



INTERNATIONALLY
ACCLAIMED

EXCELLENCE
ON STAGE & IN LIFE

2019



MOSAIC YOUTH THEATRE OF DETROIT ANNUAL REPORT

Discover MOSAIC

OUR MISSION

Empowering young people to maximize their potential through professional performing arts training and the creation of theatrical and musical art that engages, transforms, and inspires.

IMPACT Since 1992 . . .

95% of youth ensemble members graduate high school.

97% of youth ensemble members gained acceptance to college.

99% of youth who matriculated to college in 2019 are still enrolled.

The Michigan High School Graduation Rate is **81.4%**.

Detroit graduation rate was **75.84%** for the class of 2019.

The college retention rate in Michigan was **72.67%**.

What an extraordinary 28th season. Looking back on this year, I am moved by the spirit of the Mosaic family and what it means for our world today. Mosaic young artists are encouraged to dream boldly and supported to bring their vision to fruition. As they learn to express themselves through the arts, they begin to grow in confidence to activate their voices off stage. With the support of our amazing stakeholders, the young artists and team showed their mettle, persisting to engage, transform, and inspire.

Though 2020 brought its share of challenges, we continue to provide a safe space for young people to grow, connect, and dream. We partnered with youth from across the country to engage young artists in co-facilitating a national young artist summit in Austin, TX. We shared live theater and music with thousands of youth and adult audience members in some of Detroit's most beautiful historic theaters. And when we had to turn on the Ghostlight in the theater, we took to spreading light and hope through the virtual stage, on telephones, and with socially distanced drive up celebrations. Prioritizing the physical and emotional health and safety of our young artists, we partnered to bring programming into homes and while offering mental health and basic needs support to youth and their families. Championing youth voice, we launched a youth playwright and composer competition to support young people in telling their stories, and partnered with Brandon Victor Dixon using performance media to encourage people to activate their voice by registering and voting.

As we enter a new season, we remain committed to upholding our legacy of providing transformative artistic experiences as a vehicle to promote scholarship and global citizenship. We will be authentic, bold, and creative as we innovate and ensure the young artists and our community continues to thrive, no matter the circumstance. We thank you for your enthusiastic support in all that lies ahead.

With gratitude,

DeLashea Strawder

Executive & Artistic Director

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DeLashea Strawder, *Executive & Artistic Director*

Aja Abney, *Community Engagement Coordinator*

Joe Bailey, *Executive Administrative Assistant*

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Alfreda Liles, *Programs Coordinator*

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Amber Griffin, *Resident Teaching Artist*

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Leadership

DONOVAN ROGERS

Mosaic Singers Alumna

Years in Program: 2011-2020



To be a leader is to be a storyteller. It is a privilege to have inherent control of your own narrative. It is perseverant of those without this privilege to use the pen they've fought for to write themselves into the history books. It is peaceful for those who know this power to pass that pen to passive people and amplify powerless voices.

Mosaic has taught me to be the storyteller that leads by recognizing what is assertively dominant in order to uplift what is unjustly docile. My mindset has been transformed by Mosaic opportunities that challenge systems and ideas that are based in oppression. Perhaps if I never was given the chance to lead a National Young Arts Summit alongside a team of delegates under the age of 20 or perform classical music for a predominantly White audience of 20,000 as an ensemble of young, Black artists, I would have never experienced the empowerment of the unspoken narrative. These lessons have manifested in my work as an artist. Cultivating a research campaign that examines the underrepresentation of minorities in theatrical institutions, representing my class in creating solutions against exploitation and racism at the University of Michigan, and working to create an artistic platform of marginalized creatives are all artist actions that are inspired by my 9 years of Mosaic training. I have learned to put the pen back into our hands as oppressed people. I have learned to showcase our limitless capacities and capabilities. I have learned to tell the truth within our untold stories.

IFE MARTIN

Mosaic Youth Ensemble Member, Young Artist Leader

Years in Program: 2013-Present



I joined Mosaic's First Stage at the age of nine and moved up to Second Stage the following year, making me the youngest young artist in the building. Being the youngest was intimidating at first, however, it allowed me to develop my leadership, take responsibility, and advocate for myself. I learned time management and work ethic in elementary school. Every day before rehearsal, I had to make sure I completed all my homework. I would also do homework and learn lines on my car rides to Mosaic to make sure I would be best prepared for rehearsal. I learned professionalism and the importance of commitment through the standards Mosaic set for us. I would borrow my parents' phones to call in if I thought I would be even five minutes late. I surprised many adults when I would call myself in for my projects outside of Mosaic. I learned how to conduct meetings with minimal adult interaction because of the importance of youth leadership Mosaic stressed.

This past year I have helped plan and facilitate two poetry workshops and an entire virtual webinar series with many elements stemming from what I learned during Mosaic rehearsals. I was a young artist leader and I helped facilitate many performances including a Mosaic's Virtual Performance series. I experienced the other side of theatre by directing and producing the series. Working with my fellow young artists, we created a space where youth voices could be respected and heard. The years of encouraging young artists' creativity and leadership helped me navigate this new terrain. I am grateful for all of the moments and lessons I have learned in Mosaic that have made me who I am today.

Scholarship



JIMMIE COMER III

Mosaic Actors Alumnus
Years in Mosaic: 2019 -2020

Mosaic taught me that education doesn't just stop in high school. The reason that is, is because you don't stop learning about the world around you when you're 18. There are always more things you could know, experiences to learn from, and opportunities for growth. Mosaic helped me gain this perspective by introducing me to new challenges—both in and out of rehearsal.

Mosaic gave me a purpose, a purpose much bigger than myself. That purpose allowed me to exceed in school in ways I never thought were possible. I went from having a 2.0 my 2 years before Mosaic, to maintaining a 3.5 while participating in Mosaic my last two years in high school. Mosaic gave me the confidence and courage to apply for college. I never thought I was college material. As I continued in the program, I realized I could be a mature, well spoken, and professional student and leader. Mosaic was instrumental in my decision to apply to college and be accepted to Western Michigan University, where I am a freshman this fall. Thanks to Mosaic, I was able to surpass the expectations that I once had for myself.



SYDNI JACKSON

Mosaic Singers Alumna
Years in Program: 2010-2015

Mosaic was my first introduction to the world of theatre. I went to a college readiness STEM school, so the most exposure I had to the arts was my one art class. Mosaic showed me at 13 years old that there is so much more to the entertainment industry than television, film, and music. By the time I became a junior in high school, my goals and career interests drastically changed. I was never that interested in going to school and majoring in something I didn't absolutely love. For a while, I was settled on majoring in Psychology. However, after our college invitational my senior year, I realized that colleges actually saw some potential in me succeeding in the theatre and entertainment industries.

Without Mosaic and their college invitational, I would've never had the confidence to explore my life as a performer. Mosaic provided me with so many opportunities that allowed me to grow as a young artist and a professional. During my college career, I was featured in shows such as Hairspray, The Wiz, Showboat, and many more. At this stage in my life, I am certain that the best decision for me was to go to school for Musical Theatre Performance, and I have Mosaic to thank for that. Not only that, but I was blessed to have my Mosaic family there with me in college who encouraged me through all four years of my studies. I have now graduated from Western Michigan University with my BFA, and have even explored the avenues of television and film. Mosaic set me up for my future, and I will forever be indebted to them because of it.

Change the World



COURTNEY EBONIQUE SMITH

Founder & CEO | Detroit Phoenix Center
Mosaic Youth Ensemble Alumna
Years in Program: 2005 - 2009

The role that the Mosaic experience had on my journey was paramount. It was as a young artist in Mosaic Youth Theatre that I found my voice. I was encouraged to hold space for authentic, real, and raw emotions & never shy away from speaking up and out. I was also encouraged to not apologize for living my truth. Those very important lessons drive the way I live, love and lead. My personal mission is to not only be a voice for the voiceless, but to truly center and elevate the experiences of those who are underestimated. In doing so, opportunities arise for those who are traditionally overlooked to show up as their full, whole & authentic selves. I believe that's where our power lies. Mosaic helped me find my voice and now I am helping others activate theirs.

DR. RIANA ELYSE ANDERSON, PhD

Assistant Professor, Health Behavior & Health Education, University of Michigan
Mosaic Youth Ensemble Alumna
Years in Program: 1997 - 1999

I always knew that I wanted to be a speaker of some sort. I was told very early on that I had stage presence, that I was going to be talking to folks on TV and that I had a bubbly personality that needed to be expressed in the world. Because of this, I am really grateful to Mosaic for giving me the focus ("Focus Up"), dedication, and the energy to do the work that is public speaking. I recognize not all people can do that, and that is what we were trained to do as I was preparing to put up an entire play onstage while being a student, studying, and being the captain of a tennis team. At times I was juggling all these things and still had to dedicate my time to running lines and blocking, while learning to meet and engage with new people. Mosaic taught me how to balance everything, how to be persistent, and how to be resilient in the face of challenges, and I'm incredibly grateful for the gift that Mosaic gave me in doing that.

I draw on it heavily now: recently, I've had some cool national opportunities on CNN, National Urban League and PBS. This summer, I've had some really awesome experiences at the front of the (unfortunate) racial justice movement for mental health and how we can be well at this time of incredible struggle. In these times, I hearken back to questions posed at Mosaic: how do I enunciate clearly so that people can hear me and understand my words? How can I focus on the screen and have a stage presence where I'm standing upright while delivering things intentionally and thoughtfully? I'm pulling from that training--drawing on the focus that we needed in Mosaic--to do this work.

In the midst of incredible challenges, having the opportunity to do this work in 2020 has been a true blessing. In reflection, I'm thankful to my director, Rick Sperling (who I know is no longer with Mosaic in that capacity but who has really changed my life). I am grateful to all of my Mosaic colleagues--some of whom I still talk to! Overall, I'm incredibly grateful for what Mosaic gave me, not only as a teen but now in my...(clears throat)...insert age here... But truthfully, Mosaic has done more than I can say, even up to this very moment.



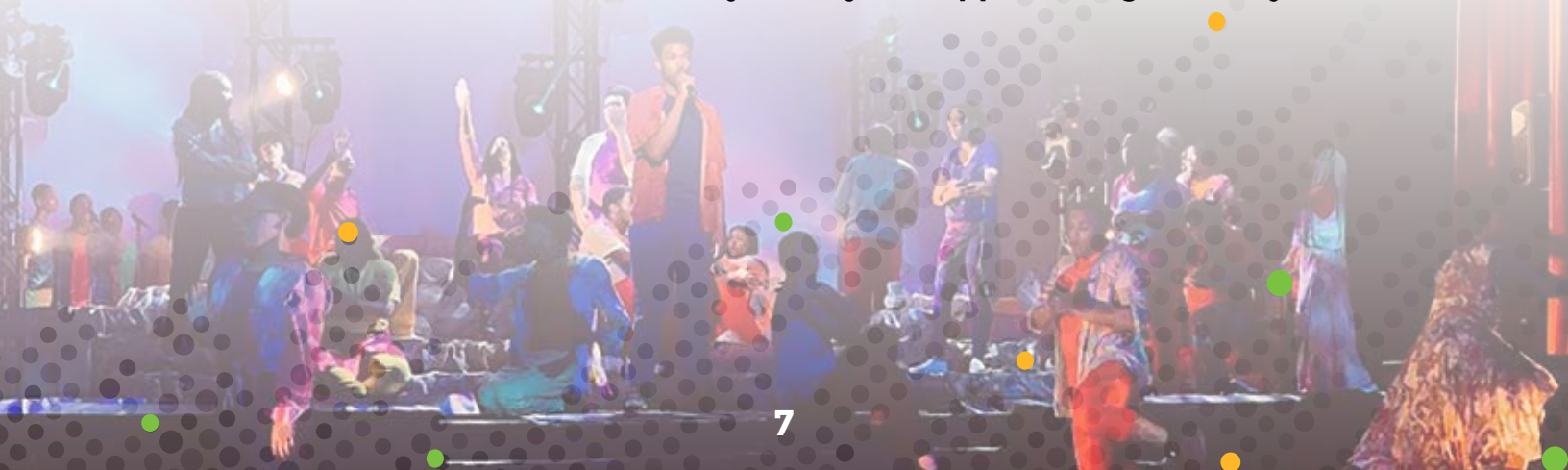
Centering COMMUNITY

For nearly 30 years, Mosaic's programs have activated the power of the arts to empower young people to create positive changes in their lives and communities by helping them develop patterns of cooperation, resilience, empathy and effective problem-solving skills. We recognize that in times of adversity, these experiences and the skills that they cultivate become increasingly important for holistic wellness. COVID-19 has had an indelible impact on the city of Detroit and the many young artists and families Mosaic serves through our school and community programs, our incredible Teaching Artists, and the arts & culture community at large.

As we dug deep and reimagined how we could continue to support young people and our greater community, we pivoted to provide meaningful, responsive, distanced and virtual programming for youth and families. Though none of us know when these unprecedented times will end, we do know that showing up, spreading light and giving love will remain a necessary task, and we are ready and committed to ensuring youth have access to meaningful arts experiences that:

- heal
- give hope
- spread joy
- encourage resilience
- provide a platform for them to use their voice to make a difference
- and build skills that will help them to excel on stage and in life

... both now and in the future. Thank you for your support and generosity.



MOSAIC *Engaged*

- 56 Schools at student matinee programming
- Over 50 youth ages 7-14 through virtual summer programming
- 90 young artists at over 56 Schools in Ensemble Programs
- Nearly 50 youth and young adults ages 14-24 in paid work experiences
- Shared 4,500 total hours of service across all programs

MOSAIC *Transformed*

- 45 locations through the energy, talent and generosity of Mosaic Youth Ensemble members
- By inspiring 87 youth to get involved in community service projects
- Joyously giving more than 120 hours of dedicated service to support community members in need

MOSAIC *Inspired* Youth & School Communities through . . .

School Residency Partners

The James and Grace Lee Boggs School
Brenda Scott Academy
Chandler Park Academy Elementary School
Chandler Park Academy High School
Chandler Park Academy Middle School
George Washington Carver Academy
John R. King Academic and Performing Arts Academy
Vista Meadows Academy

Community Partners

Child and Adult Care Food Program
College for Creative Studies
Detroit School of Arts
Detroit Public Schools Community District
The Redford Theater
Detroit Creative Youth Development Coalition
National Guild for Community Arts Education
Boll Family YMCA
Meet Up and Eat Up
UPREP Schools
Detroit 90/90
LaShelle's School of Dance
Grow Detroit's Young Talent
Cabaret 313
Playhouse! by Stagedoor Manor
Performing Arts Training Center

College Invitational Partners

AMDA
Bethel University
Boston Conservatory at Berklee
Central Michigan University
Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University
Cleveland State University
Interlochen Center for the Arts
Michigan State University
Michigan State University College of Music
Oakland University
Olivet College
The Ohio State University
University of Detroit Mercy
University of Iowa
University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance
Wayne State University
Western Michigan University

Engaging young people in College Invitational Workshops presented by. . .

Bethel University
Detroit College Access Network
Michigan State University Theatre
University of Iowa
Western Michigan University

OUR CORPORATE, FOUNDATION PARTNERS AND INDIVIDUAL DONORS...

- Helped Mosaic programs and programming reach over 200 participants and 7,500 live audience members and over 1 million virtual stage audience members.
- Brought over 18,000 hours of high quality arts education, leadership training, college prep and SEL to Detroit area youth.
- Funded over 500 hours of arts learning in Title I schools in Wayne County Michigan.
- Supported 60+ performances in greater Detroit featuring over 100 young artists.
- Celebrated 19 class of 2020 seniors graduating from 14 schools, with 16 transitioning to college.
- 30 masterclasses with industry professionals

Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is grateful to the many individuals, families, corporations, foundations and cultural partners whose generosity helps us to develop the next generation of artists, leaders and global citizens . . . *Thank you! Your support means the world to us.*

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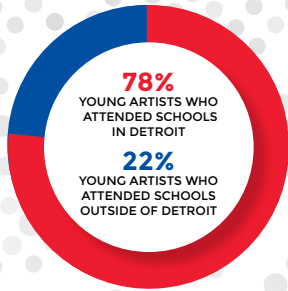
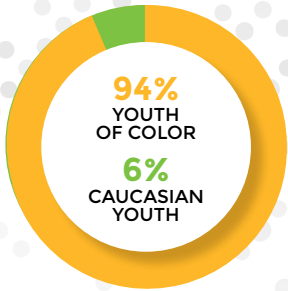
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Mosaic AT A GLANCE



Mosaic Youth Theatre Programs

- **FIRST STAGE**
Intro program for young artists, ages 7-14
- **SECOND STAGE**
Mid level program for young artists, ages 11-16
- **MAIN STAGE**
Intensive arts and leadership program for young artists, ages 13-18
- **SCHOOL RESIDENCIES**
In-School Teaching Artist residencies in Elementary, Middle and High Schools
After school creative youth development programs at Detroit-area schools
- **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**
Pre-professional paid work experiences in performance, arts entrepreneurship and arts administration
Mosaic Technical Theater paid apprenticeship program

2019-2020 Finances



- 63%** CONTRIBUTIONS & FOUNDATION GRANTS
- 21%** PROGRAM INCOME
- 12%** GOVERNMENT GRANTS
- 4%** IN-KIND



- 68%** PROGRAM
- 20%** MANAGEMENT & GENERAL
- 12%** FUNDRAISING

Join the JOURNEY

Together we can do so much more. You too can help young people recognize their potential and realize their dreams. How you can help:

GIVE

The generosity of community members like you help us to empower tomorrow's leaders. You can give online at www.mosaicdetroit.org/donate or give via check by mail (see back cover for address).

PARTNER

We invite Corporations and Foundations to partner with us to bring equitable access to transformative artistic experiences that create better futures for Detroit-area youth. As a funding partner organization you can promote your business and your commitment to the community to enthusiastic audiences. Contact delashea@mosaicdetroit.org to explore partnership opportunities.

CONNECT

If you believe every young person deserves equal opportunity to experience safe spaces to learn and develop skills that prepare them to thrive in youth through adulthood, help us spread the word about the impact of Mosaic, creative youth development and Detroit. Connect with us on social media and engage your networks in helping us to create better futures for young people.



@mosaicdetroit

Congratulations

2020 GRADUATES

We celebrate the resilience, brilliance, heart and ambition of our class of 2020 young artists and alumni. We know that they will continue to illuminate the spaces they enter, putting forth only the best, nothing less as leaders, life-long learners and change agents for a better world.

MEET OUR 2020 CLASS OF YOUNG ARTISTS *and* COLLEGE GRADUATES



Jimmie Comer III
Western Michigan University, c/o 2024



John Sanford
Wayne State University, c/o 2024



James Sawyer, Jr
Gap Year



Samuel Fairley
Western Michigan University, c/o 2024



Donovan Rogers
University of Michigan, c/o 2024



Ryan Stapleton

Southern Methodist University,
c/o 2024



Chauncy Sutton

Howard University, c/o 2024



Michale Coffey

Western Michigan University,
c/o 2024



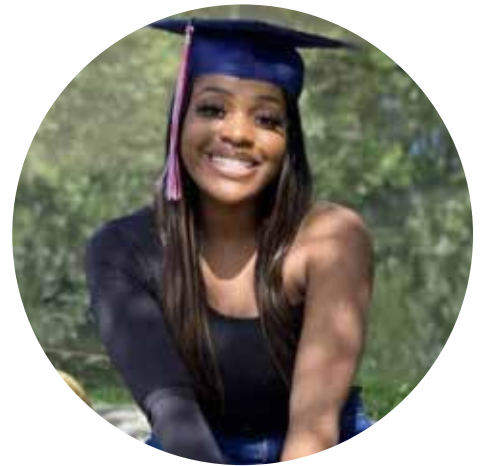
Timothy Ward

Wayne State University, c/o 2024



Olivia Washington

Western Michigan University, c/o 2024



Rayven Davis

Bethel University, c/o 2024



Jacqueline Whitfield

Central Michigan University,
c/o 2024



Alise Sellers

Central State University, c/o 2024



Zoe Frazier

Fisk University, c/o 2024



Jordyn Jackson
Wayne State University, c/o 2024



Meleah Acuff
Michigan State University, c/o 2024



Jasonn Parnell
Gap Year



Kenshyla Taylor
US Army, Combat Engineering



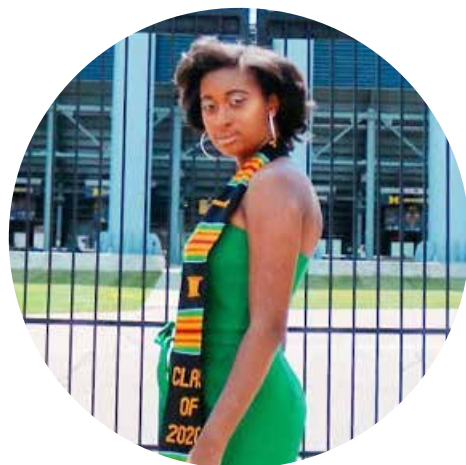
Genae Williams
Columbia College - Chicago, c/o 2024



Shaunie Lewis
Bachelors of Fine Arts in Acting
University of Michigan



Kynadi Echols
Bachelors of Music in Commercial Music
with an emphasis in Music
Business Belmont University



Nyah Pierson
Bachelors of Fine Arts Acting and
Bachelors in Psychology with a
minor in Community Action & Social Change
University of Michigan



Charda Jameson
Bachelors of Fine Arts Acting
University of Michigan



Samantha Cole

Masters in Social Work
Southern Illinois University Carbondale



Jacob Daniel Smith

Bachelors of Fine Arts in Drama
The Julliard School



Kyndall Echols

Masters of Arts in Strategic Public Relations
University of Southern California



Makenzie Davis

Bachelors of Arts in Theater Arts
Waldorf University



Devin Woodson

Bachelors of Arts in Music
Metropolitan State University of Denver



Taylor Ivey

Bachelors in Fashion Merchandising
Kent State University



Taegan Humphries

Bachelors Degree of Political Science
with a minor of Africana Studies
Tennessee State University



Antione Taylor

Bachelors in Advertising Management
Michigan State University



Jasmine Stallion

Bachelors of Arts in Public Relations
Wayne State University



David Johnson III

Bachelor of Fine Arts
University of North Carolina School of the Arts



Duane Smith

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre: Acting
Western Michigan University



Nyla Hart

Bachelors of Science in Biopsychology,
Cognition and Neuroscience
University of Michigan



Keith Day Jr.

Bachelors of Arts in Theatre Arts
Clark Atlanta University

“

We are creating better futures by creating safe spaces where youth can expand their imagination and access opportunities that broaden their belief in what is possible.



INTERNATIONALLY
A C C L A I M E D

EXCELLENCE
ON STAGE & IN LIFE



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