

2020 - 2021
School Year in Review

WE APP
ACT | PRESENT | PERFORM



Time to Unmute

Amid so much strife and uncertainty over the last year, young people across the world have stepped up to lead time and time again. Injustice, global warming, educational rights, COVID-19, virtual learning, humanitarian crises—no subject was too big or too thorny for them to speak up and set in motion the thriving future they deserve. On this journey through the unknown, they have been visionaries at the helm of positive change.

In the midst of all this, I could not be more proud of how We.APP supported our young scholars, giving them a firm foundation and a platform to stand on.

Our flagship in-school public speaking curriculum, *Speak With Purpose*, teaches young scholars to discover their unique voices and create original works based on their own experiences. In March 2020, necessity gave way to invention as we transitioned more than 26 in-person classes to remote learning. Since then, We.APP has provided more than 1500 hours of online programming and events to 350 students from seven Seattle public schools.

As advocates for scholars who have been historically disadvantaged, we also play a role in the movement for Black liberation and Indigenous sovereignty. That role swelled in the early summer of 2020, when a group of We.APP scholars spoke out in response to the murder of George Floyd, leading a committee of artists, educators, activists, students and parents to organize the Seattle Children's March.

On June 13, 2020, more than 3,000 children, families and community members marched for equitable education, an end to police brutality and an acknowledgement of the impact of Black history around the world. Through their signs and their speeches, their organizing and their demands for systemic change, they learned that their perspectives matter, that they can and will lead the change we need, together.

Our efforts to build collective power doesn't stop there. In June 2021, students created 70 original videos in which they shared their passions and told their stories, ultimately presenting their work at Unmute, our 7th Annual Rising Voices Oratory Showcase. Young people also dove into issues as part of Youth Activists for Systemic Change, a council We.APP established this year to give our scholars and students from the Greater Seattle area a place to organize around the concerns that weigh on their hearts. Their remarkable weekly discussions are a beacon illuminating a way forward.

Over the course of the last academic year, our organization partnered with schools, districts, community members and more than 30 community-based organizations in many different ways, aligning a wide range of stakeholders to improve learning environments, create mentorship opportunities and increase accountability in the pursuit of anti-racist structural change. Underlying these collaborations is a simple but potent truth that every day drives me and the entire We.APP team: United, we can uplift our community and increase our scholars' chances for happiness and success.

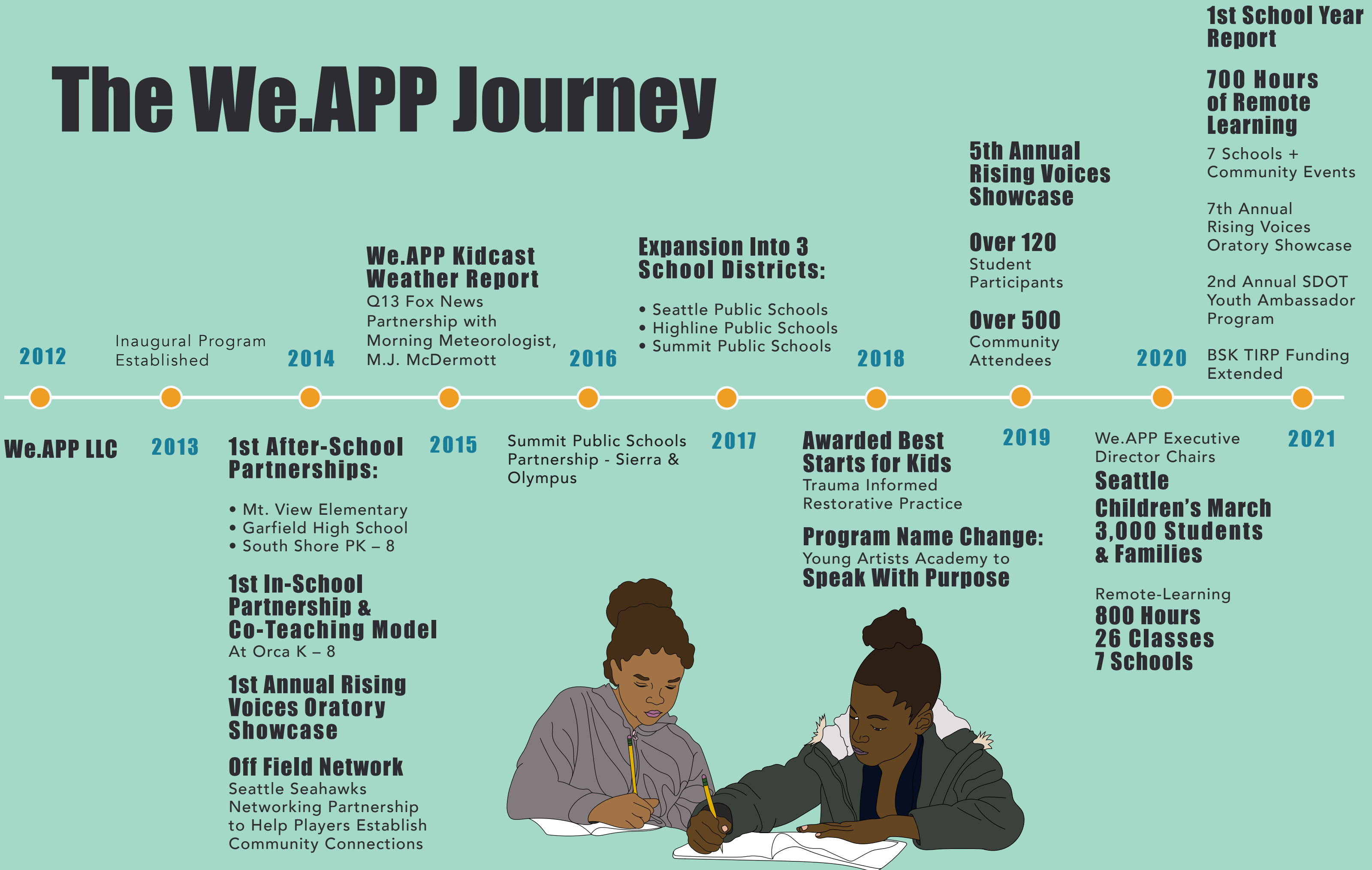
In this report, may it provide you with a deeper understanding of our impact and fuel your commitment to our work in the year ahead.

Speak With Purpose,

Joyia Taylor

Founder and Executive Director

The We.APP Journey



2012

Inaugural Program Established

2014

We.APP Kidcast Weather Report

Q13 Fox News Partnership with Morning Meteorologist, M.J. McDermott

2016

Expansion Into 3 School Districts:

- Seattle Public Schools
- Highline Public Schools
- Summit Public Schools

2018

5th Annual Rising Voices Showcase

Over 120 Student Participants

Over 500 Community Attendees

2020

1st School Year Report

700 Hours of Remote Learning

7 Schools + Community Events

7th Annual Rising Voices Oratory Showcase

2nd Annual SDOT Youth Ambassador Program

BSK TIRP Funding Extended

We.APP LLC

2013

1st After-School Partnerships:

- Mt. View Elementary
- Garfield High School
- South Shore PK – 8

1st In-School Partnership & Co-Teaching Model

At Orca K – 8

1st Annual Rising Voices Oratory Showcase

Off Field Network

Seattle Seahawks Networking Partnership to Help Players Establish Community Connections

2015

Summit Public Schools Partnership - Sierra & Olympus

2017

Awarded Best Starts for Kids

Trauma Informed Restorative Practice

Program Name Change: Young Artists Academy to Speak With Purpose

2019

We.APP Executive Director Chairs

Seattle Children's March 3,000 Students & Families

Remote-Learning 800 Hours 26 Classes 7 Schools

2021



The We.APP Way



Mission:

We.APP exists to cultivate *inclusive* and *creative* learning spaces that allow young scholars to deconstruct the dominant narratives by using public speaking to uplift their culture, self-authored identities, and communities.

Vision:

To bridge the engagement and opportunity gap by reaching every child that is silenced in the back of the classroom and inspiring them to step forward to become the leaders in the front.



1 - Culturally Relevant Curriculum

We.APP Curriculum responds to the now. Each semester, our Curriculum Development team takes important current events (Black Lives Matter, Voting Rights, AAPI Violence, Recognizing Privilege, etc.) and creates age appropriate content that uses Public Speaking Skills as the method in which a scholar can express their unique views on a relevant topic.

2 - Engaged & Connected Partners

We.APP works best when school partners are engaged and connected. We rely on principals, assistant principals, and classroom co-teachers in order to help connect the We.APP Curriculum to each student. Teaching Guides and Co-Teachers work together to develop safe and brave classrooms that allow students to share their authentic voice free of judgement.

3 - Diverse and Vibrant Classrooms

We.APP equips scholars with the tools to speak with purpose AND offers them the time and space to do so. We.APP scholars have reported feeling more active and engaged in their classrooms while ALSO reporting lower feelings of depression, loneliness, and anxiety. Scholars remain at the center of their own learning and sustain ownership over their own learning and success.

Our Community



Board

Jon Gould, Chief Community Impact and Government Relations Officer, Childhaven
Michael Brown, Civic Architect, Civic Commons, Seattle Foundation
Sean Goode, Executive Director, Choose 180
Rhandi Rosemond, We.APP Alumna and Sophomore at Highline College
Dr. Donald Felder, African American Male Advisory Committee, Seattle Public Schools

School Partners

South Shore PK – 8 (6 years)
Orca K – 8 (5 years)
Pathfinder K – 8 (4 years)
Sugiyama HS (3 years)
Dearborn Park International Elementary (2 years)
Jane Addams Middle School (1 year)
John Muir Elementary (1 year)

Past and Present Partners

Artsfund
Best Starts for Kids TIRP
Bureau of Fearless Ideas
Charlotte Martin Foundation
Coyote Central
Creative Advantage, Office of Arts and Culture
Department of Education and Early Learning
Discuren Foundation
Foster Garvey PC
Highline Public Schools
King County Metro
Medina Foundation

PEEKA
Q-13 Fox News
Sanctuary Art Center
Schools Out Washington
Seattle Department of Transportation
Seattle Public Schools
Seattle Seahawks
Seattle University Department of Education
Shunpike
Summit Public Schools- Atlas, Olympus, and Sierra
The Unspoken Truths
Walsh Construction Company





“ The students are learning how to not only speak to an audience, they are learning that what they have to say matters and can be inspiring to others. ”

- 2021 We.APP Co-Teacher

15 We.APP Events Included:

Writing & Presentation Workshops

Community Building through Activism

Culminating Events

We.APP is working to **diversify** our **funding** by growing our support from individuals and foundations.

We.APP served **371** students
7 schools



Total Remote Hours Taught

1500+

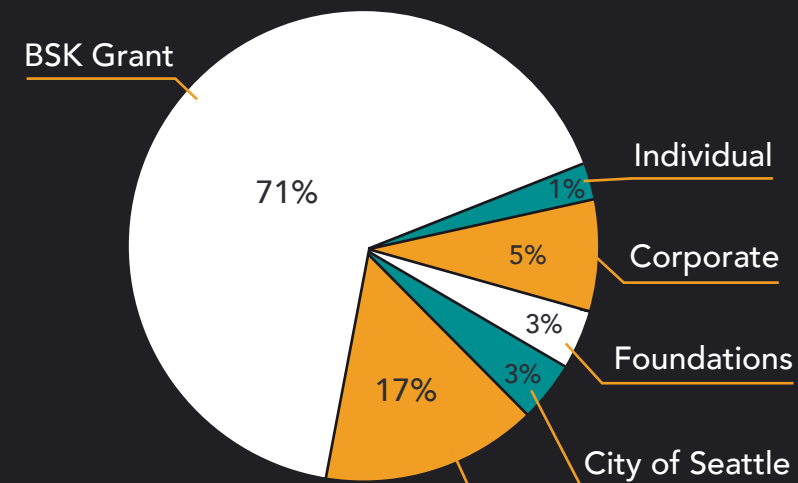
Instructional Hours



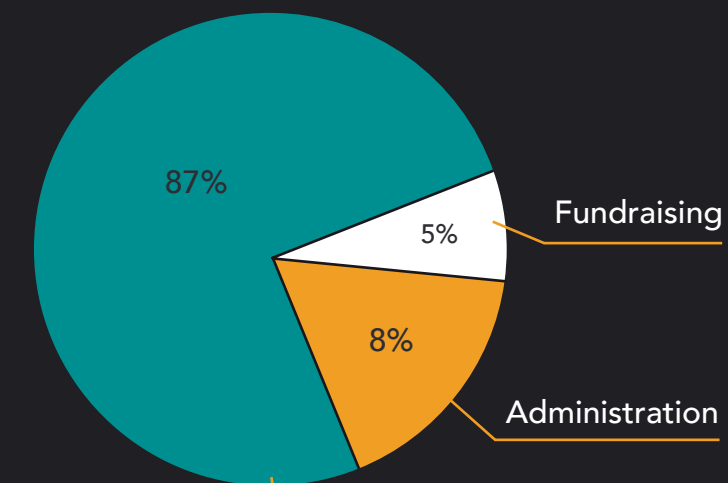
Financial Summary

2020-2021 School Year

Total Revenue: \$377,201



Total Expenses: \$333,245



Navigating Our Way: Teaching Guide Reflections

We spoke with Sophe Friedman and Krystal Smith, the Lead Teaching Guides about cultivating creativity since programming went 100% virtual in March 2020.

Is there anything that has amazed you about We.APP scholars coping through the pandemic?

SF: I was amazed at how willing some scholars were to share about deep personal experiences and issues early on in the school year. I noticed that as our scholars experienced two pandemics (COVID-19 and systemic racism), scholars used the We.APP platform to speak up about mental health, identity, racial profiling, defunding the police, and inequities in our educational system.

KS: I am amazed and concerned by the absence of many of our most vulnerable and underserved scholars during remote class hours. It speaks to how important it is for students to connect with their peers and educators in person and on a personal level. Without the ability to look a child in the eye, or see that they have their head down in the back of the classroom, it can be difficult to address scholars' individual needs that can often only be identified when connecting in person.

I am also amazed and proud that the male participation and engagement increased in my virtual classes. I feel the virtual platform gave many of them an opportunity to protect their privacy and choose not to turn on their cameras, yet still be heard and listened to by the class.

How does We.APP plan to navigate hybrid learning or going back into the classroom full-time?

KS: Over the past 20 months we have learned so much about ourselves as well as technology. Moving forward, we are excited about integrating online platforms with our project based learning curriculum. As a result of virtual teaching, we were able to partner with incredible arts programs around the world as well as community based organizations. In the future, we look forward to continuing those relationships and using technology to enhance programming and partnerships.

What are your biggest concerns regarding the 2021-2022 school year and what do you look forward to?

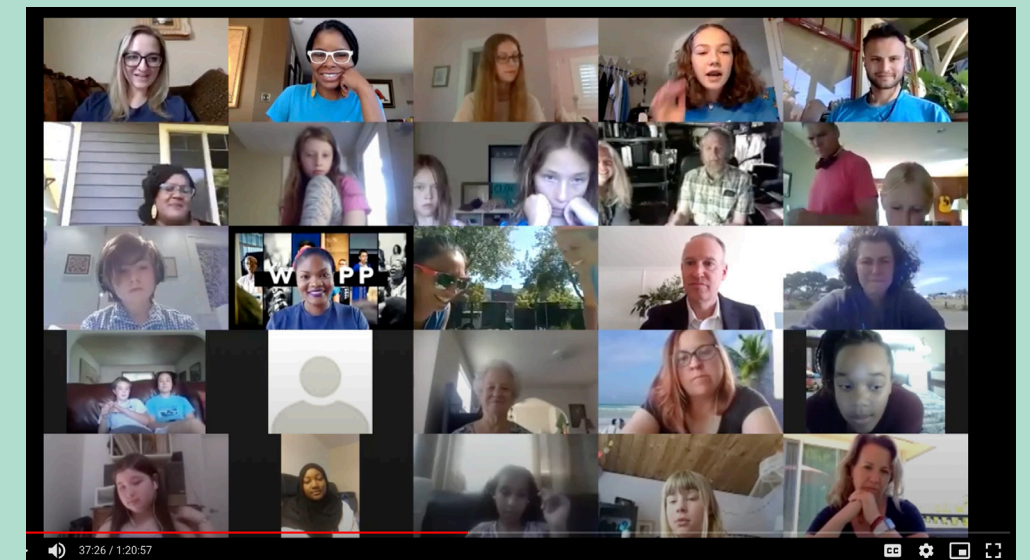
SF: As we step into the classroom my main concerns will always be the safety of our students and protecting the community we are creating. As an organization we plan to establish a set of COVID-19 guidelines which will address protecting each other by wearing masks, being vaccinated, and incorporating cleanliness as it relates to washing our hands and sanitizing the space.

KS: My biggest concern as we return to in-person learning is that we forget everything we've learned and accomplished through remote teaching. I want us to be aware of what we can't see going on with them, and listen so we can best guide them to believe and know what they can accomplish during good times and the unexpected.

What does the future of arts education look like from your perspectives? What role will We.APP play in arts education?

SF: Arts education changed the trajectory of my life. Through the arts I learned to express myself, to own my power, and be able to collaborate with others. The arts teach life skills and should be a mandatory core subject in all schools. We.APP does just that. We.APP teaches life skills while helping scholars grow socially and emotionally. The skills they learn in We.APP translates to all other facets of their lives. The skill to be brave, to speak up and advocate for yourself and others, is one of the most important skills any person can have.

KS: We did a lot of great things this year! From our voting unit to bi-weekly scholar-led online events, to having scholars design our We.APP t-shirts. These are things that I would like to keep doing. Focusing on using virtual learning to connect scholars from all our schools more than just once a year at Rising Voices.



Meet the Team



Toyia T. Taylor

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & FOUNDER

Founded We.APP in 2012

Background: Activist, Entrepreneur, Orator, Teaching Artist, Actor/Spoken Word Artist

Education: B.S. in Political Science and a minor in History, University of Washington and M.F.A. in Arts Leadership, Seattle University



Austin Sargent

PROGRAM MANAGER & TEACHING GUIDE

We.APP Team member since 2021

Background: Teaching Artist, Arts Administrator

Education: B.F.A. in Arts Administration, Viterbo University and M.F.A. in Arts Leadership, Seattle University



Sophe Friedman

LEAD TEACHING GUIDE, CURRICULUM DEVELOPER, & PROGRAM MANAGER

We.APP Team member since 2018

Background: Certified Teacher, Teaching Artist, Curriculum Developer, Director

Education: B.A. in Theatre Studies with a minor in English, Chapman University and M.A. in Urban Education and Literacy, Loyola Marymount University.



Krystal Smith

TEACHING GUIDE & CURRICULUM DEVELOPER

We.APP Team member since 2019

Background: Certified Teacher, Teaching Artist, Curriculum Developer, Athlete

Education: B.S. in Elementary Education, Southern Oregon University and Masters in Teaching, The Evergreen State University

Follow Our Journey



Click to Watch

The Voice of Our Scholars



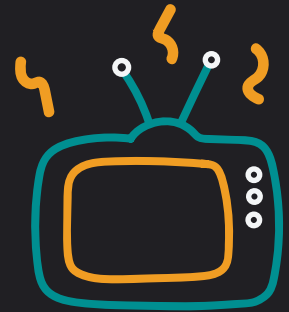
What's Visionary About We.APP



Reclaiming Our Identity



2021 End of Year Review



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