This Annual Report was prepared to reflect the El Sistema Colorado fiscal year which takes place from August 1 - July 31.

El Sistema Colorado is a project of the Colorado Nonprofit Development Center (CNDC). CNDC is a registered public charity (EIN 84-1493585), exempt from federal income taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nienke Izurieta
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Johnny Szumski
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Beatriz Martinez
SITE COORDINATOR

Florence Mercat
AMERICORPS VISTA VOLUNTEER

Katie Burns
STRINGS PEDAGOGY SPECIALIST

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Clay Fox, Treasurer
Deb Norris, Secretary
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Sarah Bergman
Kiona Burgess
Katie Burns
Ernie Carbajal
Alan Chan
Mackenzie Gault
Jordan Grantonic
Olasuyi Ige
Amanda Laborete
Alex Vittal
Jamie Wolf
As the new Executive Director of El Sistema Colorado, I have the privilege to share the recent successes of our program as we rise from the unprecedented challenges of the past year. I am inspired by the unwavering commitment, resilience, and dedication from our donors, teaching artists, students and community in not only making a difference but advancing our mission in significant ways.

Despite the uncertainty as a result of the global pandemic, El Sistema Colorado saw great growth in financial support from our community. With the purposeful work from our team and the extraordinary generosity of our donors we were able to encourage our most successful Colorado Gives Day, bringing in over $26,000 in donations to our program. We also celebrated our first summer music scholarship opportunity. Thanks to our special donors and partners, nine students were sponsored to attend the Rocky Mountain Fiddle Camp, a folk music camp near Divide, Colorado. Our overall operating budget increased by an astonishing twenty-five percent reinforcing the need and desire to provide our children with music without barriers!

In their return to live, in-person classrooms, our Teaching Artists and Admin Team found inspiration, passion and keen perseverance from the students as they created an impactful year of concerts, activities, and events. We are thrilled to report an increased enrollment over the last year in all of our programs. The growth was even more meaningful when experiencing the joy, development and transformation of these students on and off stage.
"We provide music as a catalyst for social change, and in doing so accept the deliberate work of moving the needle beyond the classroom into the communities and through the generations to come."

As we look to the future of El Sistema Colorado and the work ahead, we remind ourselves of our mission, spanning Denver, Colorado and anywhere children face social barriers to making music and feeling valued. We provide music as a catalyst for social change, and in doing so accept the deliberate work of moving the needle beyond the classroom into the communities and through the generations to come. Our vision is to continue expanding throughout the area providing satellite locations at different areas of need. This specific ‘spoke’ of our program will enable us to reach students who are lacking the resources to experience meaningful music making and make an impact where they live. Our team is ready to embrace the challenge and create an indelible mark in the lives of so many children.

I invite you to join El Sistema Colorado’s mission of social justice through Music without Barriers as we reimagine a more equitable musical landscape. We have such gratitude for the support given to El Sistema Colorado and embrace building this legacy together. Will you join us in continuing our mission to transform the systems that shape our children’s world and donate, volunteer, and/or support El Sistema Colorado?

DR. INGRID LARRAGOITY-MARTIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
"El Sistema Colorado harnesses the joy of music and ignites the potential in our future leaders through an immersive youth music education program that transcends socioeconomic barriers."
El Sistema Colorado has been an organization that encourages its members to challenge the systemic barriers in place and provide a model of access and inclusion for the next generation of musicians. Investing in our youth is admittedly more of a long-term solution, but the results of this work will be much more impactful and sustainable.

In May 2022, ESC completed an 18 month contract with DEI consultants from Impact Education Collaborative (IEC) where an investigation and evaluation was conducted at every level of our organization. IEC met with staff on a monthly basis for a total of 9 sessions to help identify how to better serve our diverse population through thoughtful and inclusive learning. Training on the following topics included:

- Personal Identity & Values
- Cultural Identity Development
- Cultural & Emotional Humility
- Group Stages of Development
- Conflict & Communication Styles
- DEI Definitions
- Social-Emotional Learning / Wellness
- Culturally Responsive Education
- Privilege, Power & Oppression
- Implicit Bias & Microaggressions
- Gender Pronouns & Inclusion
- White Supremacy Culture Traits
- Transforming Culture & Fostering Belonging
**Students Served**
- 89 students enrolled in Afterschool Program
- 41 students enrolled in Early Childhood Education Program
- 130 total students total enrolled in the 2021-2022 school year

**Musicianship & Socio-Emotional Growth**
- 97% improvement in Music Literacy
- 98% growth in Instrument Tone
- 95% growth in Leadership Skills

**Our Youth**
- 81% female
- 16% male
- 3% non-binary

**Student Contact**
- 950+ total program hours
- 80% daily attendance rate
- 70+ hours of private lessons
IN THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

- 86% of ESC afterschool students were enrolled at Denver Public Schools (DPS)
- ESC served students from over 40 different zip codes in the Denver Metro area
- ESC primarily served students in Denver, Jefferson, Arapahoe & Adams Counties

NEIGHBORHOODS WITH HIGHEST STUDENT POPULATION

Aurora, Brighton, East Colfax, Westminster **49%**
Curtis Park, Clayton, Whitter **22%**
Elyria-Swansea, Globeville **15%**
Lakewood, Wheat Ridge **14%**
Challenges

- Drastic life changes for staff and teaching artists (TA's) affected by COVID19 resulting in high turnover of administration and teaching staff.
- Resurgence of COVID variants in January 2022.
- Realizing instrument & equipment needs with sudden program growth.
- A sudden high demand for community performances.

Success

- Created in-person programming that was safe and responsive to Covid-19 while meeting our community’s needs.
- Provided consistent, excellent programming throughout the transition to in-person learning amidst challenging life circumstances for students, families and staff.
- Grew enrollment from 44 after-school students to 89 students in 2021-2022.
- Expanded three programs at the ESC Music Center: Student Quartet Program, Early Childhood Music Education and the Teacher Fellowship Program.
- Ended the school year with an 80% daily attendance rate.
- Provided over 15 weekly private lessons throughout the school year.
- Sent over 20 students to summer camps outside of ESC: Lutheran Summer Music, Rocky Ridge, and Rocky Mountain Fiddle Camp.
- Adapted as an organization and grew staff to three full time directors.
- Increased diversity of staff and board to reflect student body.
FY22 INCOME

- Foundation 47.5%
- Government 33.3%
- Individual 17.2%
- Corp. 1%

COST PER STUDENT

- Year $4,139
- Week $115
- Day $23

OPERATIONAL COSTS

- 48% Staff
- 23% Teachers
- 15% Program Expenses
- 14% Fiscal Sponsor

THE COLORADO NONPROFIT DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CNDC) IS THE FISCAL SPONSOR OF EL SISTEMA COLORADO. EIN 84-1493585
THE VOICES OF OUR YOUNG MUSICIANS

ALAN
Learning music has deeply impacted me from a very young age (...) Since I was tiny, the musicians around me have inspired me to care about the things I love and not only music. Playing my instrument has created so many amazing experiences and opportunities. I will never run out of things to learn and do when it comes to music, and that is one of my favorite parts of being a musician and a part of El Sistema Colorado.

NAYELI
Tuesday’s are my favorite because of El Sistema Colorado! I love all the extra quartet practices. It’s a lot of fun and I have such a good time!

ALE
Music has helped me in a lot of ways. It has helped me make new friends, meet new people and connect with them (...) I can’t see myself doing anything else but music! If music wasn’t in my life, I wouldn’t be who I am and it has helped me see who I am today as a person.
"No one cares if you're different or anything. We are one as a group, as a community; it's big and bold. That's why I like coming to ESC. I also want to be motivated to do something for people and for myself."

**HANNAH**

Music has filled my life with more sound and I have more things to do during my day. I homeschool which means I have a lot of after-school activities. Music is one of my hobbies now! After school, I start playing!

**MAYA**

What I like about coming to ESC is the energy that people bring. We accept each other for who we are. No one cares if you're different or anything. We are one as a group, as a community; it's big and bold. That's why I like coming to ESC. I also want to be motivated to do something for people and for myself.

Mentally, music has brought joy into my life. I have met a lot of people that I like and made friends through music. They are really fun to hang out with and talk to. That's what music has done for me. It has allowed me to make connections.

**MARKYIAH**

Music has had a peaceful impact on my life. I feel like playing the violin everyday but I can't because I have to go to school... then when I get home, I have to go to sleep. I only get to practice on the weekends. My cousin inspired me to play the violin... I love that I get to play music at ESC!
DONORS, SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Major Supporters
- Arts in Society
- Anschutz Foundation
- Bowen Family Performing Arts Fund
- Bringing Music to Life
- Butler Family Fund
- City & County of Denver
- Colorado Nonprofit Development Center
- Denver Arts & Venues
- Denver Foundation
- Denver Public Schools
- Denver Museum of Nature and Science
- Denver Economic Development Opportunity (DEDU)
- D’Addario Foundation
- Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province
- Luther Strings
- May Bonfils Stanton Memorial Fund
- Office of Children's Affairs
- RIOT Creative Imaging and ARC Document Solutions
- RedLine Contemporary Arts Center
- Sheila Fortune Foundation
- Virginia W. Hill Foundation

Community & Organizational Partners
- Alliance for Music Education Equity
- Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado
- Bravol Vail
- Centro San Juan Diego
- Colorado Symphony
- Complete Business Solutions
- CPR Classical
- Clyfford Still Museum
- Denver Housing Authority
- Friends of Chamber Music
- Improper City
- Ivalas Quartet
- Junior League of Denver
- KPG Ken’s Prints & Graphics
- Lamont School of Music at The University of Denver

Volunteers & Community Members
- Alliance for Music Education Equity
- Baroque Chamber Orchestra of Colorado
- Centro San Juan Diego
- Colorado Symphony
- Complete Business Solutions
- CPR Classical
- Clyfford Still Museum
- Denver Housing Authority
- Friends of Chamber Music
- Improper City
- Ivalas Quartet
- Junior League of Denver
- KPG Ken’s Prints & Graphics
- Lamont School of Music at The University of Denver
- Lutheran Summer Music Festival
- Mile High United Way
- Newman Center for the Performing Arts
- Noble Riot
- The Preservery
- Rocky Mountain Fiddle Camp
- Rocky Ridge Music Center
- SGES Coalition
- Sphere Ensemble
- Rockley Foundation
DONATE TO EL SISTEMA COLORADO!

DID YOU KNOW?
A private violin lesson in Denver costs between $75 - $90/hr.

BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR TODAY!

HOW FAR DOES YOUR DONATION GO?
$5 - Purchases bow rosin for one student
$10 - Purchases one violin or viola shoulder rest
$25 - Provides one student with one day of programming
$50 - Provides a one hour private music lesson
$150 - One week of music education to one student
$250 - One month of programming for one student
$500 - Purchases a new violin or viola
$2,500 - Sponsors one child for half of the school year
$5,000 - Sponsors one child for the entire year

WHAT DOES OUR FULL ACCESS MUSIC PROGRAM LOOK LIKE?
Free Instruments
Free Group Rehearsals
Free Private Lessons
Free Concerts
Free Summer Camps
Scholarship Opportunities
WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR MANY DONORS & SPONSORS