

# Impact Report

Embarc

2023





# Our Aspiration

It takes a city to transform learning. Embarc aspires to build a community where every person, no matter who you are or what you do, helps build an education system that cultivates purpose, passion, and possibility for all young people.



## Friends,

Take a moment to imagine with me. Imagine that every young person has the chance to learn outside of their classroom. Our schools foster strong relationships between students and teachers, helping them to truly see and understand each other. Young people explore their identities and know their voice deserves to be heard. Businesses, restaurants, museums, theaters, colleges, and more open their doors for young people to learn alongside them. Our city becomes a classroom.

So how do we make this a reality? We're already on our way.

Last year, our community came together in new ways to take strides toward our collective vision. Embarc students engaged in nearly 13,000 experiences that brought them to every corner of Chicago. New partners joined our community, becoming mentors, teachers, and supporters for our young people. Educators integrated new practices to help students better heal from the trauma of the past years.

Right here in Chicago, we're demonstrating what it can look like for a whole city to support learning in this way. Every person has a role to play. This year alone, we've seen new partners like Boka Restaurant Group and the Chicago Sky lead their first experiences with Embarc students. They are acting on our shared belief that all young people, regardless of their race, gender, or where they live, deserve world-class experiences with our city's institutions. And we can see that our young people are feeling the change. 97% of graduates this year said that Embarc helped them believe that they can ask for help from their community when they need it. This growth is a testament to our community — you've become a source of support and strength for our young people.

Seeing all the interconnected members of our community this year has only deepened my belief that the future for learning we dream of is possible. Thanks to your support, Embarc is serving more students and teachers than ever before. You've helped us grow this far, and we hope you'll join us to keep going further. Thank you for being part of it.

With gratitude,



Imran Khan  
CEO and Co-Founder



**“Being in  
Embarc  
made me  
feel safe.  
It made me  
feel like I’m  
a human that  
matters in  
this world.”**

- Simeon Career Academy student



# Cultivating Lifelong Success

Since our founding, Embarc has aimed to inspire postsecondary success for our young people as we know this is a key figure in determining a young person's lifelong success. Our students achieve a 98% graduation rate, far exceeding the 77% average at the schools we serve, and leave high school with a plan for success.

This was a busy year for our postsecondary support team. The Embarc Class of 2022 achieved an 82% postsecondary success rate and spent the 2022-2023 school year in two- and four-year college, apprenticeships, trade programs, careers, and military enlistment.

Thanks to our fruitful partnership with the Jordan Brand, two Embarc graduates were awarded Wings scholarships. This scholarship grants our students a full ride to the college of their choice. Ngan Huynh is attending DePaul University and Fatimah Coburn-El is attending North Carolina A&T.

Embarc's support of our student community doesn't end after graduation. This year our alumni coordinator, Dezaray Vazquez (an Embarc alum herself), created meaningful opportunities for alum to connect with our students. Cassandra Murff, an Embarc alum who serves on the Eisenberg Foundation Board of Directors and is a property manager with Pine Tree, helped co-create a student experience focused on commercial realty and property management. Our young people enjoyed a tour of Oakbrook Center, learned what it takes to run one of Chicago's most popular malls, and had lunch with a group of real estate professionals and Eisenberg Foundation board members.

Embarc alumni Lonnie Thomas, CEO, Throop Street Capital, and Alex Jackson, Assistant Director of McNair Scholars Program, DePaul University, also stayed connected to the organization via serving on our Executive Board of Directors.

**“Embarc helped me to know that there is someone there to help me and that I can't give up.”**

- Bogan Student

# 98%

graduation rate

# 95%

of graduating seniors agree that because of Embarc they belong anywhere

# 93%

of Embarc educators agree that being a part of Embarc helped them grow as an educator

# 98%

of Embarc educators agree Embarc is a positive addition to their school culture



# Building Capacity in Others

This year we continued to see the necessity of fostering strong relationships in the school building. Embarc's team of Instructional Coaches spent nearly 2,000 hours with teachers in coaching or professional development sessions, which helped create stronger bonds between administrators, students, and teachers.

Building capacity in others is a central tenet of Embarc's work, and we made massive strides in building educators' capacity over the course of the school year. In doing so, we saw shifts in our schools — teachers exercised their leadership abilities in leading professional development workshops with and for their colleagues, creating a ripple effect throughout the school.

This led to educators leading brand-new Embarc experiences in and out of the classroom. Ryan Fishman from Bowen High School set a goal to infuse Embarc throughout the entire school. He collaborated with his students to make an Embarc banner, invited non-Embarc students to classroom events, and even led his students on a brand-new experience with We All We Got and the Hyde Park Arts Center. Students created new school uniforms that represented their identities and school community. Experiences like these not only create strong bonds between students and teachers but also reinforce teachers' belief in their own abilities.

By consistently supporting educators throughout the year, we built a foundation of trust for our work. Educators and students alike are building off that trust to become true leaders in their communities.

**“Embarc has been an important resource for me over the years and has only gotten stronger. I see the power of Embarc and how it can bring students and staff together.”**

- Embarc Whole School Teacher





**“Embarc has been really resourceful in giving the students and teachers the needed time to build relationships and build a community of support.”**

- Embarc Whole School Teacher





# Collaborative Conversations on Impact

Students and educators provided feedback in record numbers about Experience Days, professional development, and more. But equally important, we saw their feedback deepen throughout the year. At the beginning of the year, students' and adults' feedback often gave an overall statement of whether they enjoyed the day. But as they continued to go on more experiences, they provided more specific, nuanced feedback about what they enjoyed, what they would change, opportunities to deepen the experience, and connections to their lives. To Embarc, this was a sign that our community was more engaged — and that they trusted us to hear and implement their feedback.

We also created consistent data-sharing practices with our school communities. Twice a year, principals and Lead Teachers from each Whole School meet with Embarc team members for a deep dive into their school's experience feedback, professional development scores, and mindset survey results. These discussions helped us collectively identify each school's assets and new opportunities for growth or change. Together, we co-created experiences and adjustments that resulted in tangible changes in our young people's experiences.







**Educators' confidence  
in delivering Embarc  
grew by 26%**



**12,582**  
**student experiences**

**81**  
**unique experience partners**

# A Growing Community of Experience Partners

The 2022–2023 school year marked the first year since the COVID-19 pandemic that Embarc was able to have six Experience Days in the school year. The increased number of student experiences required an expansion of our network of experience partners. Our team of program managers rose to the challenge and grew our student experience partner bank from 59 to 81 and created 12,582 student experiences.

Considering this massive uptick in experiences, we created better ways to communicate with our new and longtime experience partners. A key part of this work was creating and sending a partner feedback survey to all our partners. Receiving feedback and addressing needs, requests, and issues throughout the year helped us cement our relationships with these partners. We continued to build a connective tissue throughout the city consisting of businesses, restaurants, shops, and cultural institutions.

One of our newest partners was Good Kids Mad City, a social justice organization led by teens on the South Side of Chicago. As part of their student experience, Embarc students spent the day supporting their community food drive in West Englewood and learning about the power of youth advocacy. By creating more experiences in spaces and with places that truly represent our young people, we aim to strengthen the communities we serve.



# \$6,298,695

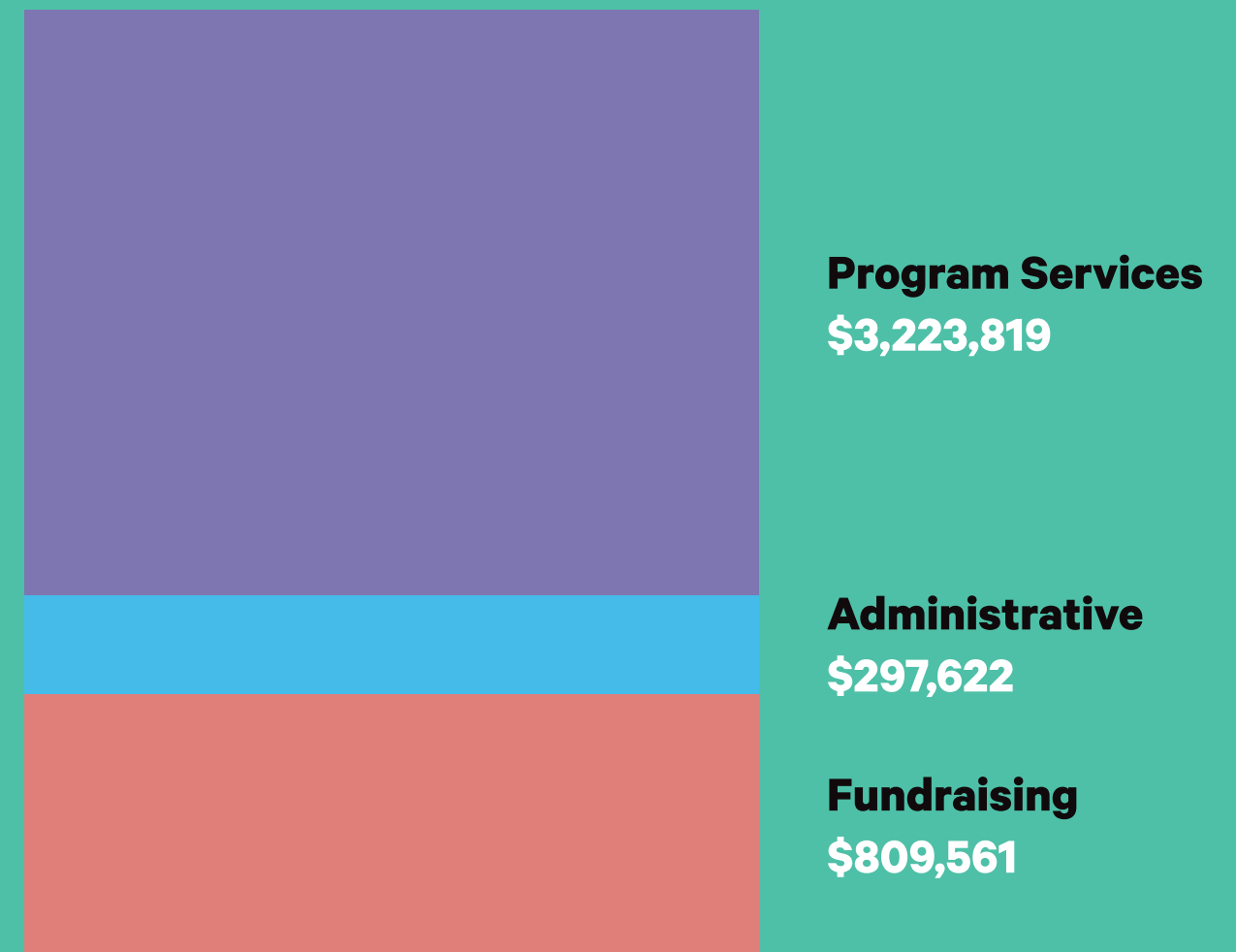
Total Revenue\*



\*Based on unaudited financials

# \$4,331,002

Total Expenses\*



\*Based on unaudited financials



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Development Coordinator  
& Executive Assistant  
to the CEO

# Schools

What started at Harper High as a classroom program served 18 schools across Chicago and engaged nearly 4,000 students during the 2022–2023 school year. Embarc is grateful for its close partnership with Chicago Public Schools and our programming at the schools below:

**Bogan Computer Technical High School**  
3939 W 79th St,  
Chicago, IL 60652

**Bowen High School**  
2710 E 89th St,  
Chicago, IL 60617

**Chicago Academy High School**  
3400 N Austin Ave,  
Chicago, IL 60634

**Chicago Tech Academy**  
1301 W 14th St,  
Chicago, IL 60608

**Roberto Clemente Community Academy**  
1147 N Western Ave,  
Chicago, IL 60622

**Fenger Academy High School**  
11220 S Wallace St,  
Chicago, IL 60628

**Percy L. Julian High School**  
10330 S Elizabeth St,  
Chicago, IL 60643

**Manley Career Academy High School**  
2935 W Polk St,  
Chicago, IL 60612

**Michele Clark Magnet Academy High School**  
5101 W Harrison St,  
Chicago, IL 60644

**Orr Academy High School**  
730 N Pulaski Rd,  
Chicago, IL 60624

**Sarah E. Goode STEM Academy**  
7651 S Homan Ave,  
Chicago, IL 60652

**Simeon Career Academy**  
8147 S Vincennes Ave,  
Chicago, IL 60620

**Simpson Academy for Young Women**  
1321 S Paulina St,  
Chicago, IL 60608

**Sullivan High School**  
6631 N Bosworth Ave,  
Chicago, IL 60626

**Tilden High School**  
4747 S Union Ave,  
Chicago, IL 60609

**Uplift Community STEAM High School**  
900 W Wilson Ave,  
Chicago, IL 60640

**Westinghouse College Prep High School**  
3223 W Franklin Blvd,  
Chicago, IL 60624



# Donors

**Embarc gratefully recognizes our supporters, who provided critical funds to our organization, schools, teachers, and young people between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023.**

## \$1M+

Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative  
IMC Chicago Charitable Foundation

## \$500,000 – \$999,999

Anonymous  
Litowitz Family Foundation

## \$100,000 – \$499,999

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## \$50,000 – \$99,999

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## \$1,000 – \$4,999

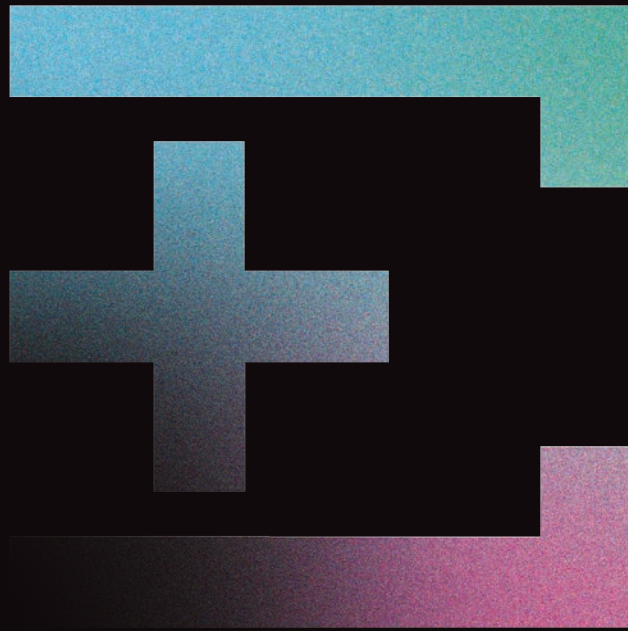
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# Embarc

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