Advisory	\$15,620
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Operating Revenue Total: \$407,791	

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Shandra Spicer, Chair**  
Brilliant Corners
- Olivia Nelson, Vice-Chair**  
Future Beat
- Shalei Heflin, Secretary**  
Vineyard Vines, Graduate Student & Activist
- Aaron Palmer, Treasurer**  
Lucid LLC
- Dennis Daniziger, Co-Founder**  
Teacher/Writer
- Danny Alvarado**  
Rogers Behavioral Health
- Austin Lindsey**  
EY
- Sonya Lowe**  
Westside Regional Center
- Hayley Macon**  
William Morris Endeavor
- Nicole Misita**  
The Lukens Company
- Oswaldo Navarro**  
Woodbury University
- John Rodriguez**  
Writer, Student, Activist
- Hannah Rogers**  
Alpha Tutors/ WJH Law Group
- George Soneff**  
Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP

# Thank You

\$100,000 and Above	\$1,000 to \$4,999
Ready to Rise Partnership: California Community Foundation Liberty Hill Foundation and LA County Probation	Adams Family Foundation Andy Langdon Dinah's Family Restaurant Edward and Lucy R. Minor Family Foundation George Soneff & Ann Kelly Guelaguetza Restaurante Harriet Zaretsky and Steve Henry Hayley Macon Heather and Len Cariou InsightLA Jeanette Boras Judy Minor Kate Savage and Tom Miller Kim and Keith Allen-Niesen LA County Department of Mental Health Phil America Rachel Davenport Russell Sage Foundation Sandy and Sheldon Danziger The Morris Hazan Foundation The Steven and Susan Cobin Family Foundation Voices of the Canals
\$25,000 to \$99,999	
The California Endowment Carl and Roberta Deutsch Foundation The Gesner-Johnson Family Foundation Madge Stein Woods Silicon Valley Community Foundation The Worthe Family Foundation	
\$10,000 to \$24,999	
The Audrey and Sydney Irmas Charitable Foundation Factor Family Foundation Hollywood Foreign Press Association Wes Com We Care Foundation	
\$5,000 to \$9,999	
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