



ACTIVITIES BEYOND
the **CLASSROOM**

2024-2025 BIENNIAL REPORT



ENRICHING EVERY CHILD
ENSURING EVERY OPPORTUNITY

Our mission is to help students succeed through equitable opportunities in arts, athletics, and wellness that build character, ignite passions, and instill values that last a lifetime.



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Looking to the Future



These past two years marked a period of meaningful progress and organizational resilience at ABC. Despite economic fluctuations and evolving community needs, we remained focused on delivering measurable impact. We expanded services, improved operational systems, and invested in the people

and infrastructure that allow us to serve effectively. These accomplishments showcase the commitment of our staff and CPS partners, along with the unwavering support of community allies and champions who continue to advocate for our work.

As we look ahead, our partnership with the district positions us for sustained growth and greater reach, whether through our career and workforce development, our 3rd-grade literacy initiatives, or our desire to expand the world of our CPS students. None of this progress would be possible without your trust, partnership, and commitment to our organizational mission. On behalf of Activities Beyond the Classroom and the board, thank you for your continued engagement and for ensuring our momentum catalyzes greater impact.

Charley Frank

Charley Frank
President, Board of Directors

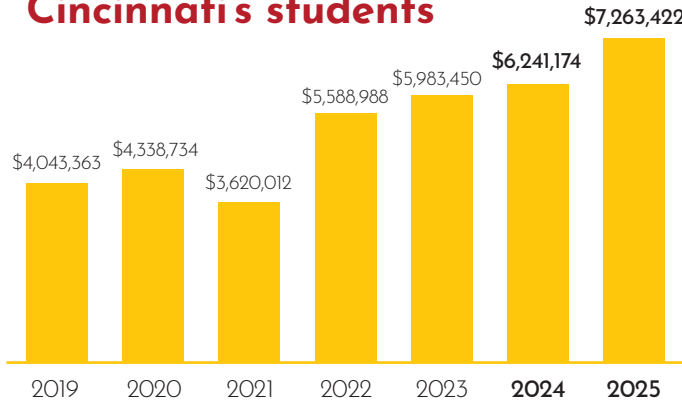
“It takes approximately 400 repetitions to create a new synapse in the brain; but if you learn in play, it takes only 10-20 repetitions.”

Karyn Purvis Institute of Child Development



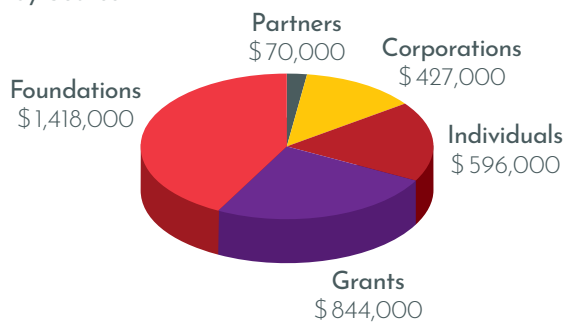
ABC BY THE NUMBERS

Funds invested in Cincinnati's students

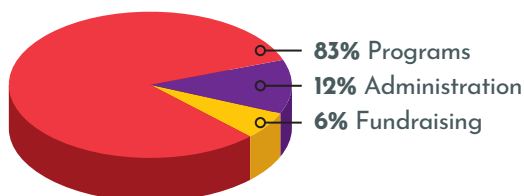


\$3,355,000 Donated Dollars

by Source



Program vs. Admin Expenses



	Programs	Administration	Fundraising
2024	\$ 5,824,419	\$ 809,389	\$ 406,016
2025	\$ 5,257,955	\$ 773,512	\$ 338,830
	\$ 11,082,374	\$ 1,582,901	\$ 744,846



ABC turned 20!

Over these 20 years...

- ~200,000 student experiences positively impacted by cost free services and programs.
- ~\$2mm+ saved in indirect costs, and tuition for pay-to-play enrichment programming that families were able to save, since ABC provided the program, the afterschool snack, the childcare, the uniforms, and the transportation without any costs.
- Hundreds of options for our Cincinnati children to select what they and their communities are interested in pursuing after school, from soccer to pottery to cooking to coding.
- Millions of dollars raised by ABC staff to support the enrichment of Cincinnati children, dollars that local school districts and families likely otherwise would never have had access to.
- Thousands of kids who learned essential life skills, from swimming to cooking to driving, in the many and varied ABC programs.

FISCAL SERVICES ACCOUNTS

Direct Support That Counts!

Fourthwall

"Fourthwall was introduced to ABC back in 2014 by Denny McFadden, founder and former executive director of what is now Adventure Crew. Initially the relationship was intended to be temporary while Fourthwall found its footing as it embarked on its own adventure in youth filmmaking. 10 years later we still use ABC as our fiscal sponsor. The reason is simple. We have not found a good reason to leave. ABC gives us the ability to accept donations but it's way more than that. They also provide invoicing services, payroll setup, payment to teaching artists and contractors, guidance and governance, and the list goes on. Most of all, they give us peace of mind, knowing that all of our financial needs will be met quickly and professionally, that our donors can feel confident that their generous gifts are being spent prudently, enabling Fourthwall to give its full attention to the young people we serve."

– Frank O'Farrell
Executive Director/Founder
Fourthwall Youth Studios

Fourthwall's mission is to empower diverse youth to find their voice and express their individuality through digital and performance arts, to change the trajectory of their own lives, those around them, and their community.



Woodward Athletics

"The support of being able to accept card payments for our Annual Golf outing helps streamline the process when participants seek to pay with card versus check. Just makes things smoother and easier for all."

– Jabreel Moton
Woodward High School Athletic Administrator

Ben Carlson-Berne Scholarship Fund

"ABC's Member Services is a premiere fiscal sponsor on every front. ABC processing invoices, preparing statements, and assisting with grants has allowed for BCB's staff to focus on what we do best, which is providing excellent music education to students in Cincinnati Public Schools. ABC keeps BCB running smoothly."

– Emily Damelio
Music Teacher

The mission of the Ben Carlson-Berne Scholarship Fund is to provide the highest quality private music lessons for underserved youth in the Cincinnati community who show an interest in classical music and commitment to lessons.



Math is a Muscle

"Your support of the Cincinnati Math Lab/Math is a Muscle, as our fiscal sponsor, enables us to provide free math tutoring services at Shroder High School and Shroder Middle School. We recruit, train, coordinate and support community volunteers working one-on-one with students closing gaps in their knowledge of basic arithmetic. Students gain more than just knowledge of basic math skills. They gain confidence in their academic ability which allows them to approach grade level math successfully and enhances their overall academic performance."

With your support we have successfully received grant funding from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation and United Way of Greater Cincinnati. Your partnership is crucial to expanding our reach to other schools as we work to close the gap in student achievement in math."

– John Verschoor
Executive Director
Math is a Muscle

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

ATHLETICS

Tennis was in Full Swing

The spirit of sportsmanship and fun was in full swing as nearly 75 third- through sixth-grade students from Pleasant Hill, Parker Woods, Cheviot Elementary, and a handful of other schools participated in afterschool tennis clubs. The energy and dedication of the children was celebrated with a special year-end gathering at Walnut Hills High School, where students participated in an exciting day of fundamental tennis-related activities, completely free of charge for the students and their families, thanks to First Serve Community Fund. Each student that attended was gifted with a brand new tennis racket!



Hunter Greene Brought a Grand Slam to Madisonville

March 2025: Straight off the pitch of Reds Opening Day, Reds pitcher Hunter Greene and ABC hosted a day to remember at the Madisonville Recreation Center. Over 800 kids, teams, and families showed up to meet Hunter and take home free baseball gear, including high-quality bats, gloves, cleats, and other essential gear. Throughout the afternoon, kids had a chance to connect one-on-one with Greene, who shared words of encouragement, signed autographs, and posed for countless photos. For many young athletes in attendance, meeting a Major League Baseball star was nothing short of a dream come true.



Youth Soccer Kicks it up a Notch

In partnership with FC Cincinnati, 450 students from over 30 schools took the pitch to form soccer teams while learning the basics of the sport, building camaraderie with their peers. Coaches were trained using the Soccer Unites program, delivered by former players and staff from FC Cincinnati. At the end of the season, students gathered at TQL Stadium for a two-day end of season celebration where they showcased the skills they learned over the course of the season, while also enjoying lunch while looking over the pitch that the pros play on. Every single student walked away from the program with a special certificate of completion and a brand new soccer ball!



Athletic Directors Returned to CPS after 12 Years at ABC

June 2025: In 2012, ABC and CPS joined forces to ensure student athletes would continue to flourish with dedicated Athletic Directors at each school. Budget restrictions required CPS to consider cutting these full-time positions, but ABC stepped in and offered to employ and manage the Athletic Directors. After many successful years of growth and dedication, the Athletic Directors returned to CPS at the end of June 2025.

ARTS & AFTERSCHOOL

CPS International Jazz Festival

ABC's celebrated annual artistic event has continued and grown, impacting students in more ways than ever before. This festival serves as a culminating performance opportunity for students participating in the Kennedy Heights Arts Center Jazz Academy program, during which students learn and perform on the mainstage of the Aronoff Center for the Performing Arts. The festival has grown to be multidisciplinary, but focuses primarily on instrumental performance. We are incredibly grateful to Flip & Sheila Cohen as well as the Ohio Arts Council, who supported both the 2024 and 2025 festivals. Donors like these are the reason that this annual festival remains an achievable, highly impactful event!

The 2024 CPS International Jazz Festival took place on March 9, and featured acclaimed Japanese jazz violinist Tomoko Omura alongside 125 students from over 20 schools throughout the Cincinnati Public Schools district. Students experienced 5 hours of targeted, small group music lessons with regional jazz music instructors, and over 800 community members attended the final evening performance - and all of this impact came at no cost to the students or community! The 2024 Jazz Festival was made possible by the investments of Flip & Sheila Cohen, the Ohio Arts Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

March 8, 2025 marked the 5th annual International Jazz Festival. It was an especially meaningful and celebrated event, as it marked the retirement of the program's founding creative director, Dr. Isidore Rudnick. To celebrate his retirement, he composed and premiered an original work titled "CityScape" specifically made for our jazz students. Over 600 community members attended the world premiere of CityScape, performed by 150+ student musicians and guest stars Camille Thurman and Tanya Darby. The 2025 Jazz Festival was made possible with the support of Flip & Sheila Cohen, the Ohio Arts Council, Millstone Fund, and the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.



Afterschool Art Clubs for Elementary Students

ONGOING: Throughout both years, ABC provided after-school arts clubs at nine schools, serving hundreds of children. Students participated in a variety of arts-based programs, including Hip Hop, Visual Arts, Anime, and Photography. A key highlight of the program was increased student engagement, as participants consistently demonstrated creativity, collaboration, and enthusiasm through hands-on artistic learning experiences.



ABC Clubs

ONGOING: ABC continued its very popular ABC Club program, reaching nearly 1000 students during the two years of this report. The program offered a wide range of enrichment options, including skating, martial arts, video game design, sewing, and more. The club gave students meaningful opportunities to try new activities, build skills, and stay engaged beyond the school day.



American Sign Language Flourishes at Woodford

ONGOING: ABC launched a new language program by providing American Sign Language (ASL) after school hours for 60 students at Woodford Academy. Woodford is known for its tailored curriculum for students who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, or have autism. This program allows students to communicate with their hearing impaired classmates.

SCHOOL SUPPORT

Roller Skating Club

September 2024: ABC introduced roller skating as a new afterschool activity, and welcomed 71 students grades K-6 from Kilgour, Rees E Price, and Rockdale schools. Not only is roller skating a healthy physical activity, but it also teaches students about an activity steeped in African American culture. Students learned from an internationally recognized roller skater, Dylan Morton, who has performed on some of the world's biggest stages, including at the AMAs with P!nk and the 2024 Super Bowl Halftime Show with Usher.



Ja'Marr Chase Brought Love and Pride to Silverton Academy

November 2023: Bengals wide receiver Ja'Marr Chase visited Silverton Academy to surprise 100 students and their families with full Thanksgiving meals, including turkeys and sides. He spent the afternoon interacting with children, playing games, and making crafts as part of a community event hosted by ABC and Integrity Express Logistics.



Cutting-Edge Technology for Hartwell Students

October 2024: ABC celebrated the grand opening of the Hartwell Tech Lab! This new state-of-the-art facility, hosted at the Hartwell Recreation Center, is designed to inspire innovation and enhance learning through access to cutting-edge technology. Open to the entire community (not just Hartwell students), the lab is equipped with desktops, laptops, iPads, color printing, and a 3D printer.



RECOGNITIONS & CELEBRATIONS

Dick Friedman Shaped Lives Across Cincinnati

March 2025: ABC brought together friends, family, educators, community leaders, and long-time supporters to celebrate the incredible legacy of Dr. Dick Friedman. Dr. Friedman served as the ABC Board President for over a decade, and stepped out of this position in July 2024. His commitment to service and equity has shaped lives across Cincinnati.



Movers & Makers Spotlights Deputy Director, Rachel Stallings, and husband Tyran Stallings

November 2024: Rachel and Tyran Stallings have made Cincinnati a better place for local children, especially those from marginalized and historically underserved populations. Rachel has devoted her career to serving low-income students in grades K-12; as Deputy Director of Activities Beyond the Classroom, she oversees the programmatic footprint affecting more than 27,000 students annually. Tyran, aside from being a partner at Buildwell Development Group, is the founder and Executive Director of the DAD (Directing Adolescent Development) Initiative, dedicated to providing mentoring, cultural and career exposure, and 21st-century skills training for youth. In their free time, they each devote additional time to the community by volunteering on boards.



ABC Celebrated its First Executive Director, Brian Leshner

March 2024: Brian Leshner, the first Executive Director of ABC, retired during COVID after 17 years at the helm. He grew the organization from one anonymous \$70,000 donation to an organization providing millions of dollars in equitable access to extracurricular and enrichment activities for the children of Cincinnati. To celebrate his legacy, ABC hosted A Toast to Brian at the 21C hotel, where nearly 100 people gathered to celebrate and thank Brian for his years of service.



513 Day: No matter where you started, we are all #TeamCincy

May 2025: ABC brought together the Cincinnati Reds, Cincinnati Bengals, and FC Cincinnati to highlight the unity and spirit of Cincinnati through 513 Day. Throughout the campaign, ABC shined a spotlight on exceptional CPS student athletes as well as profiling the journeys of local professional athletes. By bringing together professional sports teams and high school athletes under the banner of #TeamCincy, the campaign inspired pride, fostered inclusivity, and strengthened the sense of unity within Cincinnati.



THANK YOU

We are proud to partner with the following institutions and donating partners. Whether they provide program delivery, funding, program support, or donated services, we are grateful for their generosity in supporting our vision.

Partners

International Sister Cities Association
Abrakadoodle
Adopt a Class
American Legacy Theatre
Band in a Bus
Big Joe Duskin Music Education Foundation
Children's Theatre of Cincinnati
Cincinnati Academy of Performing Arts
Cincinnati Art Museum
Cincinnati Arts Association
Cincinnati Bengals
Cincinnati Children's Hospital
Cincinnati Federation of Colored Women's Club
Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon
Cincinnati Martial Arts Club
Cincinnati Music Accelerator
Cincinnati Opera

Cincinnati Police Department
Cincinnati Public Schools
Cincinnati Recreation Commission
Cincinnati Youth Collaborative
Cincy Shirts
City of Cincinnati
Clark Shafer Hackett
Cross Country For Youth
Educational Theatre Association
Elementz
Eye of the Artists
FC Cincinnati
Féwándé Cultural Programs
Flying Pig Marathon
Formidable Asset Management, Inc
Fourthwall Youth Studios
Goal Getters
Gotham Soccer League
Heroes Rise Forever

Hamilton County Job & Family Services
Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office
High Achievers Aim High
Honest Game
Joey Enfoque
Kennedy Heights Arts Center
Kingsbury Productions
Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati
La Soupe
Let's Play
Literacy Network
Math Is A Muscle
Matt Witherspoon Photography
Mayerson Academy
Most Valuable Kids (MVK)
National Park Foundation
Northwest Local School District

Ollie's Trolley
Pones
Project Connect
Scott's Driving Academy
Simpy's Playhouse and Learning Center
Skool Aid
Soul Palette
The Benjamin Carlson-Berne Scholarship Fund
The Julie Henderson Fund
The Ross X Factor
The School New Technology Initiative
Tusculum Street Festival
Underground Sports
University of Cincinnati
USA Swimming Foundation
USTA / Midwest
Word Play
YWCA



Donor/Supporter

American Marketing Association
Andrew Jergens Foundation
ArtsWave
Boye Foundation
Cincinnati Arts Association
Cincinnati Bengals
Cincinnati Children's Hospital & Medical Center
Cincinnati Heat Premier
Cincinnati Marathon Inc.
Cincinnati Reds Community Fund
City of Cincinnati
Philip & Sheila Cohen
Compass Group
Theresa & Daniel Duwell
Eastside Motivators Inc.
Eleanora C.U Alms Trust
Elsa Heisel Sule Foundation

FotoFocus
Frankenmuth Insurance Charitable Foundation
Fruth Christian Trust
General Electric
Good Sports
Gotham Soccer League
Greater Cincinnati Foundation
Haile Foundation
Harris Family Charitable Foundation
Heber Holbrook
James Heldman
Hutchison Endowment Fund
Jacob G Schmidlapp Trust
Joe Burrow Foundation
John & Joanne Lindy
Johnson Charitable Gift Fund
Kelly Financial Group, Inc.

Larry Albice
Student Entrepreneur Scholarship Fund
Light of the World Church
Marcus Martin Foundation Inc.
Matinee Musicale Endowment Fund
Manuel D & Rhonda Mayerson Foundation
Melissa & Shenan Murphy
Millstone Fund
MSA Design
National Endowment for the Arts
National Football League Foundation
Nellie Leaman
Taft Foundation
New Thought Unity Center
NSA Foundation
Mark Pfau

PNC Charitable Trust
Republic Bank
Edward Rosenthal
Lori Rosenthal
Saul Schottenstein Foundation
Scripps Family Fund for Education and the Arts
Union Savings
Ellen Kahn Stillpass
First Serve Community Fund
Tusculum Street Festival
Unnewehr Family Foundation
Urban American Rugby
US Bank Foundation
United Way of Greater Cincinnati
Westend Ventures
Woodward Trust
Dr. Ann Saluke & Donald Yelton



A STRONGER FUTURE FOR CINCINNATI'S STUDENTS *starts now*

introducing

The Strategic Evolution of Activities Beyond the Classroom

For years, Activities Beyond the Classroom (ABC) has proudly served as a vital connector for Cincinnati Public Schools, ensuring our students have the tools to dream, discover, and belong. But as the landscape of education and the needs of our community expand, our organization must evolve to unlock deeper opportunities for success.

In 2026, we are proud to introduce KidFuture CPS—the strategic evolution of ABC.

Moving beyond a traditional foundation model, KidFuture focuses on funding, partnerships, and strategy to ensure resources reach the district's students where they can make the greatest difference. We are an independent, strategic non-profit partner serving as the foundation for Cincinnati Public Schools, advancing equity by aligning community investment with the opportunities that matter most for students.

OUR FOCUS: FOUR PILLARS OF IMPACT



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Every child, regardless of zip code, deserves the tools, support and inspiration needed to thrive academically.



WHOLE CHILD WELLNESS

Students succeed when they feel safe, supported and seen, and resources that nurture emotional, social and physical well-being are critical to their success.



CAREER & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Connecting classrooms to careers gives students confidence, skills and real-world experiences needed to navigate life and contribute to our future workforce.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Exposure beyond the classroom opens doors to curiosity, belonging and opportunity in their neighborhood, city and beyond.

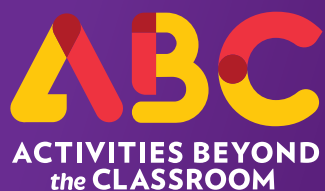
[learn more](#)

TOGETHER, OUR WORK AND YOUR SUPPORT ENSURES THE NEXT GENERATION OF CINCINNATI STUDENTS CAN DREAM, DISCOVER, AND BELONG.

KIDFUTURECPS.ORG



Our vision is thriving children,
engaged parents, and
supportive communities



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