



CURTIS
INSTITUTE OF MUSIC

2022
ANNUAL REPORT
2023

FISCAL YEAR 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

4:3
STUDENT TO FACULTY RATIO

MORE THAN
260
PERFORMANCES



260
SEASON
SUBSCRIPTIONS,

a 150% increase over
2021–22

7

MAIN STAGE EVENTS
SOLD OUT,

including all Ensemble 20/21
concerts, three Curtis Presents,
and Curtis Opera Theatre's
The Elixir of Love



90

STUDENT RECITALS
were held, demonstrating
Curtis's "learn by doing"
philosophy



ATTENDANCE AT
Curtis
Symphony
Orchestra

performances has surpassed
pre-pandemic levels

**MEETING PATRONS WHERE THEY LIVE,
WORK AND PLAY**

34 livestreams/broadcasts

25% year-over-year increase in followers on Instagram

16% year-over-year increase in engagement on YouTube

DEAR FRIENDS,

With the conclusion of the 2022–23 school year, Curtis Institute of Music looks back with pride at an impressive 98-year history. This year's annual report reflects the significant progress Curtis has made in achieving its strategic goals and introduces a new format, with stories as well as statistics that highlight its growing impact on communities and audiences throughout the world.

The 2022–23 season reflected Curtis's expanding presence locally and globally, with our "learn by doing" philosophy on full display. Several of Curtis's main stage events sold out, and Curtis Symphony Orchestra attendance surpassed pre-pandemic numbers.

Beyond Philadelphia, there were significant increases in the number of concerts Curtis offered through Touring and Artist Management, including the Curtis Symphony Orchestra's first ever West Coast tour (launched here on the East Coast at the beautiful Longwood Gardens). Curtis on Tour ensembles and Curtis's artist management roster of world-class alumni and faculty performed more than 260 concerts, spreading the excellence of Curtis artistry far and wide.

The collective partnership of our inspiring students and alumni, committed trustees and donors, incomparable faculty, and devoted staff is the foundation that has enabled Curtis to thrive. We look forward to continuing this incredible journey together as we approach our historic centennial milestone in the 2024–25 season.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Roberto Díaz

President and CEO

Nina von Maltzahn President's Chair

James and Betty Matarese Chair in Viola Studies



RESIDENCY & STRING QUARTET PROGRAMS MENTORSHIP

Since 1924, chamber music training has been a vital cornerstone of the educational experience for all students at Curtis. Following in the footsteps of the legendary **Curtis String Quartet** and the celebrated **Guarneri Quartet**, the **Dover Quartet** is next to build on the rich legacy of the school’s chamber ensembles. These innovative programs underscore the fact that many renowned alumni return to Curtis as artist-teachers, mentors, and resources for the school’s exceptionally talented students, offering a wealth of insight and expertise grounded in the success of their own professional careers.

In 2013, the Nina von Maltzahn String Quartet Program was born. Permanently endowed with a gift from Baroness von Maltzahn in 2016, this inspiring post-baccalaureate residency program continues to serve as a bridge between student and professional life, providing young quartets of extraordinary promise with extensive coaching, mentoring, and performance and community engagement opportunities. The first ensemble to hold the residency, the GRAMMY-nominated Dover Quartet, has become one of today’s most in-demand international chamber ensembles.

“We are so proud of what Curtis stands for in the world of music; an unparalleled attention to detail and artistry beyond mere technical mastery,” said Camden Shaw (String Quartet ’14, Cello ’11, ’10), cellist of the Dover Quartet, speaking on behalf of the ensemble. “And we are thrilled to be able to do our part in upholding these ideals.”

In 2020, the Dover Quartet returned to Curtis as the inaugural **Penelope P. Watkins Ensemble in Residence**, and as a central feature of this multifaceted residency, they serve as the principal faculty coaches and mentors for the Nina von Maltzahn String Quartet Program’s fellowship quartet



in residence. The Dover Quartet was more than well-suited for this role, having received extensive coaching from members of the distinguished Guarneri and Vermeer quartets during their own residency.

In March 2023, Ms. Watkins made an extraordinary gift to endow the program, one that not only highlights the importance of chamber music training at Curtis but ensures the permanent presence of a major resident ensemble at the school in perpetuity.



In May 2023, the **Viano Quartet**, the first ensemble to study under the Dover Quartet, completed their two-year tenure at Curtis. With guidance and support from their esteemed mentors, the quartet honed their craft and maintained an active performance schedule, embodying the spirit of Curtis’s philosophy of “learning by doing.” These remarkable young musicians experienced firsthand the blend of skills, mindset, and entrepreneurialism that have made one of the world’s preeminent chamber ensembles so wildly successful. As a final artistic statement of their time at Curtis, the Viano Quartet released their debut recording, *PORTRAITS*, on the Curtis Studio label. Featuring four iconic works from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the recording

includes video performances of each work that allows viewers to witness the energy and enthusiasm of the ensemble as they bring this music to life.

“One of the best things about Curtis is the consistent and unwavering dedication and excellence from the student body, faculty, and administration. For us to be always immersed in that culture inspires us to pursue music-making at the highest level,” said Lucy Wang (String Quartet ’23), violinist of the Viano Quartet, speaking on behalf of the ensemble. “We’ve been lucky enough to work with nearly every member of the strings and piano department, and we’re especially fortunate to be working alongside the Dover Quartet, who’ve been outstanding role models and mentors to us.”

Having come full circle from students to faculty members, the Dover Quartet continues to find great satisfaction in mentoring and nurturing the artistry and careers of the next generation of chamber ensembles like the Viano, carrying forward Curtis’s rich pedagogical legacy and inspiring both students and audiences alike.



SUMMER STRING QUARTET INTENSIVE

Held in July 2022, this eleven-day program aimed to address the need for quartet members to have steadfast interpersonal relationships so that individual musicians can move in sync artistically and professionally. Three quartets were selected to experience a retreat-like environment and refine their partnership while receiving mentorship and instruction from the Dover Quartet and Shmuel Ashkenasi.

DISCOVERY & COLLABORATION

STUDENT AND ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Graduating student **Maya Anjali Buchanan** (Violin '23) wasn't looking for anything special when she went to one of the Curtis library's periodic give-away events, where students and faculty are free to take home scores and other materials being taken out of circulation. Lkening the event to "a thrift store where you have to...look through each box and stack to make sure you don't miss anything good," she was sifting through the inventory when a violin duet by Charles Auguste de Bériot caught her attention. "I had never heard of this composer or his music before," Buchanan recalls, "and [it] looked simple enough that I could sight-read it for fun."

Captivated by the duet, Buchanan enlisted the support of fellow Curtis violinist **Danny Yehun Jin** ('23) to make the piece their own. "We basically just added some double stops, fast scales and arpeggios, some pizzicato, or played up an octave here and there throughout the piece to give it a little extra flair," she said. "It definitely made it more personal and I had a deeper connection with the piece." Buchanan's love of chamber music and admiration for her discovery led her to showcase the duet as the final selection on her graduation recital.

Reflecting on her time at Curtis, Buchanan expressed her appreciation for the freedom students have to explore and perform in an environment where musical connections can be formed spontaneously, even through a simple conversation in Gould Dining Hall.



As she prepares to embark on the next chapter of her musical journey as a student in Curtis's new master's program for instrumentalists, this experience will remain a fond memory and a symbol of the artistic exploration defining her time at the school.



Sam Higgins, a countertenor from Milton, Massachusetts, served as one of seven resident coordinators at Curtis during the 2022–23 school year. Resident coordinators are the backbone of the Curtis residential community. They serve as approachable figures for inquiries or concerns and strive to build a welcoming and inclusive community within the campus environment, while also helping to keep students physically safe.

Through his experience, Higgins says he learned that "sticky situations happen all the time" but that he "developed a lot of intuition around scenarios and made judgment calls based on what I thought would most benefit the students." Higgins took his role as peer mentor very seriously, even going the extra mile by providing comfortable chairs for his suite so that people could come and relax; these were "almost always occupied," he remarked.



Higgins's primary motivation for taking on this challenging role was to foster a stronger sense of community among students. "Curtis is such a small place," said Higgins, "but people are pretty much in their own lanes. It's important to create a sense of community, and I thought this would help." In addition to offering individual support for students, Higgins and his fellow resident coordinators organized community service and recreational events throughout the year to promote camaraderie and social interaction among the residents.

"I loved being able to have an impact on the students," Higgins said, adding that the experience even led him to contemplate a future career in higher education administration.



Horn player **Chelsea McFarland** ('19) landed an orchestral musician's dream job with her appointment as third horn of the **Philadelphia Orchestra** beginning in the 2022–23 season. A native of Georgia, McFarland served as third horn for the **Atlanta Symphony Orchestra** for four seasons before leaving home to return to Philadelphia. But she didn't have to worry about adjusting to an unfamiliar environment—about half of the Philadelphia Orchestra is made up of Curtis faculty and alumni, and the horn section is led by her former teachers **Jennifer Montone** (principal horn) and **Jeffrey Lang** (associate principal horn).

June 2022



Overtones Magazine Returns!

June saw the return of *Overtones* after a brief hiatus. Published semiannually, *Overtones* shares stories from the Curtis community and explores issues that are central to the field of classical music and to conservatories. Visit Curtis.edu/Overtones for the latest issue or to catch up on past issues.

July 2022



Summer Programs for Organ and Strings

In addition to the String Quartet Intensive led by the Dover Quartet (see pg. 5), this July offered a unique experience to select students who had the opportunity to take organ lessons with **Alan Morrison**, **Peter Conte**, and **Matthew Glandorf**, as well as a chance to play the famed Wanamaker organ at Macy's.

August 2022

Curtis Expands Master's Program to All Majors

With the 2022–23 school year, Curtis began offering the **Master of Music** degree, previously open only to opera students, to young artists in all programs. As part of the program, students will carry out a year-long mentored project that is driven by their individual career goals. The program provides students with the opportunity to deepen their artistry, broaden their skill set, and enhance their music making in ways that are relevant to their musical future.

September 2022

Miloš Repický named Hirsig Family Chair in Vocal Studies

Principal opera coach **Miloš Repický** was named the **Hirsig Family Chair in Vocal Studies**. With this appointment, he plays a key role in the vocal department's artistic planning, decision-making, and operations.

October 2022



Ensemble 20/21 Series Opens

On October 8, **Ensemble 20/21** opened the season with “**Music of Change**” in Gould Rehearsal Hall. Reflecting the theme of Curtis's All-School Project for the past two years, “**The Civil Rights Era and the Music of Change**,” the concert explored political and social ideas in works by influential composers **Valerie Coleman**, **Philip Maneval**, **Louis Andriessen**, and **Eleanor Alberga**.

November 2022



A Beau Soir at Verizon Hall

Yannick Nézet-Séguin led the **Curtis Symphony Orchestra** at the Kimmel Cultural Campus's Verizon Hall in an all-French program featuring rising young stars of **Curtis Opera Theatre**. The sold-out program opened with **Jacob Niemann** ('23), a 2022–23 **Rita E. Hauser Conducting Fellow**, leading the orchestra in Paul Dukas's *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*.

December 2022



Scheherazade, Curtis Studio's Debut Album

Curtis Studio's debut album, *Scheherazade*, was released to stream on all major platforms including Apple Music, Spotify and more. Recorded in late 2021 as part of the school's acclaimed audiovisual installation *Immersive Scheherazade*, the album features the **Curtis Symphony Orchestra** under the baton of **Osmo Vänskä**.

January 2023



Trio Zimbalist at Field Concert Hall

On January 11, **Trio Zimbalist** gave a sold-out recital featuring the music of **Lera Auerbach**, **Mieczysław Weinberg**, and **Antonin Dvořák**. Comprised of three distinguished Curtis alumni, the trio takes its name from famed violin virtuoso **Efrem Zimbalist**, a towering presence at Curtis as a faculty member and director for a combined 40 years. Trio Zimbalist is the most recent addition to Curtis's artist management roster, which provides full-service, personalized artist management for world-class faculty and alumni.

February 2023

Curtis GRAMMY Winners

Yannick Nézet-Séguin, mentor conductor at Curtis since 2013, won the GRAMMY for Best Opera Recording for his work on *Blanchard: Fire Shut Up In My Bones*. He also won a GRAMMY as the pianist for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album, *Voice of Nature – The Anthropocene* featuring soprano **Renée Fleming**.

Alumni **Nicholas Kendall** (Violin '01) and **Ranaan Meyer** (Double Bass '03) and violinist **Charles Yang** of **Time for Three** won Best Classical Instrumental Recording for their recording *Letters for the Future*, under the baton of **Xian Zhang** with the **Philadelphia Orchestra**.

March 2023

Extraordinary Gift from Penelope P. Watkins

Penelope P. Watkins, a longtime member of the Curtis board of trustees, made an incredible investment to permanently endow the **Penelope P. Watkins Ensemble in Residence** program at Curtis. The renowned **Dover Quartet** currently holds this position.

April 2023



Curtis Celebrates Composer Richard Danielpour

The 2022–23 Curtis Presents series concluded with “**Music of Richard Danielpour**” on April 19 at Field Concert Hall. Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the award-winning composer's appointment to the school's renowned composition faculty, the concert of new works included the world premiere of *Four Portraits*, commissioned by Curtis for the occasion and performed by acclaimed pianist **Amy Yang** ('06), associate dean of piano studies and artistic initiatives.

May 2023



Michelle Cann's *Revival* Released for Streaming

Curtis Studio announced its second recording, *Revival, Music of Price & Bonds* by Eleanor Sokoloff Chair in Piano Studies **Michelle Cann** (Piano '13). The album celebrates the vast legacy of **Florence Price** and **Margaret Bonds**, whose music was either neglected in their lifetimes or ignored after their deaths. Cann's profound understanding of their music is a testament to her soulful adaptations of these works. Earlier in the year, Cann's recording of *Works by Florence Price, Jessie Montgomery, and Valerie Coleman* was recognized with a GRAMMY for Best Orchestral Performance.



CURTIS

EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

ON TOUR

Established in 2008, **Curtis on Tour**, the **Nina von Maltzahn Global Touring Initiative**, provides opportunities for Curtis students, faculty, and alumni to perform together, enhancing their educational and professional experience and promoting the school’s visibility across the United States and around the world. Tours feature ensembles of all sizes, from piano trios to full orchestra, and frequently feature newly commissioned works by Curtis faculty and alumni.



As one of six tours in 2022–23, last fall Curtis on Tour performed across Europe with a newly commissioned work by faculty member **Richard Danielpour** entitled *Canti della Natura (Songs of Nature)*. These captivating new songs for soprano, piano, and cello set sonnets penned by **Antonio Vivaldi** to accompany *Le quattro stagioni (The Four Seasons)*, his famed group of violin concertos. The piece was performed alongside vocal and chamber works of **Franz Schubert** and **Johannes Brahms**. Six Curtis alumni were joined by pianist

Miloš Repický, the **Hirsig Family Chair in Vocal Studies** and principal opera coach at Curtis.

The tour began in Athens, where Curtis on Tour made its sixth appearance as the ensemble in residence at the **Nights of Classical Music** at the Gennadius Library. The annual festival is presented by the Schwarz Foundation and the Gennadius Library of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. Explaining the value of returning to the same venues annually, Andrew Lane, vice president of touring and artist management at Curtis, notes that, “a regular presence and developing an audience in a particular city really helps Curtis’s profile...the more consistent the interaction, the more they understand the Curtis brand.” Concerts also took place in Berlin; Madrid; Teulada-Moraira, Spain; and Vercelli, Italy.

Reflecting on the tour, soprano **Elena Perroni** (’18) wrote, “The ethos of Curtis, to inspire and create community through music, was particularly palpable in venues such as the community salon we played in, in the small town of Vercelli.” She added that the opportunity to perform in prestigious concert venues like the Konzerthaus Berlin “inspired a unique and meaningful collaboration” that was “humbling as an artist [and an] alum.”

In addition to Perroni, the tour featured tenor **Joseph Tancredi** (’23), violinist **Andrea Obiso** (’19), violist **Hae Sue Lee** (’21), cellist **Timotheos Gavriilidis-Petrin** (’17), and pianist **Pallavi Mahidhara** (’10).



CURTIS ON TOUR LOCATIONS

New England

Siasconset, Mass.
Atheneum, Mass.
Falmouth, Mass.
Kingston, R.I.

L'Histoire du Soldat

Phoenix, Ariz.
Irvine, Calif.*
Portland, Ore.
White Plains, N.Y.*
New York, N.Y.
Stillwater, Okla.*
Overland Park, Kans.*

Cello Quintet

Oakmont, Calif.*
Burlingame, Calif.*
Philadelphia, Pa.

Curtis Symphony Orchestra

Kennett Square, Pa.
Prescott, Ariz.*
Santa Barbara, Calif.*
Davis, Calif.

Trio Zimbalist

Athens, Greece
Paris, France
Munich, Germany
London, United Kingdom
Bremen, Germany

Soprano and Piano Quartet

Athens, Greece
Vercelli, Italy*
Berlin, Germany
Teulada-Moraira, Spain
Madrid, Spain*

Eric Owens and Singers from Curtis Opera Theatre

Athens, Ga.
Macon, Ga.*
Morrow, Ga.*
New York, N.Y.
Lancaster, Pa.*
Washington, D.C.
Brevard, N.C.*
Danville, Ky.*
Louisville, Ky.*

OUR STUDENTS

come to Philadelphia from around the globe.

Australia
Belgium
Canada
China
Finland
France
Hong Kong
Israel
Japan
Korea
Latvia
Macau
Morocco
New Zealand
Portugal
Switzerland
Taiwan
United Kingdom
United States
Venezuela



COLLABORATING TO HONOR HEROES OF THE PANDEMIC

When **Alan Tolbert** (Trumpet '22) elected to take Curtis's year-long **Community Artists Program** (CAP) during his final year at Curtis, he saw it as an opportunity to harness Curtis's resources to make an impact. Part of Curtis's artist citizen curriculum, CAP offers students the opportunity to train in teaching artistry, interactive performance, and entrepreneurship in collaboration with partner organizations throughout the Philadelphia area. Said Tolbert, "Whether it's public education, the healthcare system, voting rights, equality, whatever it is, we're right here in the heart of it in Philly so now's the time, [and] this is our chance to really do some cool things." Tolbert, whose time at Curtis began from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, chose to use his project to help draw public attention to healthcare worker burnout and serve as a crucial step toward healing.

Tolbert drew inspiration for **Honoring Healthcare Heroes** from a video of Yo-Yo Ma playing Bach for a group of people who had received their first COVID vaccine and Igor Stravinsky's *A Soldier's Tale*, written during the Spanish flu pandemic, which pairs chamber music with narration. Tolbert's desire to create a similar work reflective of the recent pandemic led him to commission alumnus **Edward "Ted" Babcock** (Timpani and Percussion '15), who had previously written a similarly structured piece featuring poetry composed by men living in a homeless shelter.

Tolbert worked for many months with Babcock, members of the **Viano Quartet**, and hospital personnel to produce the powerful 45-minute work that spotlights the experiences of frontline healthcare workers during the COVID pandemic. Interspersed in Babcock's composition—*A Hero's Quartet*, a piece for string quartet, electronics,



"Whether it's public education, the healthcare system, voting rights, equality, whatever it is, we're right here in the heart of it in Philly so now's the time, [and] this is our chance to really do some cool things."

and spoken word—the workers reflect on the often-harrowing experiences and emotions they went through in their work with patients, families, and medical students at Jefferson Hospital during the pandemic.

Speaking about the courage and compassion shown by these individuals and so many others like them during the pandemic, Tolbert attested, "we want to see their lives, hear their stories, and understand how it is that we can appreciate them more, and art is the lens through which we can look at those truths."

Honoring Healthcare Heroes premiered on November 8, 2022 at Philadelphia's Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and was reprised on December 6, 2022 with the **New World Symphony** in Jupiter, Florida. Since graduating Curtis, Tolbert has accepted a fellowship with the New World Symphony Orchestra in Miami Beach.

While most graduates go on to lifelong careers in music, some channel the skills learned at Curtis to succeed in other demanding fields.



As a student, **Emily Cooley** (Composition '17), partnered with the nonprofit **Songs in the Key of Free** through Curtis's **Community Artist Program** to offer a workshop in collaborative songwriting and musicianship to 25 incarcerated men at a maximum-security prison outside Philadelphia. Through her work, Cooley developed a passion for helping people impacted by the criminal legal system and decided to pursue a career in family law and direct services. Now a third-year law student at the University of Pennsylvania, Cooley is the co-director of recruitment for the Custody and Support Assistance Clinic (a student pro bono project) and serves as a board member for the Student Public Interest Network.



Korey Marshall, M.D. (Oboe '10), began playing the oboe in seventh grade, and fell in love with the way that his studies at Curtis "consumed [his] whole being." After graduating, Marshall decided to pursue another high-stakes profession—medicine. To Marshall, music and medicine share "that discipline, that almost obsessive, relentless pursuit of whatever your ideal is in your field, the idea that, against the odds, in the face of whatever was going on, you [must] find a way to perform."

SUPPORTING YOUNG ALUMNI

The **Daniel W. Dietrich II Young Alumni Fund** is an annual grant program dedicated to supporting young alumni of Curtis. These grants—ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000—are part of Curtis's ongoing efforts to strengthen support for alumni in the years that follow graduation and help young alumni who may be experiencing obstacles of any kind in the pursuit of their musical careers.

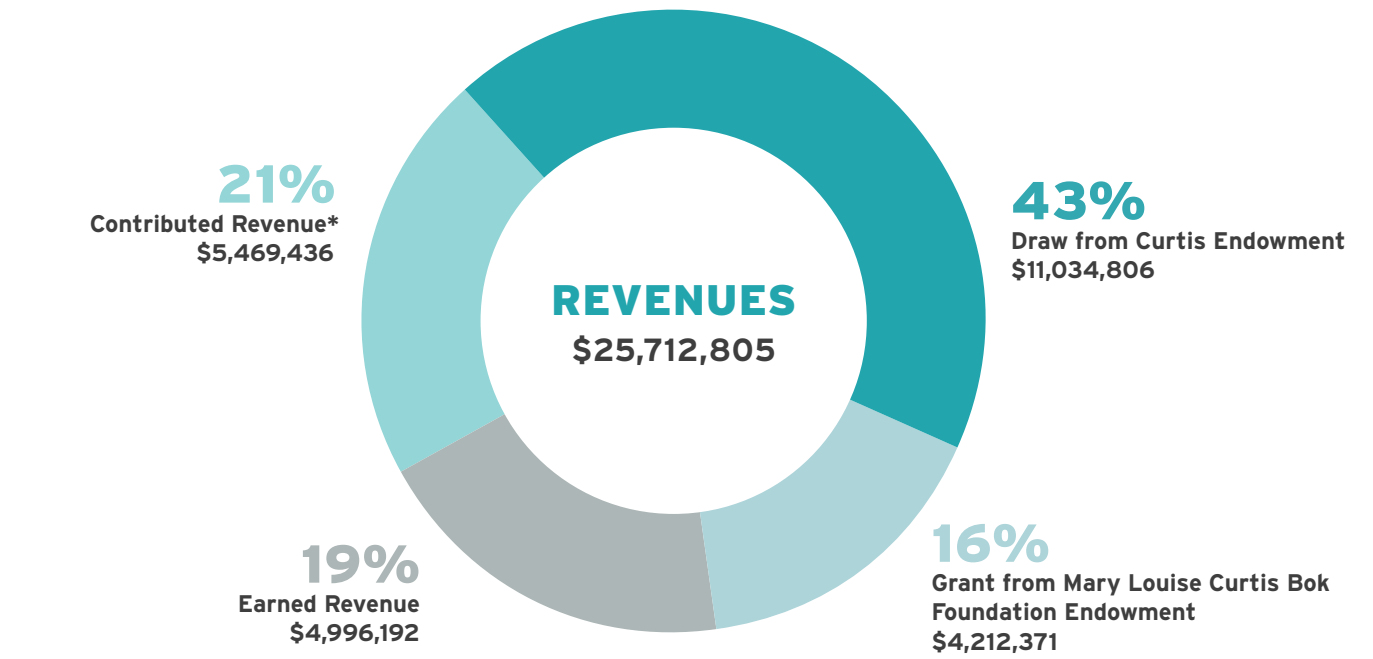
AWARDED
\$55,000
TO 23 ALUMNI

SAW A
50%
INCREASE
IN APPLICATIONS

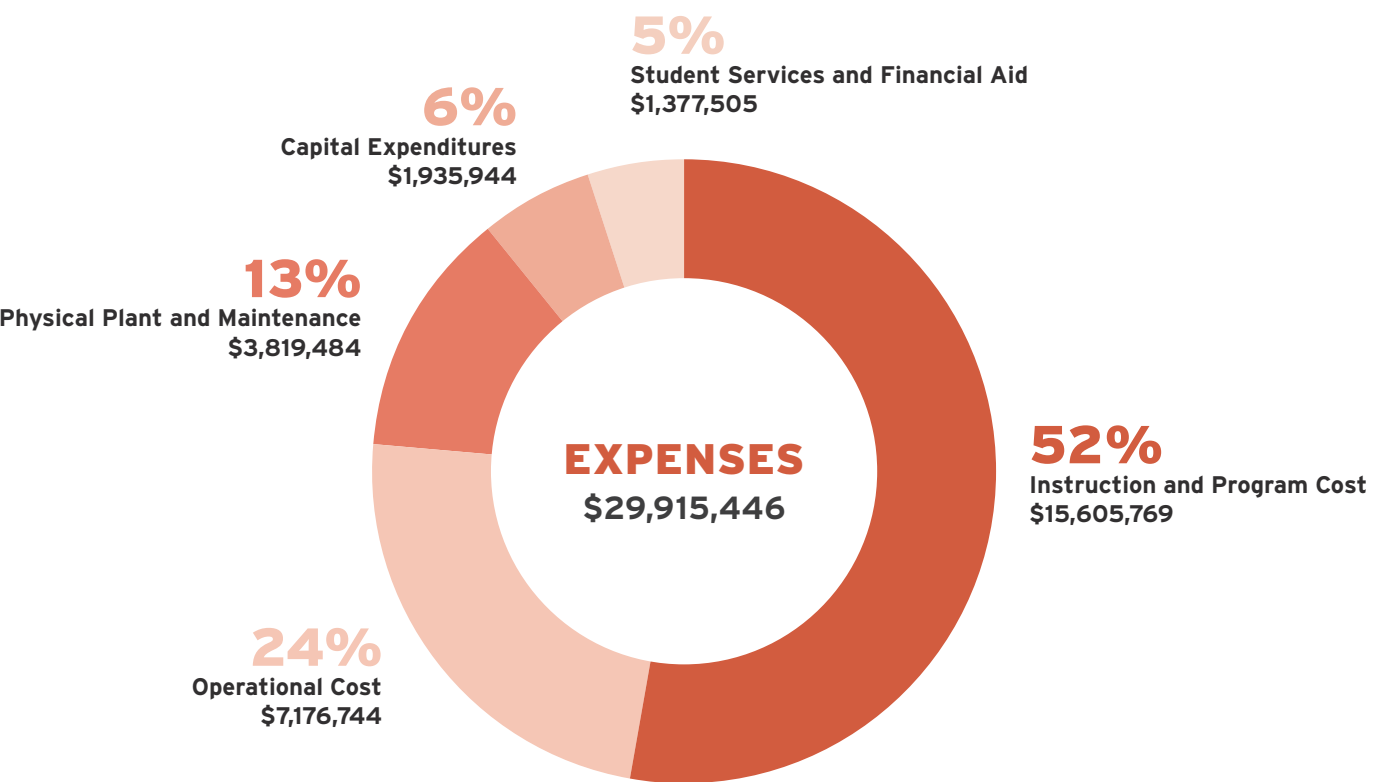


FINANCIAL SUMMARY

2022-23



* Includes annual, capital, and in-kind gifts



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CURTIS
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