OMAHA GIRLS ROCK
PO. Box 4247
Omaha, NE 68104

“It takes a village to raise strong and confident young women in today’s complicated & pressurized world.”

Omaha girls rock is a nonprofit organization offering summer camp and after-school programming focused on the empowerment of female youth through music and self-expression.

Our mission is to empower young women to find their unique voice through creativity, music, education and performance.

omahagirlsrock.com
OGR 2016 Annual Report

2016 Board of Directors:
Anne Stockman, (President), Assistant General Counsel, Mutual of Omaha Bank
Jannette Taylor, (Vice President), Administrator of Children's Services, Lutheran Family Services
Abby Jordan (Treasurer), Founder, Excruciating Ice Cream and Grill
Katie Baum, Outreach Programs Coordinator/Founder of Science Cafe, UNMC
Melanie Clark, President, Clark Creative Group
Nancy Derrico, Senior Consultant, Gallup
Stefanie Drutin-Senensky (Founder), Musician

2016 Staff:
Melissa Warth, Executive Director
Erika Corrado, Program Director
Anne Dilocker, Music Director
Anna Dyer, Graphic Designer

Thanks to friends & supporters like you, 2016 was our most impactful year yet... but our young women need us now more than ever. With your continued support, we know we can do more.

IT'S A NEW YEAR. LET'S GET TO WORK...

As I sit down to write this letter to you, our community of participants and supporters, I am reflecting on how Omaha Girls Rock has come to be present in your lives and how it has continually grown. I realize that OGR is necessary because as a community, our ultimate goal is to build each other up.

Why is Omaha Girls Rock so important?
Why is it important to give young women in your community an outlet for them to share their voice? First, there is no other organization in Omaha like Omaha Girls Rock. Because we are the

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You're going to have tough times with your band or with learning your instrument. You just have to work through it - and that's the crux of what we're doing. Those are the skills that campers can apply elsewhere in their lives.

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-Melissa Warth, Executive Director

above:
Every year campers learn and perform the OGR camp song as a group.
The lyrics in the video were set to music in each of them.
Each of us has an inner compass that helps us to know where to go and what to do. Its signals are interest, excitement, the joy of understanding for its own sake, and the sort of fear that is a sign of being in new territory – and therefore of growth. “

Gloria Steinem

This camp has changed my life. I have met new people and was introduced to new concepts. My piano skills have improved and I've felt more confident.”
- Camper, age 11

Omaha Girls Rock creates a space where it’s safe enough for my unsure girl to be brave.”
- Parent of 2018 Camper

I'm not only inspired by the campers and the growth they experience while at camp, but also by my fellow volunteers — who are inspiring women in the Omaha area who do amazing things for the community.”
- 2018 Volunteer

It takes a village to raise strong and confident young women in today's complicated and pressurized world. We parents need the help of positive outside influences. Thank you, OGR for the lasting impression you made on our daughter.”
- Parent of 2018 Camper

Every year I have a great time. Sure, it’s a little scary at first, but once you spend some time here it feels like family!”
- Camper, age 10

I'm so glad that this camp can inspire girls to be themselves!”
- Camper, age 9

Above: A camper dances with the music while a band plays for the girls during Lunch. Our Nutrition performance series is a chance for campers to be exposed to and to interact with local female artists including dance troupes, industry professionals and bands of varied music genres.
Collaboration

Omaha Girls Rock (OGR) collaborates with a number of community arts and nonprofit organizations that are committed to educating and empowering girls and young women in the Omaha community.

We’re collaborating with Fill the Stages to offer extended learning programming after summer camp sessions, including a nights & sounds series. OGR also collaborates with The Union for Contemporary Art, an organization that is committed to enriching artists and the community to inspire positive social change. Union artists teach OGR camp participants merchandising classes and other art projects. Every year, we work with Omaha Music Festival and Nebraska through joint fundraising efforts, cross promotion, and sharing expert resources to enhance each others’ programming. A band from each OGR camp session is selected to play at the annual Omaha Music Festival.

Our OGR after school program collaborates with Planned Parenthood’s Community Outreach Program, designed to reach elementary, middle school, and high school students. Together, we facilitate workshops focused on body image, gender stereotypes, and healthy relationships. These collaborative efforts helped make OGR’s “pilot program” at Lomax and Clark Middle School a great success.

We also collaborate with Girls Inc. of Omaha, serving many of their clients through scholarships at our summer camps and programming. In fact, OGR’s first out-of-school after school programming will be held at Girls Inc., allowing us to reach many diverse young women who would not otherwise have opportunities to benefit from OGR’s unique and impactful programming.

above:
We held two separate weeks of camp again in 2016, with two separate summer showcase concerts at The Slowdown and at the Waiting Room Lounge. During a multimedia workshop, the girls produced and edited band videos that were projected onstage during the showcase.

at right (from left to right):
Students at Monroe Middle School experiment with Garage Band during an after-school session. Through community partnerships, we expanded our after-school programming to 4 Omaha schools in 2016! A group of campers pose for a photo during free time - many of the girls form lasting friendships while at camp; working on lyrics during a “Songwriting 101” workshop - our programming is focused on creating a safe space that fosters self-expression.
We’re making an impact, thanks to continued support & generosity from the Omaha community.

**OGR 2016 INCOME**
- $47,900
  - 17% Individual donations/gifts
  - 23% Tuition
  - 2% Merch Sales
  - 3% Corporate
  - 55% Foundational gifts/grants

**EXPENDITURES**
YOUR SUPPORT HELPED US ACCOMPLISH A NUMBER OF VITAL GOALS:
- Scholarships for campers
  - Campers may tuition on a self-reported sliding scale or attend camp, free of charge, through our scholarship program. In 2016, over 50% of our campers received either full or partial scholarships.
- Expansion of afterschool programming
- Scholarships for staff to attend conferences & workshops
- Stipends for staff/volunteers

**SPONSORS & FRIENDS**
Gifts and Donations: Sherwood Foundation, Omaha Venture Group, Omaha Community Foundation, Laurier Foundation, Women’s Fund of Omaha, Omaha Performing Arts and The Holland Center for Performing Arts, Scarsamay, Whole Foods, Mohe Music Festival, Husker Nebraska, Clark Creative Group, Film Spheres at the Ruth Sokolof Theater, The Union for Contemporary Art, Benson 1892, Kitchen Table, Union Pacific, Robin & Aaron Shaddy

**OGR 2017: A CALL TO ACTION**
Don't have to use exact wording - can pair down to a couple statements
Increase Omaha Girls Rock programming from two contained summer camps to a year-round after school program. Diversity volunteer/mentor pool by tapping further into Omaha's creative community and recruiting more specifically and carefully. We will develop and focus our curriculum to include the strengths of mentors. In addition, we would like to develop a more focused training program for mentors focused on the engagement of mentors with senses. Increase and diversify fundraising efforts to support additional programming. We will increase grant funding, specifically for general operating and staff salaries as well as research and pursue city, state, and federal funding opportunities. We will seek at least one presenting sponsor for each showcase in 2016. Finally, we will work to grow individual giving in 2016 through showcase donations, Omaha Grows and a year-end appeal.

“WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?”
DONATE 
VOLUNTEER

omahagirlsrock.com
MUSIC & CREATIVITY HELP OUR GIRLS TO DEVELOP VALUABLE LIFE SKILLS

GROWTH MINDSET: Free expression through the arts has been linked to an increased sense of accomplishment & self-confidence that helps students to succeed in other content areas. The arts coach students how to turn barriers into opportunities, to persist in the face of challenges, and motivate students to achieve mastery of skills.

PROBLEM SOLVING: Arts-integration and music aid in the development of abstract reasoning, problem-solving and decision-making skills. Just listening to music helps the brain to visualize and mentally manipulate patterns – a skill necessary for solving multi-step problems.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR: In one study, at-risk students who participated in an after-school arts program were less likely to engage in risky, delinquent, and/or violent behavior.

LANGUAGE: A growing body of evidence shows that arts education helps students to learn and refine language & literacy skills.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Students who participate in arts education develop traits of active, independent citizens & have been shown to have a greater understanding of the issues in their community & their power to contribute to creative solutions.

CAMPERS IN ALL AGE GROUPS RECORDED A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN QUALITY OF LIFE SCORES FOLLOWING OUR 2016 SUMMER SESSIONS

CLOSED THE GAP: CULTIVATING SELF-EFFICACY

women face a unique obstacle in life – a glaring gap in confidence between the sexes. Compared with men, women don’t consider themselves as ready for promotions, predict they’ll do worse on tests, and generally underestimate their abilities.1 A significant body of research demonstrates the devastating consequences of this confidence gap.2

It just so happens that confidence contributes to success just as much as competence.3 So, it’s not surprising, that despite making great strides, women are still largely underrepresented in positions of power.4 The good news is that with work, confidence can be acquired – and the gap, in turn, can be closed.5 Our aim at OGR is to instill in each of our campers the growth mindset she needs to succeed. Potential can be greatly affected by the perceptions girls hold about themselves.

A belief that intelligence and talent are something we are born with and cannot be changed can negatively impact learning and growth.6 In a growth mindset, girls believe that through perseverance and hard work, knowledge and skills are things that can be developed.7 A girl with a growth mindset enjoys learning and looks forward to a challenge.6

Omaha Girls Rock is focused on developing the self-efficacy of young girls in our community. We achieve this via the intellectual & emotional challenges presented by music and creativity. Our programming creates a uniquely supportive environment where the focus is primarily on process/effort, rather than on results.

Growth Mindset means saying “I CAN IF I TRY.” At Omaha Girls Rock, we believe in this message to foster positive self-esteem, confidence & creative thinking.