

# 2024 ANUAL REPORT





### CMCB A Letter from Lecolion



What a year of evolution this has been for CMCB and our communities! As many of you know, in Spring 2024 we announced that **CMCB purchased a building in the Nubian Square neighborhood** of the historic Roxbury Cultural District. Upon the completion of the renovation in 2026, CMCB will own a flagship campus for arts education and creative youth development in Boston. With our continued commitment to maintaining space in our South End campus, both locations will provide lessons, classes, excellent teachers, and learner-centered curricula.

In our 114 year history, CMCB's headquarters have spanned different buildings, mergers, and developments. Throughout, one thing has remained the

same: CMCB's commitment to supporting over 150 schools and organizations in the last few decades alone.

Our students, families, and teachers have filled every location to the brim with music, joy, and camaraderie. Now, as we move forward into becoming **owners rather than renters**, we take even more of our destiny into our own hands. As we continue to match money to mission, we are excited to **create beautiful spaces** where we can work with **more students**, where **more families** can gather, and where we can continue on our journey toward being ever more inclusive for our learners.

We also made significant strides in developing a more unified teaching philosophy via our **student pathways**, and our **youth employment program** created capstone opportunities for students to learn how to thrive in the boardroom and the front office just as they do on stage. We are proud to continue identifying ways in which our students and families can feel seen and heard as they move throughout CMCB's programs.

I have been especially touched as I have watched local community support become bolstered by support from major philanthropists via large-scale national initiatives. For example, CMCB was proud to be a **laureate of the Lewis Prize in 2023-24**, one of the most prestigious awards for creative youth development in America. As part of our final round interview, we gathered students, teachers, parents, and community volunteers for a five hour visit. We got to sit back and hear one moving story after another relayed to the Lewis Prize team from the people who matter most: our students, families, and teachers.

None of this is possible, of course, without people like you. Each recipient of this document has played a role in making this magic happen. You have been advocates in the community; helped open doors to new networks; recommended friends to sign up for lessons; and donated your own personal time, talent, and resources to help us realize our vision. Thanks to supporters like you, by June 30 2024, CMCB has raised over \$14 million in our Valuing All Voices Capital Campaign.

Make no mistake. We are not finished. Although we have so much to celebrate, we still have more to strive for. And most importantly, we will still need you. If you haven't had a chance to see the building, please drive by 2164 Washington Street or schedule a tour of the building with one of our youth employees. Invite friends to our Fall Benefit which will be located just steps away from our building at Hibernian Hall. Learn more about our musical pathways and how they are reshaping the way that we view our teaching and learning practices. But most importantly, do all that you can to ensure that we have strong wind in our sails as we set off on this new voyage of discovery and adventure!

Leedin Wast

# OUR REACH

# MUSIC IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

With programs throughout virtually every neighborhood CHARLESTOWN in Boston, CMCB operates innovative Community Music School Programs at our headquarters in Boston's South End and Community Engagement Programs with 26 partners throughout Boston.

BEACON HILL

BACK BAY

ALLSTON/BRIGHTON

MISSION HILL

JAMAICA PLAIN

ROXBURY

SOOTH END

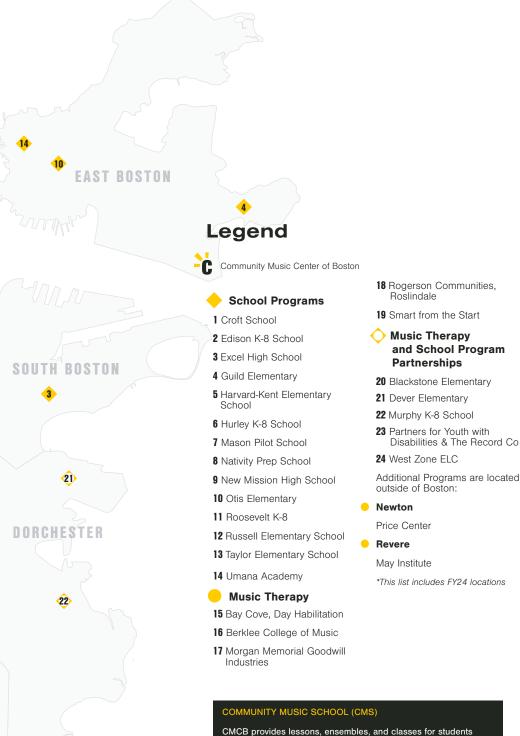
ROSLINDALE

18

**WEST ROXBURY** 

MATTAPAN

HYDE PARK



CMCB provides lessons, ensembles, and classes for students of all ages at our headquarters located at 34 Warren Avenue in Boston's South End, as well as youth leadership and paid employment opportunities for students age 14-24.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS (CEP)

CMCB's School, Community, and Music Therapy Partnerships provide culturally inclusive and accessible music instruction and music therapy to students in public, private and other educational settings.



If you haven't already heard our biggest news of the year - **CMCB is expanding!** This April, we announced our purchase of a new flagship location in Nubian Square, marking the beginning of our newest chapter. This significant milestone not only underscores our commitment to the growth and prosperity of the community but also presents an extraordinary opportunity to deepen our connections within the historic arts and culture landscape of Roxbury.



We are grateful for the **longstanding relationships and partnerships** we have cultivated with our neighbors, which have laid the foundation for this exciting new chapter. For years, we've supported many Roxbury schools through our programmatic work, providing weekly music instruction through our amazing CMCB faculty. Through our expansion, we look forward to **continuing our investment** in the community, moving beyond being a service provider to **being a full community partner** in the South End, Roxbury, and beyond. We greatly appreciate the local leaders and friends who have welcomed us with open arms, advising us and challenging us to create spaces and partnerships that bring out the best in us.

In addition to our commitment to the Roxbury community, this expansion represents a **long term commitment to our students**. Through our full renovation of the new location, we can create a space that meets the needs of all our students and brings joy to all who enter our doors.

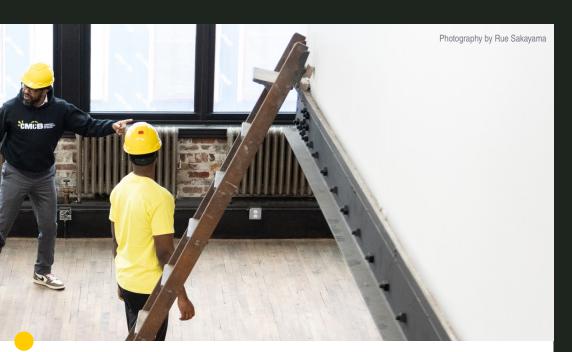
"Students will have a space that is **state-of-the art**, that is **accessible**, and that **matches the wonder** that they feel when they're a part of our community."

- Cori Bodley, Chief Programming Officer

The new space will -

- Offer enhanced performance spaces, updated classrooms, excellent acoustics, and improved accessibility to existing and future students
- Allow more students to participate in our wide range of individual and group music classes, as well as arts and cultural events throughout Roxbury and beyond

And, even once the new building **opens in 2026**, our excellent teachers and curricula will be available in **both the South End and in Nubian Square**.



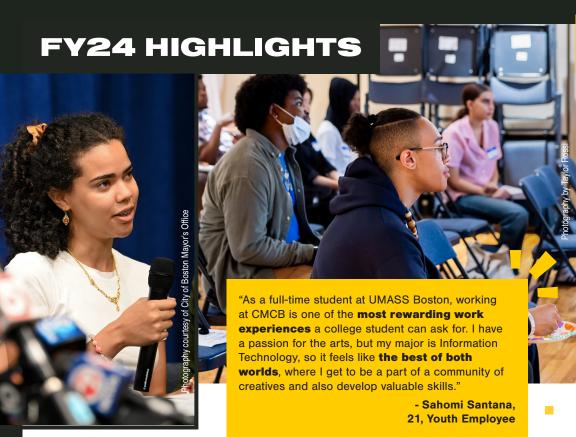
While this milestone marks a crucial step in CMCB's future, it's **only one part of our commitment.** Our goal is for each student to enter our renewed space and discover a world of possibilities. Beyond transforming our physical spaces, we're dedicated to **enriching our programs**—expanding on initiatives like our youth employment program and the new student pathways framework to ensure every student feels represented and included. As we continue to grow, we strive to truly **embody the "Community" in our name**, creating an environment that nurtures the diverse futures of every student who walks through our doors.

It is with deep humility and pride that we embark on the journey to bring this vision to life over the coming years. Because of **major support from our entire community**, we've turned dreams that were once just ideas on paper into reality. Thank you to our faculty and staff, who have laid the foundation for this new chapter. Thank you to our donors, whose generous gifts have propelled us towards this goal and allowed us to actualize our efforts. And a heartfelt thank you to our families, who inspire us to keep dreaming with them every day.



"Anybody who has ever been a renter knows the significance of what it means to be a homeowner. It's part of your evolution economically and a part of your identity. It's a **signature moment** in a person's life when they purchase their own home for the first time. If you think about it from that perspective, there's been so much momentum around CMCB and to have this moment is really big."

- Lecolion Washington, Executive Director



#### YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AT CMCB

Since its creation in 2020, our Youth Employment program continues to blossom! Just this year, we've received significant recognition as a **leader in youth empowerment** from organizations like the Lewis Prize, the National Endowment for the Arts, and EdVestors that have allowed us to invest more deeply in the program.

With this support, we've built an entire team dedicated to supporting and advocating for our youth employees. These full-time staff members have been an invaluable addition, creating better systems to help us meet the needs of these young leaders and celebrating each youth employee along the way. Our youth employees are such integral members of the CMCB family, and it is truly wonderful to be a part of their journeys as we grow alongside each other every day.

## SONGWRITING AND RECORDING WITH PARTNERS FOR YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES (PYD) AT THE RECORD CO (TRC)

This April break, we teamed up with PYD and TRC to host an incredible **weeklong songwriting and recording workshop** just for PYD participants. Each day, English and Spanish-speaking students dove into the world of music production, **crafting their own beats and learning the ropes** with the help of our amazing bilingual CMCB faculty members, Mark Perez and Carlos Herrand Pou. By the end of the week, these budding musicians created something truly unique—and we got to celebrate their hard work with a showcase, **surrounded by their families and friends.** Want to see the magic for yourself? Just scan the QR code for a deeper look!



## **Student Pathways**

**Every student pursues music for a different reason.** Some of us came out of the womb with a deep love of music. Some of us heard our favorite band on the radio and begged our friends to start a group together. Some of us needed a new hobby and discovered our love of music later in life. Some of us saw a famous musician and said, "I want to be you when I grow up." We all have different points in our lives that connected us to the **possibilities of music** and allowed us to dream.

Unfortunately, some of us also had that initial musical flame quenched by a negative learning experience. It is all too common that schools and teachers can be unprepared to support the full potential of a student's musical journey. Many programs assume that all students have the same motivation for pursuing music, and, in doing so, turn students away from pursuing music at all. At CMCB, we **meet each student where they are** in their journey and understand that each student has a different musical purpose that evolves as they grow.

To **celebrate and formalize** these many musical possibilities, we worked with faculty and staff to create a new framework - our Student Pathways. These 4 musical pathways allow our students to have more agency in their musical journey at CMCB.

#### STUDENT PATHWAYS



**Musical Explorers** engage in the process of examining and being curious about sounds, rhythms and instruments.



**Performing Musicians** focus primarily on composing, conducting, or performing music with the goal of being competitive at a music college, conservatory, or solo competition.



**Community Musicians** work with people to enable them to actively enjoy and participate in music, with people who share common interests, experiences and backgrounds.



**Citizen Musicians** contribute to society either through the transformative power of their artistic abilities, or through other areas of engagement including education, community building, social justice-themed projects, diplomacy, and healthcare.

After months of research on these pathways, we've released **two landmark reports** about teaching and learning at CMCB! One co-authored with Tavis Linsin, PhD of Creative Inquiry Labs focuses on the **design and development** of these new models and related teacher training. The other, co-authored with impact evaluation firm WolfBrown, carries this research further, analyzing **how students relate** to each pathway. We officially announced these reports in June where we heard from Executive Director, Lecolion Washington, Tavis Linsin, and our much-loved teachers who shared how they worked together—alongside students, staff, parents, and national experts—to design and roll out CMCB's Student Pathways Program. We're so proud to continue championing these musical pathways and supporting our students wherever their musical journey takes them!



As a society, there's such a definition of what success looks like. And that's different for everyone. Yesterday, some of my student's family told me...it means a lot to them to see their 4-year-old really happy coming out of a lesson.

- Macky Caldoza, CMCB Faculty

Excellence is when a student feels proud of themselves. I think if a student feels fulfilled, and they feel confident in what they do, then I think we reach the goal of excellence.

- Mark Perez, CMCB Faculty

# **2024 DONORS**

We are grateful for these gifts to CMCB during Fiscal Year 2024: July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.

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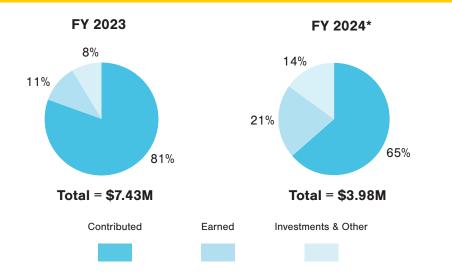
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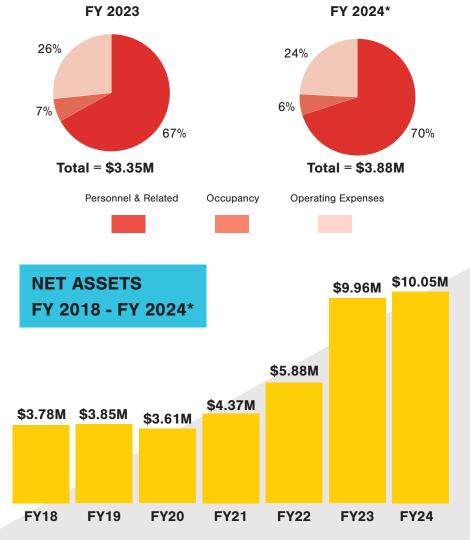


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Personnel as of Spring 2024.



Community Music Center of Boston (CMCB) is an arts education non-profit with a mission to transform lives throughout Greater Boston by providing equitable access to excellent music education and arts experiences.

Over 2,500 students of all ages, from pre-school to seniors, participate in our programs every week. We are proud to act as the largest external provider of arts education to the Boston Public Schools, supporting rigorous, relevant, and culturally-inclusive musical instruction for one of the most diverse school districts in the nation.

CMCB is recognized as a cornerstone for local arts education and a national leader in advancing culturally-inclusive and learner-centered community music education. Throughout our decades of musical instruction, over 100,000 Boston students have benefitted from CMCB's lessons and classes. Our bold vision is one where everyone is treasured for being their best self and where young people can convene and participate in the arts in ways that are joyful, safe, and empowering.





















