



# 2024–2025 Annual Report

 Settlement *is...*  
Philadelphia's arts and music school since 1908

---

[settlementmusic.org](https://settlementmusic.org)



# Settlement *believes...*



**Helen Eaton**  
Chief Executive Officer

In 1908, two young women set out to welcome new families to Philadelphia — and in doing so, founded an institution that would change the city’s history. They chose the arts to bring people together and build community, guided by the belief that **children and families thrive when they have access to music programs that are both high-quality and affordable.**

***For 117 years, Settlement has stayed true to this principle.***

So what does that look like in action? As one of the nation’s largest and most influential community schools of the arts, and one of only 16 with **national accreditation**, our success relies on investing in our people. That means supporting the **faculty, staff, and students** who make Settlement a “home away from home,” and it also means being guided by an engaged **Board and senior leadership team** whose stewardship and care strengthen our work at every level. Together, these investments ensure we can fulfill our mission and sustain our impact year after year.

What follows is a snapshot of how we lived those values throughout the **2024-2025 school year**. Please enjoy — and thank you for being part of our Settlement family.

“I have not just learned here, I have lived and grown here. This is where I can belong.”

*Celeste, age 11*

**Mary Louise Curtis Branch**  
416 Queen Street

**Benoliel-Germantown Branch**  
6128 Germantown Avenue

**Kardon-Northeast Branch**  
3745 Clarendon Avenue

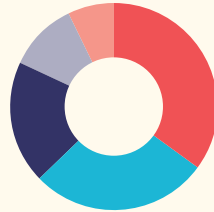
**Willow Grove Branch**  
318 Davisville Road

**Wynnefield Branch**  
4910 Wynnefield Avenue

**Settlement Music Online**

## Student Demographics

### Diversity



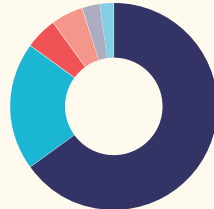
**African American/Black: 19%**  
**Asian: 28%**  
**Caucasian: 35%**  
**Hispanic/Latinx: 7%**  
**Multiracial: 11%**

### Age

**5 or younger: 11%**  
**6-12: 50%**  
**13-18: 23%**  
**Adults & Seniors: 16%**



### Location



**Philadelphia County: 65%**  
**Montgomery County: 20%**  
**Delaware County: 5%**  
**Bucks County: 5%**  
**New Jersey: 3%**  
**Beyond: 2%**

We have always considered ourselves part of the fabric of this city — and now we’re *literally* part of it, thanks to our newly minted plaque on Broad Street’s Avenue of the Arts!



# You Supported

**10,693 lessons**, classes, arts therapy sessions, and other services delivered to students in our 5 branches, online, and in our community partnerships every week

**1,269 students** who demonstrated their progress during annual Certification

**173 free performances** and masterclasses held at our branches

**\$2.8 million in financial aid** distributed to students

**60% of students benefiting** from financial aid and scholarships

**91 collaborating partner organizations**, ranging from use of our spaces to offsite Settlement programming

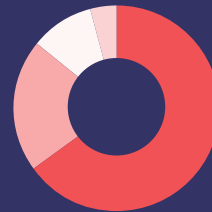
**11 afterschool band, orchestra, choir, and drumline programs** in 8 Philadelphia public schools

Access to the arts for **thousands** of students across the region

**Accessible Creative Arts Education**  
**...for ALL!**

## 2024-2025 Finances

With a **\$10.2 million** operating budget and revenue to match, Settlement remains financially strong and fiscally responsible. This year, our endowment grew from **\$12 million** to **\$19 million** thanks to significant bequests.

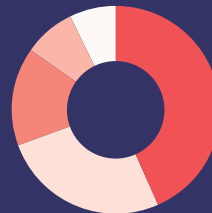
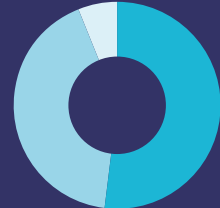


### Expenses

**Program Services: 65%**  
**Financial Aid: 21%**  
**Occupancy: 4%**  
**Management: 10%**

### Revenue

**Tuition: 52%**  
**Contributed: 42%**  
**Investments & Other: 6%**



### Sources of Operating Gifts

**Individuals & Bequests: 44%**  
**Board: 15%**  
**Special Events: 8%**  
**Foundations: 26%**  
**Corporate & Government: 7%**

# Settlement teaches...

Settlement operates one of the largest individual instruction programs in the country. Our **160 faculty and creative arts therapists** teach over 30 instruments, ensembles, pre-k, and therapy sessions. Nearly half have been teaching here for more than a decade, and **94% returned for the 2024-2025 school year.**



"Our children's teachers are, by far, the most dedicated, caring, and loving teachers that I have ever met. Seeing my daughter thrive and be excited to go to school every day is comforting to me."

*Flor, Kaleidoscope parent*

Long-term faculty retention is rare in arts education and is built through sustained investment in professional growth. Programs like the **Valerie Clayton Professional Development Fund** provide faculty with access to specialized training, seminars, and certifications. A new two-year grant from the **William Penn Foundation** allows us to lead city-wide professional development convenings and learning cohorts for music teachers across Philadelphia.

Our **Kaleidoscope Preschool Arts Enrichment program** is a joyful and inclusive model for early childhood education. Serving **113 students** in South Philadelphia and Germantown, this Head Start program received the **Children & Families Impact Award** at the Please Touch Museum's 2025 Imagination Ball, reflecting its strong reputation in the community.

Congratulations to  
piano faculty member  
**Lois Ann DiDomenico**,  
who joined Settlement in  
1964 and celebrated her  
60th anniversary with us  
in the 2024-25 season!







## Settlement empowers...

Now in its second decade, our **Music Education Pathways** program engaged **243 students** in bands, orchestras, choirs, and drumlines at **eight partner schools** — a 14% increase in enrollment over the prior year. Twice-weekly rehearsals were enriched by Q&As with teens from our PMAY Artists' Initiative and Advanced Study program, as well as workshops with partners such as the Mendelssohn Chorus and the Back to BACH Project.

This year, fifth grader Carter Wingate became the first Pathways student accepted into our PMAY Artists' Initiative, building a clear pipeline from early music education to pre-professional instruction.

In its eighth year, the **PMAY (Philadelphia Music Alliance for Youth) Artists' Initiative** supported advanced training and college prep for young musicians from communities underrepresented in classical music. The program welcomed **12 new Artists** (including Carter), bringing enrollment to 32. Masterclasses were held with musicians including **Sheku Kanneh-Mason** (cello), **Anthony McGill** (clarinet), and **Britton-René Collins** (percussion).

"The most important lessons I've learned over the years have been about motivation and failure. There are thousands of career paths in music, none of which can be achieved if you shy away from failure."

*Miro Raj, PMAY Artist*

Workshops included topics such as recording techniques, financial literacy, and conducting. Eight PMAY Artists were selected to attend the national **Sphinx Performance Academy** — a record from any single program.

**We are so grateful for our partners in PMAY:**

**Musicopia**

**Philadelphia Sinfonia**

**PYO Music Institute**

**Project 440**

**School District of Philadelphia**

**Temple Music Prep**

Our 5 graduating Artists, four of whom joined PMAY in middle school, were offered **\$4 million in scholarships** to attend top programs including Oberlin, Eastman, Harvard, and Manhattan School of Music.

# Settlement *connects...*

In 2024-2025, our **Kardon Center for Arts Therapy** reached a major milestone with approval to accept **Medicaid**, significantly expanding access to services for clients who might not otherwise afford care. Clients include children, teens, and adults seeking developmental, emotional, and stress-related support. We believe that anyone can benefit from arts therapy.

With this expanded access, enrollment in creative arts therapy services **grew by 40%**. The program scaled to meet demand, with **20 therapists** serving **250 clients** at our branches and delivering more than **800 services** through community partnerships.

"I wish there were more people in the world who are more like these therapists. Settlement has given us hope that there are still good people around."  
*parent of a Kardon Center client*

Our **Community Partnerships** program reached over **2,500 people** through **33 partner organizations** including schools, recreation centers, care facilities, and hospitals. Programming was tailored to each site and ranged from arts therapy to early childhood music, bucket drumming, group strings, dance, and even show choir.

Community engagement flowed both ways. During the year, Settlement hosted **dozens of branch partners** including music organizations, theater companies, neighborhood associations, and more for their concerts, auditions, festivals, and meetings. Students and faculty provided **28 free performances** for our neighbors to enjoy at local cafés, bars, festivals, and other events across the city.

## 2024-2025 Community Partners included...

Abramson Cancer Center  
Aspen Grove School  
Autism Cares  
Greene Towne Montessori School  
Gustine Recreation Center  
House at Pooh Corner  
Lutheran Settlement House  
Mercy Neighborhood Ministries  
Ronald McDonald House  
Urban Youth Kings & Queens  
Widener Memorial School

**...and so many more!**





## Settlement enriches...

Chamber music flourishes at Settlement for musicians of all ages. Students in our nine **Advanced Study chamber groups** receive high-level coaching, formal performance opportunities, and national recognition. For the second year in a row, one of our Advanced Study ensembles reached the semi-finals of the prestigious **Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition**. Several individual Advanced Study musicians were featured on WRTI's Young Artist Spotlight series, and collectively they attended **28 elite summer music camps and festivals**, including Heifetz, Interlochen, National Youth Orchestra, Sphinx, and Tanglewood Music Center.

*"It's good to know you're not the only one who feels a certain type of way. Playing by myself, it feels isolated. But in a group, I feel a little bit of peace."*

*Collin, Advanced Study musician*



Music is not just for the young — **16% of our students are adults and seniors**. Many of them find community through our **Adult Chamber Players** program, Adult Orchestra, Adult Choir, or jazz ensembles. Enrollment in our annual Adult Chamber Players Weekend **increased by 30%** this past summer, where participants enjoyed a series of coachings, workshops, and performances.



## Settlement Music School



### Enroll

Visit [settlementmusic.org/get-started](https://settlementmusic.org/get-started)  
to start your Settlement journey



### Partner

Visit [settlementmusic.org/partnerships](https://settlementmusic.org/partnerships)  
to find us in your community

### Give

Visit [settlementmusic.org/give-now](https://settlementmusic.org/give-now) to  
make your tax-deductible contribution today

