



American Music Initiative
Creating Access. Building Community. One Note at a Time.

IT'S BIGGER THAN MUSIC



**2025–2026
School Year
Report**

Building
Access
Through
Music

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Letter from our President



Arbie Nickerson

President, American Music Initiative

As President of the American Music Initiative, I am proud to present our 2025-2026 School Year Impact Report documenting the launch of AMI's first chapter in Liberty City. This year marked the beginning of a long-term commitment to expanding access to free, high-quality music education for students and families across our community.

In our first school year, AMI directly served 29 students through the Liberty City Afterschool Music Academy and reached an additional 42 youth through collaborative programming with the Belafonte TACOLCY Center. Together, AMI reached 71 youth through afterschool instruction, early childhood enrichment, and community partnerships.

Students developed rhythm literacy, performance skills, rehearsal discipline, and confidence through consistent instruction and public performance opportunities. Families gained access to safe, structured programming designed to support creativity, growth, and opportunity through music. As we look ahead, AMI plans to expand programming through additional teaching artists, expanded site staffing, and a new strings program serving 44 students in Miami.

71

Youth Served Across All Programming

**100%**

Parent Satisfaction Rate

**115**

Projected Youth Reach Next School Year



MISSION & VISION



Vision

We envision a nation where every student has access to music education that inspires creativity, strengthens academic outcomes, and builds community. AMI is working toward a future where music is not a privilege, but a consistent part of every young person's learning experience regardless of background or location.

Mission

The American Music Initiative provides free, high-quality music education to youth in communities across the United States where opportunities are limited. Through culturally relevant, genre-based programs, we help young people build skills, confidence, and connection. Our work creates pathways for creativity, leadership, and opportunity by meeting students where they are and partnering with the schools and neighborhoods they call home.

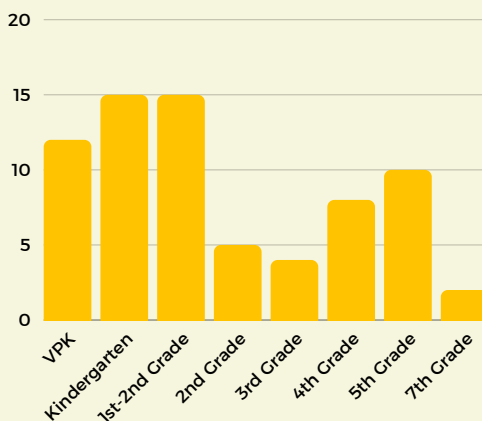
WHO DID WE SERVE?

During the 2025–2026 school year, the American Music Initiative directly served 29 students through the Liberty City Afterschool Music Academy and reached an additional 42 youth through collaborative programming with the Belafonte TACOLCY Center. In total, AMI reached 71 youth across direct instruction, early childhood enrichment, and collaborative community programming throughout Liberty City and surrounding Miami-Dade communities.

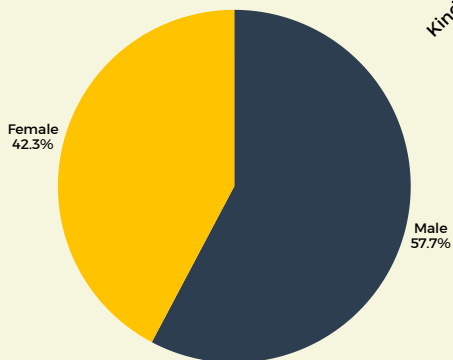
Many students entered the program with limited or no prior formal music instruction. Students and families primarily came from Title I school communities seeking safe, structured, and consistent afterschool opportunities centered on creativity, discipline, and student growth. STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS Total Youth Served: 71 Students



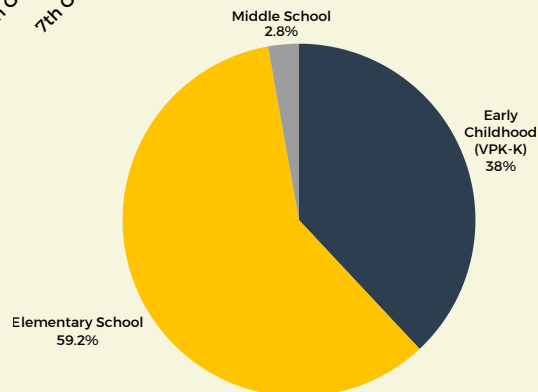
Grade Levels



Gender



School Level Breakdown



WHAT CHANGED FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES?



Student Outcome

- 62% of Students who said music makes them feel happy all the time
- 93% of Students who said music improves their mood a lot or all the time
- 73% of Students who said they feel focused in music class a lot or all the time

Parent & Family Outcome

- 62% of Students who said music makes them feel happy all the time
- 93% of Students who said music improves their mood a lot or all the time
- 73% of Students who said they feel focused in music class a lot or all the time

WHAT CHANGED FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES?

Family Support Area

- Equivalent monthly value of private music instruction per student: \$3,000
- Potential wages or childcare costs preserved for families: \$380.80
- Total estimated monthly value provided per family: \$3,380.80
- Total Financial Impact \$240,000

What Families Said



"Because of music my children became more friendly and disciplined and excited to be apart of something. Every Child should have access to arts because it gives them a sense of teamwork and pulls out creativity"

Erick Pigatt
AMI Parent

"Having music back is a sense of joy and connection. It reminds us how powerful and creative it can be. It gives students and families a meaningful way to connect."

Shanice Brown
AMI Parent

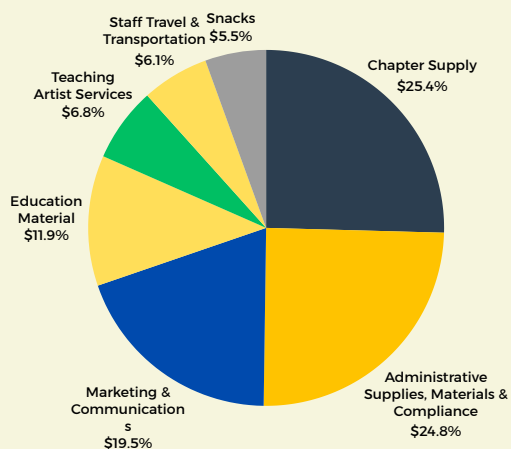


HOW WAS FUNDING USED?

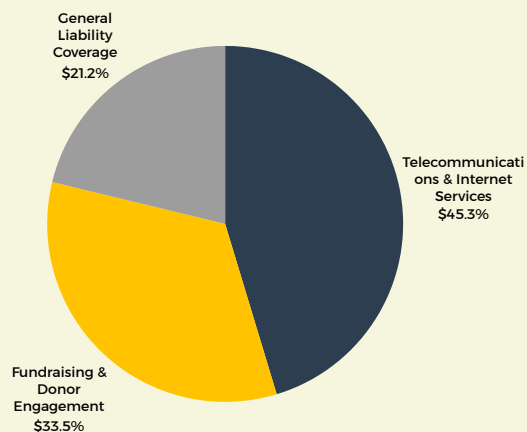
Total Reported Expenses: \$9,163.34

During AMI's first school year, funding supported the launch and operation of free music education programming for youth in Liberty City and surrounding Miami-Dade communities. Investments focused on student instruction, educational resources, operational infrastructure, family engagement, and long-term sustainability.

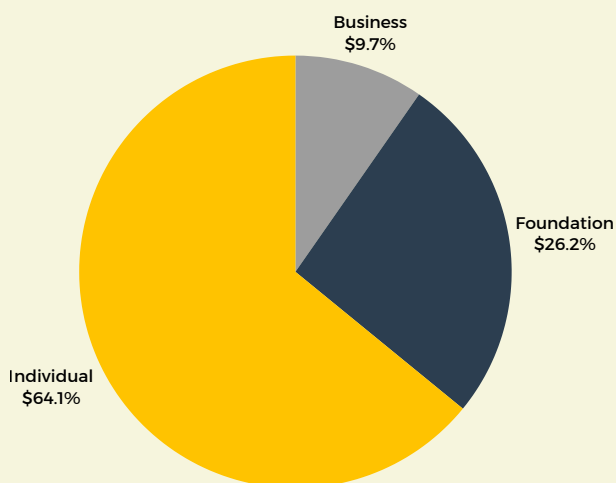
PROGRAMS



OPERATIONS



Total Reported Donations: \$8,773.14



89 Donations

**Average Gift
\$98.57**

WHAT COMES NEXT?

AMI is preparing for its second year of programming with a focus on expanding instructional capacity, strengthening student support, and increasing access to diverse music education opportunities for youth in Liberty City and surrounding communities.

Program Expansion Priorities

Additional Teaching Artists

AMI plans to hire additional teaching artists to strengthen instructional consistency, expand student support, and increase opportunities for specialized music instruction across program areas.

Expanded Site Staffing

As enrollment and community engagement continue to grow, AMI plans to expand site-based staffing to strengthen daily operations, student supervision, family communication, and overall program coordination.

Launch of Strings Instruction

AMI is preparing to introduce a new strings class as part of its growing music education offerings. The addition of strings instruction is projected to serve an additional 44 students, increasing AMI's projected annual youth reach from 71 students to approximately 115 students across all programming areas.



This expansion will provide students with access to:

- Violin, viola, cello, and bass instruction
- Ensemble-based learning opportunities
- Expanded music literacy development
- New performance experiences
- Long-term instrumental progression pathways

Long-Term Vision

AMI's long-term vision remains centered on expanding access to free, high-quality music education for students in communities where opportunities remain limited. The organization will continue building sustainable programming models that combine artistic growth, student development, and community connection.

Looking Ahead

AMI's first school year established a strong foundation for future growth. With expanded staffing, additional instructional offerings, and continued community support, AMI is positioned to deepen its impact and reach more students during the upcoming school year.

SUPPORT THE MOVEMENT

During our first school year, AMI reached 71 youth through afterschool instruction, early childhood enrichment, collaborative programming, and public performance opportunities. As we prepare to expand programming through additional teaching artists, expanded site staffing, and a new strings program projected to serve 44 additional students, continued community support remains essential to our growth and long-term sustainability.

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