



# The MUSE Foundation

## Annual Report 2016



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## Friends and Family,

Embarking on the adventure that is The MUSE Foundation has been nothing short of a life-changing experience. We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity and we cannot thank you enough for being a part of our community.

As teachers, we enjoy seeing our students work hard, practicing and improving their skills with each session. As performers, we are proud to play alongside these wonderful musicians. In this way, The MUSE Foundation has been a marriage of our two passions.

Our core mission of using music to promote and foster social connections was founded on the strength of our own relationship. Music brought us together, and is the cornerstone of many friendships. There is something magical about creating music with friends that has no physical description. This inaugural year has allowed us to take some of that magic and share it with you.

Over the first twelve months we have moved from the Sundar's basement to practicing at the Brookline Teen Center, who hosted our Spring Concert with over 100 attendees. We performed at Teenstock and the opening ceremonies of Special Olympics MA, started a Drum Circle program, and held our first external event at the Out of The Blue Too Art Gallery in Cambridge.

We are so honored to be a part of this community and excited for the many MUSE-ical years ahead.

Sincerely,



Elaine Shields, Music Director



Miyabe, C. CEO

**"Our mission of using music to promote and foster social connections was founded on the strength of our own relationship. Music brought us together..."**





# 2016 In Review

Jan Feb Jun Aug Sep Dec

**1.20.16** -  
MUSE is  
officially  
formed

**6.12.16**

THE SOUND  
OF MUSE-iC

**6.17.16**

TEEN STACK

MUSEKATEERS LILAH ELIAS SINK  
JASON ALTSHULER & JACK LEVITT  
LAST BEAUTIFUL CHAOSTAZLIYMAH  
HIPADILITY PAT DESPAGE AXIL ROD  
ZIGGY MAGEE

**8.27.16**

*Special  
Olympics*  
Massachusetts



**12.18.16**

MUSE-FEST



BROOKLINE  
**TEEN  
CENTER**

**2.01.16** - The Brookline Teen  
Center generously donates  
rehearsal space for weekly  
band practices



**9.20.16** - MUSE begins  
offering an introductory drum  
circle program





## Finding Our Rhythm

The rapid expansion and continued success of our organization would not be possible if not for these two outstanding gentlemen.

Max Glick, our Director of Programming, plans our concerts, acts as day-of coordinator, organizes volunteers, and manages all aspects of stage technology. He makes sure our events run smoothly and efficiently. Max is local-grown, from Sudbury, MA, and has been playing percussion and bass in numerous bands with a very diverse repertoire. He is an experienced musician who has recorded albums, EP's, singles, and live performances with several of his bands. He currently performs in a Boston-based band called *Sans Serif*.

Providing a steady beat is Brett Lukaszek, who serves as our Director of Public Relations. If you follow us on social media (see the first page if not!) you've already seen his most visible contributions. Brett also promotes our upcoming events within the local community and reaches out to collaborators. Brett is a native of Connecticut, where he helped to develop a Best Buddies CT event, "Beats for Buds." His passion is to inspire individuals of all functional levels to express themselves through music. He also enjoys playing music in his own band *Three Day Threshold*.

Brett and Max also run our weekly Drum Circle, which is the first off-shoot program to our MUSE band rehearsals.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2016





The background image shows a music rehearsal space. In the foreground, a man in a blue t-shirt with 'THE MUSE' logo is sitting at a drum kit, looking up. Behind him, another man in a pink t-shirt is standing and looking down at the drums. A third man in a grey t-shirt and a baseball cap is standing further back. The room has white walls and some musical equipment is visible.

## Looking Forwards

We've only just begun our work, and we have many plans as to the direction this organization will take.

### Independent Band Performances

- Over the next calendar year, we will be helping our musicians to perform with greater independence by fading assistance from the MUSEketeers.
- We will focus on using subtle interpersonal cues that will be personalized to each student, and teach students to work together instead of relying on MUSE staff.

### Social Jam Sessions

- We will be organizing casual, improvisation-based "jam sessions" for more advanced students.
- These will serve as the initial scaffold for our students to begin song-writing and composing original arrangements as an ensemble.

We are in the process of receiving tax-exempt status from the IRS as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We are also searching for a more permanent home, one that will allow us to grow to fulfill our long-term goals – goals like:

- **More Music Programs** – to extend beyond Pop/Rock to all types of music and to teach students a new genre (i.e. Classical, Jazz, Instrument-specific, etc.)
- **Day Programming** – to increase the amount of students we can reach of all levels and for more flexibility of schedules via music classes offered during the day.
- **Specialized Employment** – to provide opportunities for vocational training as well as paid employment, tailored to each individual's strengths.

**"MUSE is awesome!"**

-- Theo Chartier  
Percussion



## Our Strategy

Our first and most important goal is to find permanent space that will allow us to expand our programs, offer more services, and include more students. In our first year, MUSE exploded onto the scene - **we have already reached our maximum capacity** and have started a waitlist for future prospective musicians.

This next step is crucial for the organization, and we are ready to make any personal sacrifices necessary to continue to fulfill our mission to our students. This year all employees of The MUSE Foundation have forgone payment for their administrative services to the organization. Additionally, the executive branch will remain completely uncompensated until external funding can be obtained. This strategy has allowed us to make significant progress towards saving enough capital to find commercial space for our future MUSE-ic Studio, as detailed on the next page.

Another consideration for the 2016 year is that it was our inaugural year. There are many initial taxes and fees that must be paid this year that will not be recurring in following years.





# 2016 Financial Position and Review

as of 12/31/16

## Statement of Activities

### Revenues –

Program Fee Contributions ...	\$12,750.00
Ticket Sales & Donations ...	\$4,120.00
Merchandise Sale ...	\$1,230.00
Interest ...	\$15.62
Total Revenue ...	\$18,115.62

### Expenses –

Program Expenses ...	\$2,188.94
Equipment/Merchandise ...	\$1,637.46
Taxes/Fees...	\$1,609.15
Events ...	\$599.45
Promotional ...	\$409.04
Scholarships...	\$400.00
Other Expenses ...	\$291.14
Total Expenses ...	\$7,135.54

## Statement of Financial Position

### Assets –

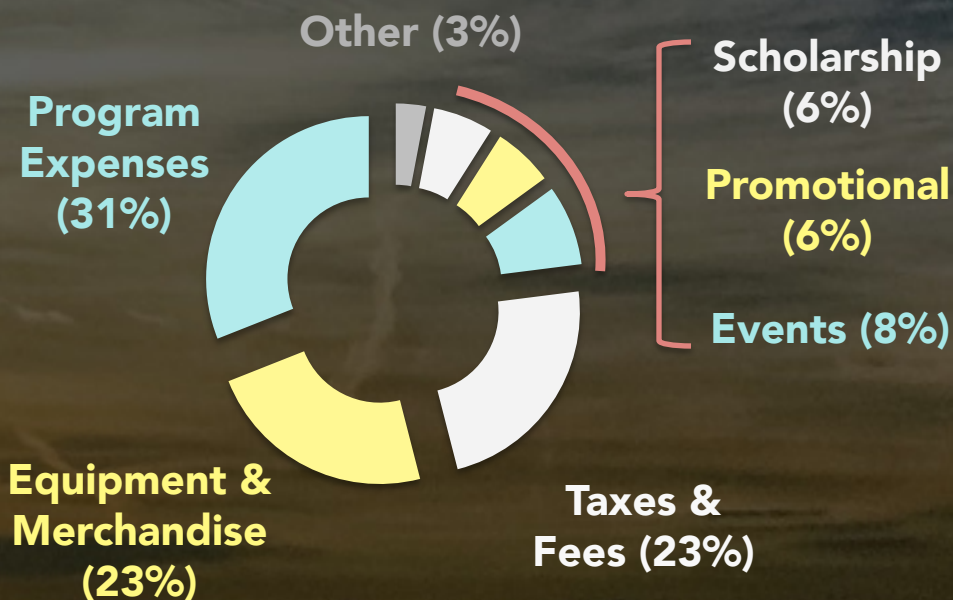
Cash & Cash Equivalents ...	\$10,980.08
Merchandise Inventory...	\$1,335.00
Equipment ...	\$1,283.84

### Liabilities –

Accounts Payable ...	\$1,254.47
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Net Assets and Liabilities...	\$12,344.45
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## Breakdown of Expenses



## Financial Review

Much of our net worth has been accumulated by the voluntary sacrifice of compensation of our dedicated staff. We believe it is an investment in the organization's future and that this initial investment will help us to reach our full potential. Our fiscal strategy is and will always focus on the future financial stability and overall integrity of our organization. Once finalized, our annual return and Form 1023 application will be available to the public upon request.



# The MUSE Community

*We would like to thank everyone who has contributed their time, money, space, efforts, and well wishes to our programs.*

## **Staff**

Max Glick  
Brett Lukaszek  
Miyabe, C.  
Elaine Shields

## **Businesses**

The Brookline Teen Center  
Mark Williams Photography  
Aimee Leigh Design  
Coolidge Corner Theater  
The Fireplace  
The Brookline Booksmith  
Collette's Cookies  
Out of the Blue Too Gallery

## **Volunteers**

Mark Alston – Follansbee  
Emily Alston – Follansbee  
Leah Danny  
Jessica Dunn  
Peter Glick  
Kerstin Glick  
Dan Hickey  
Rebecca Lukaszek  
Krishna Mallipeddi  
Eva Mayo  
Jordan Wolfe

## **Individual Donors**

Rosemary Alfredo  
Robert Billet  
Frederic Chartier  
Laura Dendo  
The Glick Family  
Pamela Kennard  
The King Family  
Vanda Khadem  
Marilyn Levine  
The Caruso-Micali Family  
Susan Miyabe  
The Norton Family  
Susan Rothstein  
Chris Sampson  
Rochelle Senator  
Susan Senator  
The Sundar Family  
Kareen Casey  
Anonymous Donors





## Our Impact

"My favorite things are learning new music and performing with friends. I like all types of music..."

-- Hanako Norton  
*Vocals/Flute*

"One thing I like about being a part of MUSE is it's like a big family."

-- Mariah McElwee  
*Vocals/Guitar*

"What I like about MUSE is that I get to be with a lot of people who I know who like to play music like I do!"

-- Stefano Micali  
*Vocals/Guitar*

"What I really like about MUSE is being a part of this wonderful performance with all these wonderful people, and singing and playing the keyboard."

-- Alex Carrera  
*Vocals/Keyboard*

