



Junior Art & Music Inc Annual Report

reporting period
Nov. 1, 2018 - Oct. 31, 2019

A message from Founder and Creative Director, Dre Towey

The past two years at JAM have been two of the most transformative years of my life. When I opened JAM as a nonprofit in 2017, I planted a seed. The seed quickly took root and opened my heart and with doing so, love came rushing in. For anyone who walks through our doors, it is obvious that something is being cultivated—something kind, creative and welcoming. JAM, our creative haven, is like a warm embrace, saying, “Go ahead, why not? It’s okay and, BRILLIANT!”



We, as humans, have a natural need for art and music. Like nothing else, it fills our souls and especially now, during this time in our human history, art and music are essential to our existence. Can a song change your day? Does the color of the sky affect your mood? Our eyes and ears and hearts are connected physically and mentally. Can something that looks or sounds beautiful make your heart flutter or make your blood rush? Absolutely.

This is what I am seeing every day at JAM. I see it in the eyes of the children who come to us from The Housing Authority and Boys and Girls Club when they descend on what appears to be a self serve art buffet with a plate they can keep on filling. I hear it in the voices of the girls from Side by Side Charter School who wrote down their words in our songwriting class and then shared them fearlessly with Antigone Rising at The Norwalk Town Hall Symphony Space. Tears spilled from my eyes as I watched children ages 4-18, perform on our very own JAM stage when we hosted the 2nd Annual Talent Show for Child Guidance Center of Mid-Fairfield County. Every week, I feel it in the embraces of the young adults with special needs who enter with huge smiles and running hugs and say, “JAM is our favorite thing!” I saw it on June 8th in the faces of 1,200 or so adults and children who came to our 2nd Annual Porch JAM in Rowayton. The smiles, the cheers, the accolades and the desire for, “ONE MORE SONG!”

When people ask about JAM’s evolution, I categorize it as organic. The seed is planted, our roots dig deeper and we are growing! There is a true hunger for kindness, for creativity and for expression. And while we open our hearts and our doors, people ask, “How can I help— because something BIG is happening here and I want to be a part of it.” We, in turn, are asking the universe to send us more farmer’s who want to cultivate this promise of art and music.

Maybe it’s you?



Our Impact 2018-2019

Outreach

95 outreach programs hosted by JAM



1,290 impressions made between new and returning participants



Often, with budget cuts, music and art programs are the first on the chopping block, so places like JAM are crucial for our young people.

- Ashley Harrington
Special Needs Program Lead

Community

29 public events and programs

Which resulted in **2,016** impressions between new and returning participants



26 bands performed LIVE!

69 musicians played for...

1,200 JAM FANS!

\$41,789 (net) raised for JAM programs

That's a 200% increase from our inaugural 2018 Porch Jam!

Growth

In **only its 2nd year as a nonprofit, JAM saw TREMENDOUS growth** in both outreach and public programming

39%

increase in number of events between 2017/2018 & 2018/2019



77.84%

increase in number of program participants / impressions between 2017/2018 & 2018/2019



Exciting things are happening @ JAM!

2018/2019 highlights

Grants

JAM was awarded a **Regional Initiative Grant Program (REGI) grant** with the support of the CT Department of Economics and Community Development, CT Office of the Arts, which also receives support from the National Endowment of the Arts. (Awarded September 2019)

With a generous contribution from the **Rowayton Arts Center**, this grant will allow JAM to host a 6 week after school art enrichment program for inner city youth in the winter of 2020.



JAM received a \$2,500 gift from the **Melissa Wilkinson Foundation** to host our 2nd 6 week **Singer Songwriter Workshop with Side by Side Charter School**. This program will honor the legacy of Norwalk native, Melissa Wilkinson.



Partnerships

JAM is thrilled to have renewed and strengthened existing partnerships and welcomed new partners into our JAM Fam - together we are able to better serve our community!

New Partnerships

Garavel Auto Group (JAM was chosen as their Charity of the Month for September 2019! Thank you Garavel family!), **Boys and Girls Club of Stamford**, **The Seaport Association**, **Open Door Shelter**, **The Future Project** and **Live Girl**.



Resources Expanded

We welcomed our **Lead JAMBassador** to expand JAM's operations and development capacity. With a background in nonprofit management, **Bridget Mariner** is helping JAM establish its position as a unique and

impactful community resource and valuable local nonprofit.



I witness how creating art nourishes and replenishes the soul ' at JAM.

- Penny Carroll



Continued Partnerships

Norwalk Public School Special Needs Transition Program (renewed annual, twice weekly, program engagement), **GoodWill**, **Family & Children's Agency**, **Child Guidance Center of Mid Fairfield County**, **Norwalk Housing Authority**, **Brien McMahon High School**.

I love being a small part of the HUGE gift of JAM.

- Lisa Liable

Junior Art & Music (JAM) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with the **mission to provide a creative haven where all ages and abilities can hone and share their craft with the community**. The JAM Studio partners with local organizations to provide process oriented art and music enrichment for underserved communities in the greater Norwalk, CT area - specifically inner city youth and children and adults with special needs

