Program Growth

High school and middle school wind musicians eagerly await a September concert by rapper Wyclef Jean with the Oregon Symphony. BRAVO’s oldest students started 9th grade at Roosevelt High School in September 2019, launching our 7th program site in our 7th year of operation. BRAVO after-school enrollment for the first time surpassed 200 students at 6 public school sites. The intergenerational BRAVO Community Orchestra meets weekly at the nearby University of Portland.
World Class Musical Mentors

Jamie Bernstein applauds enthusiastically as the BRAVO Community Orchestra under the direction of Giancarlo Castro D’Addona performs “Somewhere” by Leonard Bernstein. Ms. Bernstein, daughter of the great conductor and composer, was in Portland in November for the Bernstein Centennial exhibit at the Oregon Jewish Museum. Each year, BRAVO students meet and perform with prominent members of the worldwide community of musicians.
Music and Wellness

Dr. Brian Gibbs, Vice President for Equity and Inclusion at Oregon Health and Science University, addresses students from Rosa Parks and Cesar Chavez during their November performance at Lincoln Hall. Dr. Gibbs spoke about the long-term public health implications of providing quality arts programs in our schools. Recent national research links access to educational opportunity with better health outcomes and increased life expectancy.
Year in Review
Sources of Support 2019-2020

- Individual Contrib. $584,222
- Foundations $277,800
- Earned Revenue $158,026
- Government Grants $186,072
- Corporate Support $10,385
- Other Income $16,400
- In-kind support $146,827
- Total Revenue $1,364,972

- 25% program days with virtual instruction
- 40 concerts and field trips
- 30 guest artist visits
- 400 in-school students
- 200 after-school students
- 250+ hrs per child/year after-school instruction
- 12 ensembles
- 7 sites & 34 staff
- 90+% BRAVO families living in poverty

BRAVO Sitton performs at the Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
Artists in Residence

Portland’s original “Boogie Cat” Norman Sylvester teaches the blues to BRAVO winds at a rehearsal in February. Each year BRAVO students have the opportunity to work alongside professional musicians with international backgrounds to learn music from countries around the world including: Cuba, Morocco, Ireland, Ghana, Venezuela and others. Our annual Crossing Borders benefit concert scheduled for April was postponed until 2021 due to the global coronavirus pandemic.
Community Impact

Only months after nationwide closures in response to COVID-19, the country was swept with Black Lives Matter demonstrations for justice and police reform. Portland drew national headlines as a sustained center of political protest. Local artists created a number of downtown murals, including this one organized by jazz pianist Darrell Grant. In this photo, lead artist Alex Chiu looks on as a BRAVO mother and her two sons help paint a community mural depicting a BRAVO student with her cello.
Thank you for being part of the BRAVO family.

Your support is changing lives.