

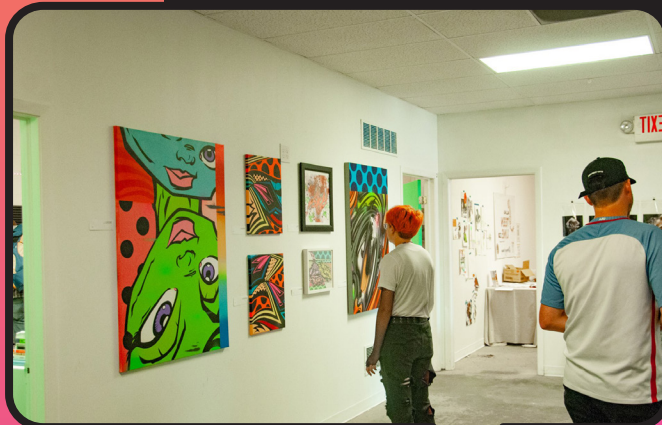


BFF ARTS & COMMUNITY ♥

BFF OMAHA

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE
HAS THE RIGHT TO CREATE,
EXPERIENCE, AND CULTIVATE
THE ARTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES.



BFF'S MISSION

Building Community Through Arts Engagement.

CORE VALUES

BFF Advocates for Education, Inclusion, Opportunity, and Unique Experiences. AEIOU! (We'd like to buy a vowel!)



LETTER FROM ALEX

Helloooo America!

Honoring **TEN years of BFF** in 2022 has been exhilarating, gratifying, and prolific :) And to top it off - we established the **Benson Creative District!** Thank you to everyone who supported us and celebrated with us through the year!

Day after day, BFF continues to develop into something more special than we ever imagined. As creatives, we can't help but continue to innovate with new and exciting projects taking place every day that further our mission of **Building Community Through Arts Engagement**. This year, we established BFF's "East Campus" — home to the new **BFF Gallery** (5901 Maple St), **Trudy's** (2714 N. 60th St.) artist studios, and the **TeenLine** art education space. Please stop by during an upcoming First Friday!

We're also excited to finally have the capacity to transition our long-time volunteers into paid staff, including yours truly (!!), and BFF's Communications and Creative Director, JP Gurnett! AND 51% of this year's budget went directly to **PAYING ARTISTS**. ("**Artists own 51% of this company!**") Myself, JP, and the rest of the BFF Crew are dedicated to working hard for Omaha's artists and our community.

But we can't do it alone! Your continued support will sustain BFF's programming, artist support, and community building into 2023 and beyond. Please visit bffomaha.org/support to see how you can keep the momentum going!

THANK YOU for supporting the arts, the community, and yer BFFs!

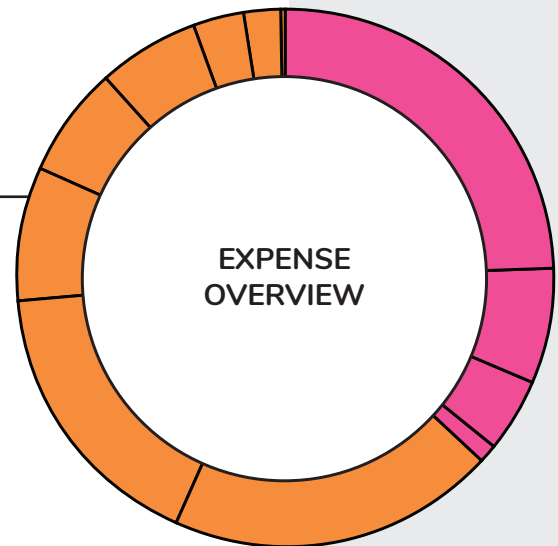
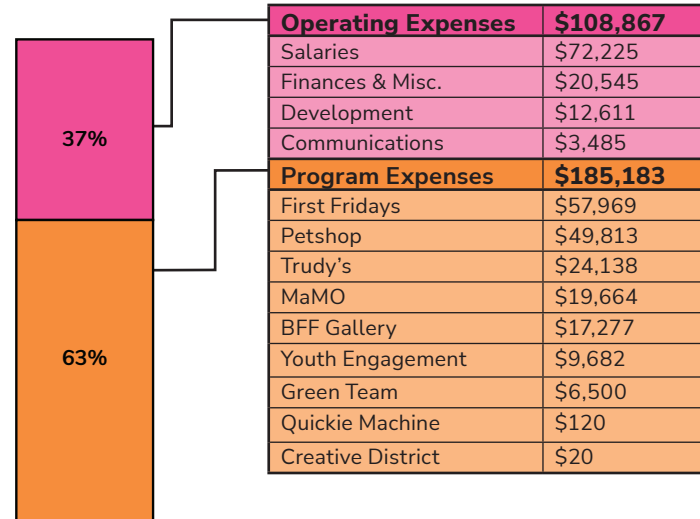
Alex Jochim
Co-Founder & Executive Director

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

EXPENSES

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$294,050

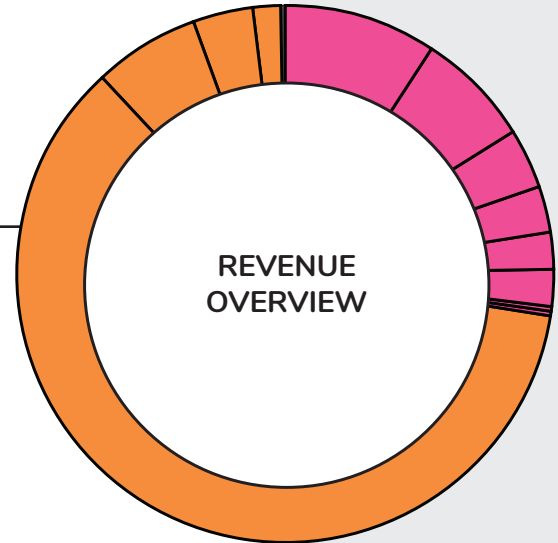
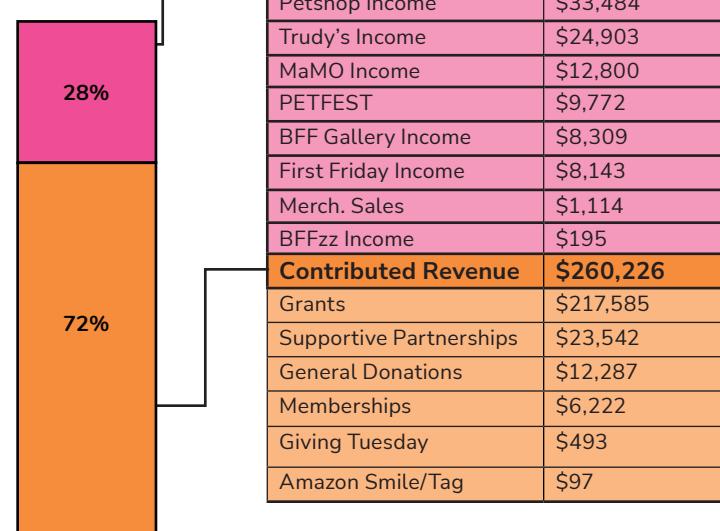
EXPENSE OVERVIEW



REVENUE

TOTAL REVENUE: \$358,950

REVENUE OVERVIEW



BFF PAID ARTISTS A TOTAL OF \$149,552 IN 2022 - 51% OF ALL EXPENSES!!

PROGRAMS & PROJECTS

HONORS

2022 Business Excellence in Leadership Award by the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce

Benson officially recognized as a **Creative District** by the state of Nebraska!

2022 Neighborhood Revitalization Nominee by Omaha by Design's Laurels Awards (Benson Creative District)

FIRST FRIDAY

15,000+ visitors attracted

20% of survey respondents traveled from outside of Omaha

31% first-time visitors

25% have attended First Fridays more than TEN times

86% said they "experienced or learned something new"

3 new exterior murals created in Benson - including 2 pieces from visiting international artists Victor Lopez (Mexico / @victorlopez_art) and Bara (Guatemala / @colormebara)

9th Annual New American Arts Festival and 3rd Annual First Friday PRIDE - supporting local refugee, immigrant, and LGBTQIA2S+ artists

30+ featured artists in BFFzz quarterly publications

During May-September:

2 pedi-cabs offering free transportation!

3 street closures, allowing for community partnerships and 55+ local artist vendors each month!

94 paid artists providing interactive elements, educational demonstrations, live art, live music, public art, or other artistic productions

PETSHOP

86 artists exhibited

20+ interdisciplinary studio artists housed

9 artist residents

2 new exterior murals at Petshop

The reinstatement of Petshop's live music programming, featuring **15+ shows**

TEENLINE + BFF KIDZ

The opening of Trudy's TeenLine education room!

48 teenage and youth artist exhibited

12 hands-on Art Club activities hosted

450 to-go art kits distributed for free

2 "Teen Zine" publications released

GREEN TEAM

160+ bags of trash & recycling picked up from Benson streets

Hosted Benson's neighborhood compost site, partnered with Hillside Solutions

Cigarette butt receptacles installed

Glass recycling and bicycling awareness programs initiated

**GET INVOLVED WITH
BFF PROJECTS**

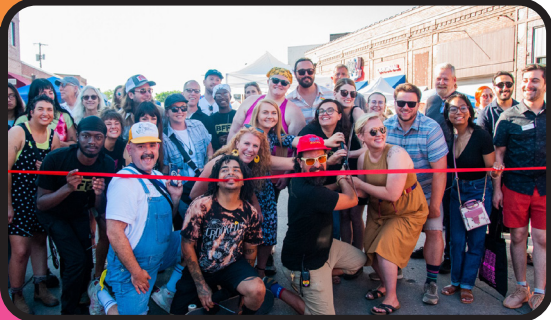


EVENTS TO REMEMBER // A LOOK BACK



PETFEST

"If Maha Festival showcases the newest indie acts and Outlandia celebrates past national indie icons, Petfest is the ultimate showcase of the best talent this state has to offer." - Tim McMahan, Lazy-i.com



RIBBON CUTTING FOR THE BENSON CREATIVE DISTRICT

Thanks to the Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce, Bensonites partook in a ribbon cutting ceremony across Maple Street and reveled in their long-awaited designation as a Creative District by the great state of Nebraska!



TEN YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Started from the bottom, now we here! To ring in BFF's first decade, we partnered with Creative Mornings for a 9am roof-top karaoke session ("Wake up Benson!") and panel discussion with some of the founding and current members. Petshop turned into the BFF History Museum, showcasing photos, original posters, and other curios from over the years. And Sailor's Grave offered BFF logo tattoos that garnered the brave few a BFF Membership for LIFE!



MAMO @ MAHA.

2022's Maha was TGIBFF! Event-goers stepped into a 90's ephemeral installation inside the MaMO Gallery at its new location: "Suite 98", South 67th St. Inside, was Alanis More-stuff showing off their hoard of 90's memorabilia and curios. Featuring 90's inspired exhibiting & installation artists (Ian Tredway, ZWIAN, & Jada Messick). Outside the MaMO, they participated in hands-on activities, a Lisa Frank-inspired paint-by-numbers mural (6' x 8'), watched Live Artist (Sarah Jensen), got dressed for the 90s & took pics in our Polaroid photobooth (#AsIf), participated in Creighton's Scavenger Hunt, sought out BFF's "Internet Trolls" in the crowd (Trolls distributed 'BFF Online' CD-Rom discs), or joined us for a raucous round of the Macarena! Our BFFtv Guide special highlighted performances and crowd hype characters including pro wrestlers, Sally Jesse Raphael, Lil' Kim, Missy Elliott, Sisqo, Janet Jackson, Tinkerbell (from Hook), and the BFF "Fly Girls"!

SUPPORT

Funders



Captain's Club Members



**BENSON
BREWERY**



2022 Business Members

Barchen	Maven Social	Taco Co.
Radial Arts Center	Omaha Roller Derby	The Sydney
Dahlia House	St Paul Benson	Star Deli
Jake's Cigars	Supergroovy's	Ming Toy Gallery
Jimmy Johns	The Sweet Side	

LEARN MORE ABOUT
BECOMING A SUPPORTER



Program & Project Partners



Heather Tedesco,
Realtor, Better Homes
& Gardens Real Estate



Anonymous Quotes from our Event Surveys

"BFF has always built the sense of community that had been generationally lost, and now they are doing it again as we emerge from the quarantine quagmire."

"One of the best events in Omaha!"

"I've never seen a more developed sense of community than I feel in Benson. BFF is a great example of how that community experiences one another. It's important work."

"BFF is the Alan Rickman of Paul Rudds"

“BFF channels sparks of creativity into a cosmos of welcome in our community xoxo”

“I went to Petfest during a hard time in my life, it helped me do what art and music is supposed to do. It took me away for a while. Let me take a break from feeling everything for a few hours. I’ve loved all the events that BFF puts on and I was honored by BFF with an article in the zine just because I showed up. It made me feel... seen. Thank you, BFF.”

“The community created by BFF serves as a critical underpinning to Omaha arts.”

Anonymous Quotes from our Members

2022 MEMBERS

Abby Heithoff and Tom Windle

Alex Dunwoody

Alex Jochim

Alfonzo L. Jones

Alison Wurth

Anastasia Frost

Ang Bennett

Ang Gahan

Anne Gustafson

Annie Butler

Annie Guinana

Ashley DeVrieze

Benjamin Matukewicz

Bianca & Eric Hilsabeck

Blake Doyle

Brandon White

Brian Doyle

Brittani Button & Thou Chum

Caitlin Little

Caitlyn Perman

Carlee Kling

CC Pebbles

Cheri and Mike Ivers

Chip Duden

Clete Baum

Corryn Birkeland

Dan Cavanagh

Daniel Castaneda

Danielle Morgan

Darryl Brown

David Goldberg

Dawaune Lamont Hayes

Delaney Nordbrock

Denton Christim

DéShaun Shelly

DioseLina Estevez

Dre Black

Enrique Lopez

Erin Blayney

Erin Foley

Fernando Antonio

Montejano

Gabe Johnson

Grace Short

Gretchen Bayer

Isaac Reilly

Isabella Manhart

Jacob Borchardt

Jacque Warren

Jae Meyer

Jamie Hanssen

Jamie Hardy

Jasmine & Mike Eggert

Jason Alter

Jenni & Rob Blackford

Jerome Helm

Jessica Franksen

Jessica Meyer

JoDee & Spencer Goracke

Joe Addison

Joe Benson

Joe Hruska

JoEllen Maras

Johanna Shinn

JP Gurnett and Brendan Parlor

JUN

Katelyn Wingate

Katera Brown

Kathleen Anderl

Kathleen Salmon

Katie “Bugz” Brandt

Katy Cowell

Keiria Marsha

Keith Dornan

Kerry Mcmurtry

Keyonna Jeter

Kirby Kaufman

Ky Freeman

Lana Labs

Laura & Neal Dueland

Lauren Koop Daughtrey

Leah Bridges

Lil Gary & Tony Aragon

Lily Labs

Linda Hilliar

Lindsay Jump

Lisa & Tony Bilek

Liz Thrash

Lori Richter

Lynne & Patrick Jensen

Maggie Sheehy & Kyle Richardson

Maggie Weber

Marcus Shorney

McKenna Nordbrock

Meghan Francis

Melinda and Emil Kozel

Melinda Sorenson

Melissa Wurth

Melynda Walsh

Meredith Wachter

Michael Hajduk

Mindy I Leahy

MJ Peters

Molly Burns

Natalie & Andy Matz

Ned Vasquez

Nicole Hulstein

Olivia Bell

Olivia Fries

Parker Brown

Purris Stilton

Rachel Grossman

Ramanda & Scott Fuelberth

Rosie Zweiback

Ross Miller

Ryan Menchaca

Ryan Morrissey

Ryan Pfeifer

Sam Stivers & Greg Lilly

Samantha Short

Sara Pate

Sarah Cavanagh

Sarah Ferguson

Sarah Hamilton

Sarah Johnson

Sarah Nun

Saraya Vogel

Scott Micheels

Shelby & Josh Audiss

Stephanie Diaz

Stephen Currie

Stephen Ray

Sterling Burns

Sydney Sowl

Tiffany Sinnott

Tim Berg

Todd McCollister

Tony Cattano

Travis & Alissa Apel

Triletty Wade

Tyler Swain

Valerie Wilwerding

Victoria Stokes

Vince Carroll

Vincent Morford

Viy Lahowetz

Wiley Jacob

Will Rischling

Zach Schmieder

Zoe Bohelski

Members for LIFE

Amy Wise

Eileen Schmieder

Erin Carr

Jamie Hardy

Laura Simpson

Tara Bilek



OUR TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Hilliar President
Ang Bennett Vice President
Sarah Cavanagh Secretary
Erin Foley Treasurer
Saraya Vogel Inclusion Chair

Shelby Audiss Education Chair
Ben Matukewicz Board Member
Annie Butler Board Member
Ramanda Fuelberth Board Member

STAFF, CREW, & VOLUNTEERS

Alex Jochim
 Co-Founder +
 Executive Director

Angela Gahan
 BFFzz, Membership
 Coordinator, + First Fridays

Caitlyn Perman
 Green Team +
 Artist Markets

Daniel Castaneda
(Sedra D'mente)
 Crew

Daniel Cavanagh
 Crew

DèShaun Shelly
 First Fridays

Enrique Lopez
 First Fridays

Erin Carr
 Artist Markets

Grace Short
MaMO Gallery

Jae Meyer
 Development

Jasmine Eggert
 Youth Engagement

Jerome Helm
 DJ + Artist Markets

Joe Addison
 Petshop Gallery

John-Paul Gurnett
 Communications +
 Creative Director

Katera Brown
 Lead Photographer
 + First Fridays

Katie "Bugz" Brandt
 First Fridays + Development

Katy Cowell
 Photographer

Keyonna Jeter
 Artist Markets

Laura Simpson
 Youth Engagement

Lindsay Jump
 Communications

Makayla Harrie
 "Walk it Out," Membership
 Coordinator

Melynda Walsh
 Youth Engagement

Olivia Bell
 First Fridays

Sara Pate
 Crew

Sarah Ferguson
 Petshop

Saraya (Ziggy) Vogel
 First Fridays

Sterling Burns
 First Fridays

Tim Berg
 Crew + reigning
 2021 Royalty

Todd McCollister
 Green Team

Tyler Swain
 MaMO Gallery

Viy Lahowetz
 First Fridays

Wiley Jacob
 Petshop + Digital Media

Yuanjun Chen
 Photography Intern

Zach Schmieder
 PETFEST



OUTLOOK



2023 THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

- **First Friday PRIDE** June 2nd
Highlighting interdisciplinary LGBTQIA2S+ artists including exhibiting & live visual artists, performers, musicians, workshops, youth engagement, public art, and more!
- **10th Annual New American Arts Festival** August 4th
Celebrating 10 years of Omaha's immigrant and refugee communities, cultures, artists, performers, and more!
- **The BFF Ball** November 10th
Don your Friday best, because The BFF Ball is moving to its new prime-time Friday night slot. Expect visual art, performances, decadence, food, dancing, and fun.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES:

- TBD Spring Fundraiser (April/May)
- First Friday PRIDE (June 2nd)
- Omaha Summer Arts Festival (June 9th/10th)
- Maha (July 28th/29th)
- Benson Days (July 29th/30th)
- New American Arts Festival (August 4th)
- PETFEST (August 19th)
- Lincoln Calling (TBA - September)
- Ball (November 10th)
- Green Team Community Cleanups - every other Tuesday evening starting May 9th!

HOW TO SUPPORT

1

BECOME A FRIEND OF BFF MEMBER

It's totally cool and everyone's doing it. Members enjoy swag, monthly perks & discounts at First Friday events, special invitations to the Members-ONLY Ball, and the satisfaction of supporting community building and arts engagement.

2

MAKE A DONATION

Every donation counts! 97% of BFF's makeup is artists. And we are present, persistent, motivated, and resourceful! A small donation to BFF has a BIG impact on the community.

3

BECOME A SUPPORTING PARTNER

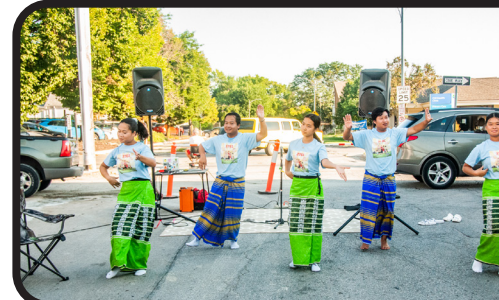
In order to keep our programming vibrant, happenin', and GROWING, we depend on our Supporting Program Partners! Various promotional and partnership opportunities abound! Please email ALEX @ alex@bffomaha.org for inquiries and all sponsorship opportunities.

Support Online!

bffomaha.org/support

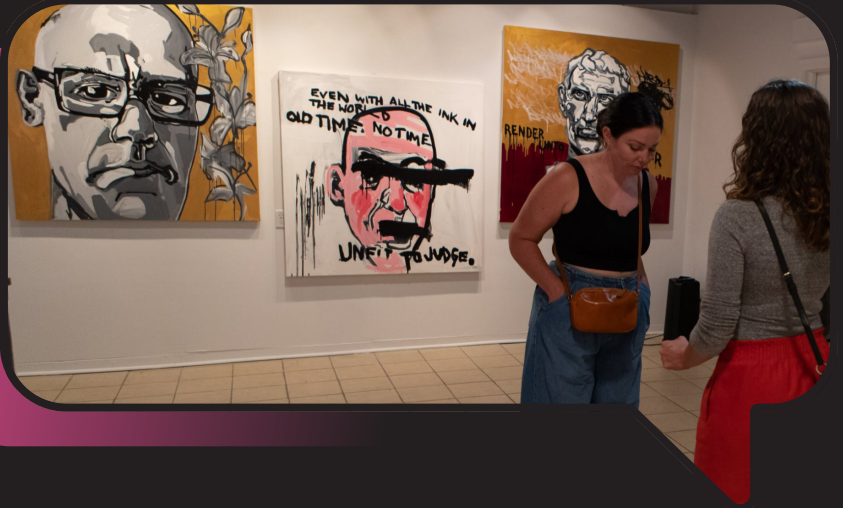
Support by Mail!

Checks payable to "BFF Omaha" can be mailed to 2729 N. 62nd St. Omaha, NE 68104



SUPPORT BFF:





BFF ARTS & COMMUNITY ♥

2729 N. 62nd Street, Omaha, NE 68104

BFFomaha.org

info@bffomaha.org

BFF Omaha bffOmaha