



**AUTHENTIC.
BOLD.
CREATIVE.**

Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit | 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Creative, confident leaders who are champions for change. This only begins to scratch the surface of describing the brilliant youth of Detroit.

In a season like no other, these amazing young people and the Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit family again tapped into their creativity and authenticity to boldly share stories and moments that would bring hope and light to their greater community. They encouraged the young and young at heart to share their dream of the future with *Variations on a Dream*, a creative deep dive and a call to action through poetry, music, theater, and dance. They explored and elevated the complexity of community, power, belonging, social expectations, and the promise held by young people with *The Three Talents*. They encouraged the country to create positive change in their communities with the national We Are the Vote music video campaign in partnership with the We Are Foundation. Young people are the driving force of the Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit, an organization that celebrates the compassion, courage, creativity, and tenacious spirit of the youth and our community through challenging times.

From the launch of our 10 school residencies to celebrating 17 young artists and 12 alumni graduations, the 2020-2021 season was a beautifully impactful year. Focused on meeting our communities needs, the collective will of the Mosaic community rallied to continue to reimagine programs and maintain this pillar of support in the lives of Detroit- area young people.

Our 2020-2021 report shines a light on the many ways Mosaic partnered with youth and community to create opportunity, connect resources, catalyze change and amplify the voices of young people to bring to fruition an aspirational future. We look forward to continuing to meet our young artists and community's growing need for connection, light, and hope. We are grateful for your generosity and the dedication of our young artists, Board of Directors, donors, families, school, and community partners. This unique time calls for creativity, authenticity, and boldness and we are excited about the various ways we will create progress, build agency and breathe beauty and light into the world through art.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. We appreciate you.

With much gratitude,

DeLashea Strawder



AUTHENTIC.

- The Dramatist Guild Foundation and Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit launched *First Draft Discussions*. The new speaker series focused on empowering Detroit-area youth to share their stories. The inspiring monthly panel discussions and Q&A's connected youth with 11 professional playwrights, composers, lyricists, and librettists, encouraging youth to amplify their voices.
- College & Career Pathways
We partnered with *8 colleges* and over *20 professionals* in arts and arts-adjacent careers to support over *90 young artists, alumni and community members* in their exploration of varied creative career opportunities and pathways.
- New Voices: Detroit
 - **775+** Audience members engaged in supporting the next generation of storytellers
 - **100+** Hours of Mentorship & Coaching
 - **12** Youth playwrights & composers
 - **2** Cohorts of finalists
 - **1** Powerful Year

“

New Voices Detroit gave me the opportunity to work with a professional choral composer and acapella arranger. It challenged the way that I write and expanded my creative capacity

- Joshua A., New Voices: Detroit, Courage to Create Finalist



CLASS OF 2021 GRADUATION RATE & COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE
Detroit High school graduation rate (2019) 77.6%



CLASS OF 2019 & 2020 COLLEGE PERSISTENCE RATE
In the United States, the overall dropout rate for undergraduate college students is 40%



96% YOUTH PARTICIPANTS OF COLOR & 4% CAUCASIAN YOUTH PARTICIPANTS



TITLE 1 SCHOOL-WIDE IDENTIFIED SCHOOL PARTNERS



NADIA JOHNSON

2018-19 & 2020-21 Youth Ensemble

Throughout the years, Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit has greatly impacted my life both on stage and off. From the first stage summer camps to the Main stage performances with Josh Groban, participating in Mosaic's professional arts training has definitely challenged me. It has caused me to grow in both my leadership and musicianship skills. Joining the Mainstage company as an 8th grader, I was a bit intimidated being amongst a sea of very talented high schoolers. It became easy to compare myself to others and shy back when asked to complete different tasks. However, my Artistic Director, DeLashea Strawder, reminded me that I could use my voice to make a difference no matter how young I was. Mosaic has definitely provided me with multiple opportunities to do that, especially during our Perform-a-thons. As someone planning on going into Fine Arts education, Mosaic has also equipped me with the tools and experiences needed to thrive. And what's even more amazing is that Mosaic consists of fantastic staff who assist and instruct young artists along their journey and leave space for them to use their creativity.

BOLD

2 New Commissions by playwrights with Detroit roots.

- **John Sloan III** - *Variations on a Dream*, (workshops with youth in TN and Japan)
- **Harron Atkins** - *The Three Talents* (Feature Film), featuring **5** new original songs written by Mosaic young artists
- Both plays were **premiered** at the **Ford Wyoming Drive** in 2021

10 School Residencies

- **4500** hours of supporting Detroit-area youth, teachers and school communities

375+ Hours of leadership development, college readiness and career exploration



JORDAN RIVERS

2005-2008 Mosaic Tech Alumnus
Howard University c/o 2017

More than anything, being in Mosaic inspired me. It taught me that I could take my creativity to a high level. Just because I was a minor I didn't have to wait until I was an adult to impact things. It started small with building and designing sets for these amazing shows that we'd put on. It developed into believing in myself and my ability. I went on to create impactful programs in college and to lead lots of civic engagement around common sense gun laws and environmentalism. Today I work as an environmental engineer.





7% GOVERNMENT GRANTS

65% CONTRIBUTIONS & FOUNDATION GRANTS

23% PROGRAM INCOME

5% IN-KIND



67% PROGRAM

22% MANAGEMENT & GENERAL

11% FUNDRAISING

CREATIVE.

- Lights Up! *9 New Works* conceived, penned and performed by Mosaic young artists. 1 new web series honoring the contributions of unsung women of color in American History
- Mosaic Mobile - Collaborated with Teaching Artists and community partners to bring *8 Mosaic Mobile camp* experiences to Detroit area neighborhoods
- Summer Camps - Safely engaged *200+* youth through Mosaic's summer camps across 5 outdoor and 1 virtual location
- Innovated to record *16 original songs and arrangements* using cars as sound booths, driving to each young artists home, coaching youth to use their cell phones and partnering with amazing local engineers and producers





ATIYA WHITEHEAD

2016-2017 Mosaic Singer Alumna
Michigan State University c/o 2021

Although my time with Mosaic was short, during that year I felt that I was my most true self. With Mosaic, I was able to be silly, spontaneous, and free without the fear of judgment. This experience stuck with me for years to come and taught me to be myself in all spaces regardless of what others may think. Now, as a middle school teacher, I am able to bring energy to our classroom. The classroom is my stage! My students are always smiling and laughing while they are learning. I bring joy into the classroom. I thank Mosaic for pushing me out of my shell and giving me a safe space to discover my true identity. I found myself in Mosaic and I'm never going to lose her again.

Thank You TO OUR PARTNERS & DONORS



- Anonymous
- Anonymous
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- Roy Sexton
- Christopher and Julie Sheeren
- Marty and Andrea Singer

Mosaic Youth Theatre of Detroit is grateful for the generous support of our Leadership Donors who gave \$1,000 or more to Mosaic's annual fund during this season, and to everyone who contributed time, talent and financial gifts to ensure youth have a safe space to connect, create and grow.



STAFF & BOARD.

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