



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



Go Anywhere From Here



OUR MISSION

Spark Central is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that ignites the creativity, innovation, and imagination necessary for people to forge the path to their best future.

We break barriers to creativity like cost, confidence, and access by offering transformative programs, access to innovative technology, and a welcoming creative community for people of all economic backgrounds.

As a 501(c)3 charitable organization, we rely on the generosity of people like you to keep our membership and programs available at no cost so income is never a barrier to a brighter future.

FROM THE ENGINE ROOM

A Note from our Chief Engineer



Dear Friends,

At Spark Central, our mission is to ignite creativity, innovation, imagination, and lifelong learning through accessible arts and education programs. Throughout 2022 and 2023, we remained steadfast in our commitment to this mission. As with many other organizations, the pandemic tested our resilience, but it also underscored the importance of our work in providing inclusive and equitable access to education and enrichment opportunities to the West Central community and beyond.

I am proud to share that despite past challenges, we continue to make a meaningful impact in the lives of so many individuals and families. Through our diverse programming, including workshops, classes, and community events, we reach thousands of participants of all ages and backgrounds each year. One of my favorite moments witnessing creativity in action was in my first month as Executive Director during our Star Wars Day community event. After helping a 4-year-old visitor make a popsicle stick lightsaber, she asked if she could build another one and when I offered to assist again, she replied, "No thanks, I've got it." And sure enough, she did! Not only did she build another lightsaber, through trial-and-error she figured out how to put together a working circuit for a *double-sided* lightsaber. Talk about innovation and imagination!

As we look to the future, we are filled with optimism and excitement for the possibilities that lie ahead. Whether it is through our school-based program, Level Up, one of our summer camps, or the variety of drop-in programs at our Station, we remain dedicated to fostering creativity and empowering our community members to explore their passions. With your continued support, we are confident that we can further expand our reach and deepen our impact in Spokane for years to come. To those of you who have contributed your time, talent, and treasures with us, your generosity has been instrumental in our success, and we are immensely grateful for your partnership.

Thank you for being a part of Spark Central and helping us build a brighter future for all!

With gratitude,

Melissa Bedford, Ph.D.
Executive Director





CULTIVATING RESILIENCE WHILE BUILDING COMMUNITY

In summer of 2023, at our ever-popular Minecraft Club, a young girl (Nina, approx. 7) joined and had technical difficulties with our iPad touch screens. But even with these challenges, she persevered and built an outdoor zoo to contribute to her group's build. Her resilience was rewarded by the compliments of other Minecraft Club attendees when her and her group shared their build on our projector at the end of the program. Nina returned the following week more practiced at interacting with the touchscreen and helped her group create a river bridge for their Spokane Landmarks build.

IGNITING

CREATIVITY

INNOVATION

IMAGINATION

The heart of Spark Central programming continues to be our main space - Spark Central Station - located in Kendall Yards. Tuesdays through Saturdays, we are joined by various community members who come in to engage in our different programs, including Minecraft Club, LEGO Robotics, Art Club, and Drop In & RPG. We are grateful for the continued support from Greenstone Corporation to share our space with the West Central Neighborhood and Spokane community at large!

There's
more in store

in
2024!

STATION



Regular Programs

Minecraft Club
LEGO Robotics
Drop In & Draw
Poetry After Dark
Art Club
Drop In & Write
VR Playtime
Drop In & RPG



Check out our programs!

Community Programs

Bloom Together
Spark-O-Ween
Elves Workshop



Summer Programs

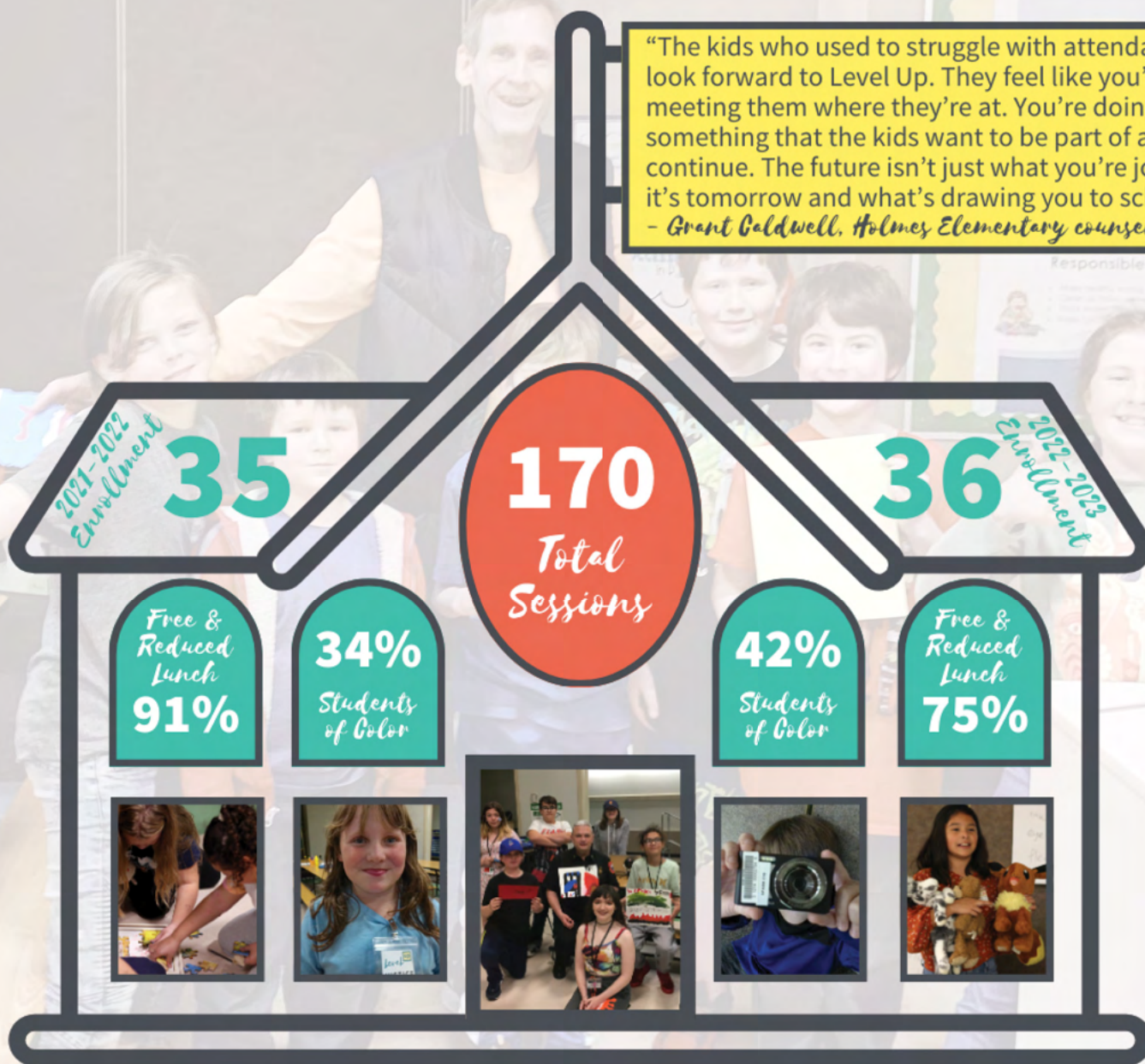
Girls Rock Lab
Origin Stories
Code Kids
Scoop From Space
LEGO Robotics
Camp Mixtape
Full STEAM Ahead

GO ANYWHERE FROM HERE

THIS IS HOW WE LEVEL UP!

Since 2020, when Level Up first started, we have brought engaging programming to the youth of West Central, giving them the opportunity to share their voice. Level Up has evolved from a Station-based cohort model to a site-based program at our partner schools - Holmes and Audubon Elementary - where twice a week, 3rd - 5th grade students participate in creative projects. From storytellers in the Myth Makers program to budding journalists in the West Central Express, our Level Up youth are in the driver's seat, sharing their interests and imaginations with the community.

"The kids who used to struggle with attendance look forward to Level Up. They feel like you're meeting them where they're at. You're doing something that the kids want to be part of and continue. The future isn't just what you're job is, it's tomorrow and what's drawing you to school."
- Grant Caldwell, Holmes Elementary counselor



Every youth that participates in Level Up **grows in confidence, cultivates a growth mindset, and develops their future aspirations.**

LEARNING TO COLLABORATE

Tyler (age 13) joined our Level Up program with a deep interest in technology - especially old video games - which he was eager to share with his mentor, Faith (age 20). Together, they developed this interest into experiments with creating digital music, using Garageband to combine different instruments, tracks, and vocal recordings. As Tyler explored this new skill, he encountered familiar challenges for any creative - sharing space and resources, finding ways to harmonize our vision with others', and holding on to our motivation through setbacks. Faith and our staff coached Tyler on overcoming mistakes and collaborating creatively with others throughout the year. He progressed from reacting to setbacks with despair to engaging proactively with his peers, creating music to accompany other students' animation projects and working with Faith to teach skills like making balloon animals to his peers. Tyler continues to report back to us from middle school, sharing new ideas for music when he visits our Creative Station and reflecting to our staff that the social skills he practiced with us, "helped me prepare for middle school, where things are tougher."



2 PLAY *is* PRODUCTIVE 2

0 BY THE NUMBERS 0

2
2

2
3



7,873
members



An average of **35** people per day utilize our station



6,288 volunteer hours



7 in-house & professional publications



1,540 hours of structured programming

17

school break camps



3 little libraries created & filled



6,342 snacks provided



2,194 new members



4,809 technology check outs



115 Level Up participants



14 original songs written



4,653 youth served by programs



1,697 books checked out

2,280 adults served by programs



12 community partner organizations & schools

25

community events



1

hippo onesie





IGNITING CREATIVITY FOR ALL

Our greatest goal at Spark Central is to continue providing and expanding programming that unites youth and families of all economic backgrounds and from all over the Spokane area! We achieve this connection through hands-on activities and creative play. All our programs are designed to boost creative confidence, encourage a growth mindset, and inspire broader aspirations for folks' futures. Every week, new creative connections are happening at Spark Central!

WHERE WE ARE...

Spark Central continues to welcome people of all socioeconomic backgrounds, with a special focus on serving our West Central community. We have seen enrollment success in our school-based Level Up program and have started providing priority registration for our partner schools and organizations for our school-break camps. We strive to break the "pay-to-play" barrier so that everyone has the opportunity to find what *sparks* their interests and pursue their passions.



... AND WHERE WE'RE GOING

As we enter our "next chapter," we always keep in mind where we've been. We strive to honor the visions of our co-founders, Jim Frank and Jess Walter, by creating a welcoming, safe space for people to have access to the resources they need to work towards the future they imagine. To make this happen, we will continue to partner with other organizations, work with local schools, engage in professional development, communicate with our stakeholders and fellow community members, and celebrate our accomplishments. We hope you will join us as we continue full steam ahead!



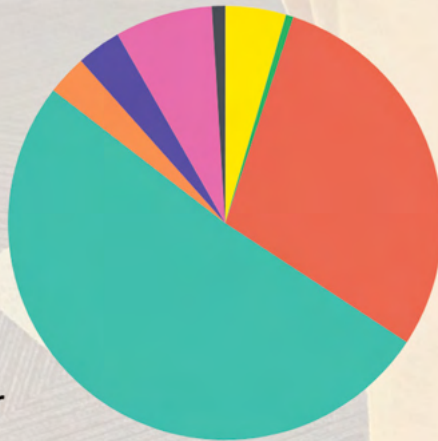
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

2022	
OPERATING REVENUE	
Individual Giving	\$29,539
Board Giving	\$3,652
Fundraising Events	\$187,582
Grants	\$224,767
Corporate Giving	\$23,909
Sponsorships	\$27,500
In-Kind (rent, etc.)	\$45,003
Merchandise & Other	\$3,457
TOTAL INCOME	\$545,408
EXPENSES	
Programming	\$38,404
Staffing	\$320,830
Administrative	\$130,065
Marketing & Development	\$67,332
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$556,631
RESTRICTED FUNDS	
Board-restricted reserve	\$230,551
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$230,551

2023	
OPERATING REVENUE	
Individual Giving	\$25,336
Board Giving	\$3,018
Fundraising Events	\$165,799
Grants	\$395,811
Corporate Giving	\$12,140
Sponsorships	\$12,500
In-Kind (rent, etc.)	\$43,115
Merchandise & Other	\$8,446
TOTAL INCOME	\$666,164
EXPENSES	
Programming	\$33,041
Staffing	\$277,652
Administrative	\$131,175
Marketing & Development	\$55,746
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$497,615
RESTRICTED FUNDS	
Board-restricted reserve	\$639,729
TOTAL RESTRICTED FUNDS	\$639,729

2022 & 2023 OPERATING REVENUE SOURCES

- 4.5% Individual Giving
- 0.6% Board Giving
- 29.2% Fundraising Events
- 51.2% Grants
- 3.0% Corporate Giving
- 3.3% Sponsorships
- 7.2% In-Kind (rent, etc.)
- 1.0% Merchandise & Other



2022 & 2023 OPERATING EXPENSES

- 6.8% Programming
- 56.7% Staffing
- 24.8% Administrative
- 11.7% Marketing & Development



2022-2023 SUPPORTERS

Spark Central relies on the generosity of people like you to keep our membership and programs **free** so that cost is never a barrier to brighter futures. A hearty **THANK YOU** goes out to the following people and organizations who supported our work in 2022 & 2023:

SPARK CENTRAL VISIONARIES

\$5,000+

Brad & Dana Van Slyke
Brendon Townshend
Cinda & Rob Reed
Hollie Timmons
Jeffrey Kinservik
Jennifer Wheaton
Jim & Mary Anne Frank
Joe & Laura Frank
Michelle & David Starry
Patricia & Peter Elzey
Thomas McLaughlin

SNOZ SQUAD

\$2,500+

Ashli Myers
Chris & Holly Knapp
Christy Branson
Gage Stromberg
Gary Graham
Greg Mahugh
Jennifer Chaparro
Jess & Anne Walter
Jesse Tinsley
Joell Watchorn
Keri & Kevin Collins
Larry Cebula
Maureen Fay
Meg Curtin Rey-Bear &
Dan Rey-Bear
Mike & Christi Malsam
Rick Eichstaedt
Sandra & Steven Kernerman

BARRIER BREAKER

\$1,000+

Alexis Nelson
Amy Rusev Dawley
Andrei & Kristy Mylroie
Anthony Doerr
Ashley Hollis
Barry Baker
Clarin McDerrah
Clinton Jordan
Cynthia Chatham
David Peters
Desiree & Monte Madsen
Don Hay
Gart Stokes
Jared Smith
Jason & Kristene Gillmer

Joe Garst
Jonathan Sweatt
Joy Peltier
Karen Hayden-Rau
Kendel & Peter Froese
Laura Read
Lee Wurm
Lucas Holmquist
Mark Simmons
Mark McAtee
Michael Starry
Michael Townshend &
Vanessa Swenson
Michelle Lockman
Mona & Brian Dershem
Shawn Vestal & Amy Cabe
Sherry Maughan
Stacia Rasmussen
Stephanie & Abel DeLaRosa
Steve Faust
Syncione Bresgal
Tisha Goodman
Travis Smith

IMAGINATION IGNITER

\$500+

Allison Meyer
Alyssa Agee
Andy Barrett
Ben & Erin Joyce
Beth Edwards
Bill & Debbie Jennison
Bill & Nikki Lockwood
Brad Stevens
Brooke Baker Spink
Bruce Howard
Bruce Todesco
Cami Nelson
Carolyn Lamberson
Charlotte Nemeč
Chauncey Jones
Cheryl Hastings
Christopher Parkin
Chrystal Gonzalez
Clancy Bundy
Cordean Denny
Darla Copeland Grose
Elaine Madigan
Elizabeth Rognes
Elizabeth & Mark Michaelis
Ellen Picken
Emily Gwinn
Eric Ostlund
Eric & Karyn Woodard
Eric & Deborah Stucky

Erin Williams Hueter
Ginger Ewing &
Luke Baumgarten
Heather Montgomery
Helen Donigan
Hunter & Allison Peterson
Inga Laurent
Jacquelyn Caro
Jaydra Erchul
Jefferson Workman
Jennifer Fanto
Jessica Giles
Jessica & Blair Anundson
JJ Jones
Josh Gibson
Julie Lee
Kara Rowe
Karli Ingersoll
Kathe Reed McKay
Kathy & Tim Ugaldea
Katie & Luke Tolley
Kelly Weber
Kiantha Duncan
Kim Thomas
Krista Ostlund
Kristi Burns
Laura Kenney
Lee Schoentrup
Lisa Brown
Maira Richardson
Margaret Starry
Mark Cuilla
Mary Alberts
Matt Utesh
Matt & Diane Concie
Megan Schuyler Kennedy
Melissa Huggins
Michael Schneider
Michael Richardson
Nathan South
Nicholas Richardson
Pat Simmons
Patrick Malone
Paula Robison
Paula Whitson
Rajah Bose
Ralph Walter
Sarah Dahmen
Sarah Reames
Scott Habenicht
Shancie Wagner
Shann Ferch
Sharma & Paul Shields
Shawn Jordan
Stephanie Baumker
Sylvia Brown
Ted & Anne McGregor
Teresa Jaynes

Terry & Heidi Bollum
Tony Flinn
William Eden

INNOVATION INFLUENCER

\$100+

Amorette Sherwood &
Parker Shaw
Bart Logue
Bedria Sanders
Betsy Wilkerson
Brent Harding
Bryan Stokes
Bukola Breczinski
Chantal Slider
Christopher Howell
Christy Jeffers
Curtis Callahan
Dan Siddoway
Daniel Butterworth
David Harvey
Denece Goertzen
Dylan Clark
Eleanor Lathem
Elsa & Dan Distelhorst
Esteban Herrera
Ginette Kerking
Harumi Norasakkunkit
Heather Sabbak
Heidi Hoffman
Holli Parker
Hunter Arno
Ian Amberson
Jana Farace
Jason Gorder
Jason Johnson
Jeff Beaulac &
Melissa Bedford
Jeni Cota
Jenifer Priest
Jennifer Leinberger
Jennifer Morgan
Jennifer Evans
Jennifer & Rusty Dailey
Jessie Norris
Jill Rider
Jim Swaboda
Joe Murcar
John Clarke
John Pell
Jonna Kelley
Karen Mobley
Kate Lebo & Sam Ligon
Kate Reed
Kay Dixon
Kelli Eller

Kim Culberson
Kimberly Lusk
Kurtis Kelly
Lynn Mount
Margo Buckles
Mario Sailas
Megan Rowe
Megan Stokes
Meredith Devey
Michele Lee Unsworth
Nancy Janzen
Nathanial Prior
Nicolas Keeslar
Nicole Rosenkrantz
Patrick Donahue
Patty Bender
Rikki Pierce
Robert Johnson
Ryan Hare
Samantha Burnette
Shanda Gorder
Sophie Richardson
Stephaine Courtney
Susan Poindexter
Terry & Melinda Bedford

CREATIVITY CULTIVATOR

\$1+

Addy Hatch
Alejandra Llamedo
Allena Warren

Allison Dunlap
Allison Cowart
Alyssa Fisher
Amber Waldref
Amy Seymour
Andrew Mendez
Andrew Morrison
Andy Rumsey
Anna McKinlay
Ashlee Canode
Ashley Trussell
Ashlynn Thielen
Barbara Williamson
Bekah Lindsey
Ben Stuckart
Benji Landron
Brian Kobs
Bridget Stapleton
Brooklyn Walter
Cassandra Montgomery
Chey Scott
Christina Thomas
Christopher Strand
Christy Anderson
Clara DePaolo
Darby Meegan
Delores Luttrupp
Demetri Koston
Devin Biviano
Donald Holm
Elbe Seaton
Emelie Pospisil
Emily Schneider

Emily Migliazzo
Emily Christie
Emma Epperly
Erica Morris
Erin Peterson
Ethan Mendoza-Pena
Gawain & McCall Fadeley
Genevieve LeCou
Gina McGlocklin
Heather Thoburn
Heidi Farr
Jamie DeHaven
Jana Aguirre
Janice Martin
Jasmine Perez
Jason Klein
Jasyn Bourne
Jennifer Crane Pyle
Jennifer Harrison
Jessica Cusack
Jessica Wade
Jill Johnson
Joseph Haeger
Joshua Morton
Julie Adams
Julie Sleep
Karhonkwison Logan
Kari Knudsen Stover
Karyna Goldsmith
Kate Allison
Katie Berggren
Kelly Kleiderer
Kelly Serna

Kelly Hansen
Kevin Cole
Kiffen Overbay
Kip Hill
Kristi Theisen
Kristin Walters
Kristin Olsen-Lemus
Kristina Mattson
Laura Woods
Leona Perry
Loneer Jenkins
Lisa Leinberger
Lynda Carpenter
Mara Blazquez
Margaret Albaugh
Margie Bensching
Matthew Croskrey
Meghan Cregan
Melissa Parker
Melissa Click
Michael Dalich
Michael Dunlap
Michele Slider
Michele Lassiter
Molly Quinn
Molly Johnson
Mona Boyd
Natasha Hill
Nichol Savko
Nicole Smith
Nicole Adamson-Wood
Nikki Eberhart
Nolan Hibbs

Pia Hallenberg
Posie Kalin
Priscilla Vivio
Quentin Canton
Randall Schleufer
Rebecca Lawson
Richard Weeks
Richard Jones
Rikki Lindhag
Robyn Best
Roland Ingersoll
Samantha Bishop
Sarah Dugan
Sari Rauscher
Shelby Keller
Sheri Prins
Sheri Boggs
Stacey Wenz
Tamika LaMere
Tara Gelhausen
Teresa Dixon
Terra Price
Traci Bemis
Tracy King
Tracy Poindexter-Canton
Vanessa Sulpizio
Wendith Devey
Yvette Schock

FOUNDATION & ORGANIZATION SUPPORT

A2Z Interpreting
Allstate Foundation
Amazon
Arts WA
Auntie's Bookstore
Avista
Baker Construction
Ballmer Group
BECU
BNSF Railway Foundation
Boone Electric
Canopy Credit Union

Farkas Family Foundation
Gesa Credit Union
Global Credit Union
Green Skyfox Spokane, LLC
Greenstone Foundation
Hagan Foundation
Idaho Central Credit Union
ILF Media
IRS Environmental
J-U-B Engineering
Kaiser Aluminum
KH Consulting

Kroger
NEW ESD 101
Marie Lamfrom
OSPI
Party Krill
Platform Partners Real Estate
Providence
River Ridge Association of Fine Arts
Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund
Spokane Arts Grant Awards

Spokane County United Way
Spokane Teachers Credit Union
Starry Financial Group
The Denver Foundation
The Zone
Traci Bemis: Homes for Change Real Estate
Union Pacific
Verizon
Washington Trust Bank
Whitworth University
Windermere Real Estate City Group
Women Helping Women Fund

IN-KIND SUPPORT

4000 Holes
Anthony Calabro
Anvil Coffee
Atticus
Auntie's Bookstore
Baker Construction
Barrister Winery
Bean & Pie
BECU
Ben Joyce Studios
Bukola Brezczinski
Chauncey Jones
Christy Branson
Cinda & Rob Reed
Clarín McDerrah
Coeur d' Alene Casino

Coil Studio
Cravens Coffee
Darby Meegan
Davenport Hotel
Deborah Brady
Devonte Pearson
Dry Fly Distilling, Inc.
Fish Window Cleaning
Flowers for People
Gander & Ryegrass
Gary Graham
Idaho Central Credit Union
Inland Pacific Kitchen
Jamie Absalonson
Jason Gorder
Jennifer Evans

Jim & Mary Anne Frank
Jonathan Sweatt
Kiantha Duncan
KSPS PBS
Laura Read
Magic Lantern
Melissa Bedford
Michelle & David Starry
Numerica Credit Union
Overbluff Cellars
Party Krill
Patricia & Peter Elzey
Pinot's Palette
Raising the Bar
Roast House Coffee
Robert Karl Cellars

Skin Savvy Spokane
Spokane Chiefs Hockey Club
Spokane Indians Baseball Club
Spokane Riverkeeper
Spokane Teachers Credit Union
Sylvia Brown
Terry & Melinda Bedford
The Centennial Hotel
The Knitting Factory
Thrive Law PLLC
Trending Northwest
Uprise Brewing Company, LLC
Washington Trust Bank
Wildland Cooperative
Wishing Tree Books

****Supporter totals are reflective of their cumulative donations for 2022 and 2023****

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Also Served in 2022-2023:

SYLVIA BROWN

President · Xfinity Mobile Technical Support Manager, Comcast

LIZ ROGNES

Vice President · Musician; Senior Lecturer, EWU

TOM MCLAUGHLIN

Treasurer · Senior Vice President, Washington Trust Bank

KRISTENE GILLMER

Secretary · Principal, Spokane Public Schools

SUSAN ASHE

Retired, Health Sciences & Services Authority

SPENCER SHANHOLTZER

Human Resources & Culture Director, Canopy Credit Union

DR. TERRIE ASHBY-SCOTT

Retired, Eastern Washington University

DR. NICHOLE BOGAROSH

Associate Professor, Whitworth University

ANGIE KRAUSS

JAMES KASHORK

GAGE STROMBERG

BUKOLA BREZINKSKI

MICHELLE STARRY

LAURA READ

MIKE MALSAM

RICK EICHSTAEDT

JIM FRANK **Co-Founder

SHAWN VESTAL

JESS WALTER **Co-Founder

CHAUNCEY JONES

DEVONTE PEARSON

LATRICE WILLIAMS

OUR TEAM

MELISSA BEDFORD

Executive Director

LEAH DAWDY

Station Program Manager

WILSON FAUST

Program Director

TERRA PRICE

Level Up Program Manager

NICKI THOMPSON

Office Manager

PAM ROLLISON

Station Lead

Special Thanks to the Following Individuals:

MAGGIE BICK

Whitworth University · Level Up Intern

FAITH WATKINS

Gonzaga University · Level Up Intern

GWENDOLYN BRANTNER

Whitworth University · Level Up Intern

WILLOW VAUGHN

Whitworth University · Summer Program Intern

KATELYN BUMBECK

Whitworth University · Station Intern

SPARK CENTRAL

1214 W. Summit Parkway · Spokane, WA 99201 · Spark-Central.org · 509 279 0299