



2016-17

A N N U A L R E P O R T





1,846

TOTAL NUMBER OF
VOLUNTEER HOURS
CONTRIBUTED DURING IOB
WORKSHOPS IN 2016

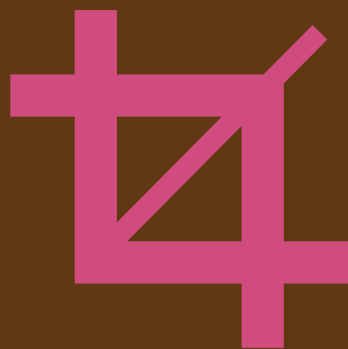


12K

OUNCES OF COFFEE
CONSUMED BY VOLUNTEERS
IN 2016 (APPROXIMATE)

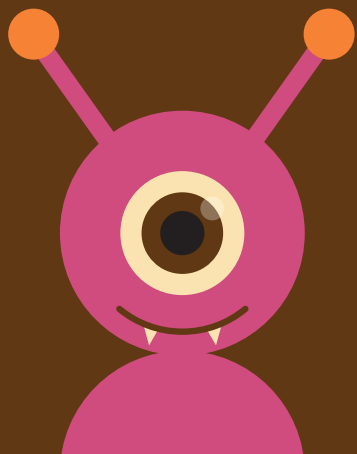
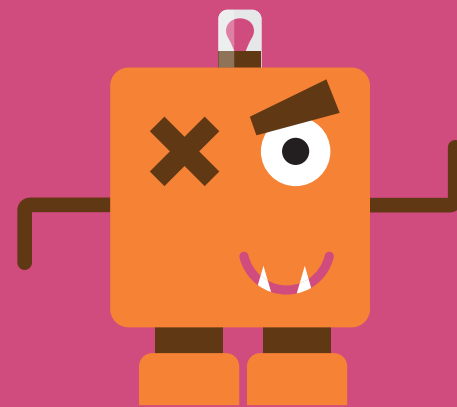
2K

IMAGES DOWNLOADED
FROM THE INTERNET
DURING WORKSHOPS IN 2016



8,700

ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF
HIGH FIVES GIVEN OUT
DURING SHARE TIME AT IOB
WORKSHOPS IN 2016



13

NUMBER OF DIFFERENT
ALIEN LIFE FORMS
APPEARING IN STUDENT
PROJECTS IN 2016

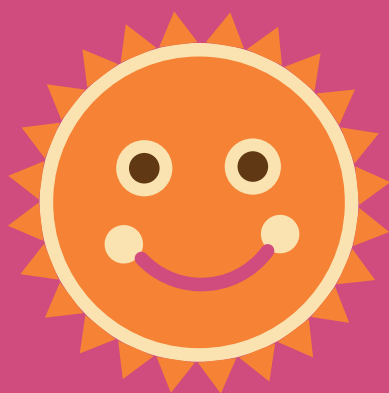


346 ft.

TOTAL LENGTH OF POSTERS
SHIPPED TO STUDENTS IN 2016
WHEN LAYED END TO END

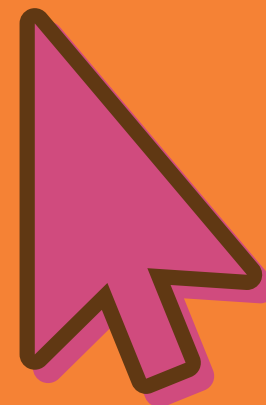
52

ESTIMATED AVERAGE ATTENDANCE
PER WORKSHOP FOR FINAL
STUDENT PRESENTATIONS



97%

INCREASE IN REVENUE
2016 v. 2015



Letter from the Director

When Mark asked me to write the director's letter I balked. He is the better writer. My role is running the class, hanging with the students and families. But then I thought, who better to share the stories I hear so often? Who better to speak to the joy, the focus and the growth I see with students who finally feel challenged and purposeful? I get to see their incredible vision, unfiltered creativity, intense drive and sheer love of learning simply by being allowed to be who they are when they walk through our doors.

Let me begin at the beginning. In October of 2012 we started with seven students and an idea—an "experiment". Then refine/repeat, refine/repeat, refine/repeat. We now know that we— and by "we" I include our hundreds of volunteers—have created something inspiring and true. Something beyond our original ambitions and expectations, that builds on strengths and possibilities and not on differences and limitations. Something that brings communities together.

Today—in the winter of 2017—we have a bigger goal: to create an integrated learning and work environment that incorporates all that we have learned over the past four years and builds off of the hopes and dreams shared with us by the parents, students and volunteers who have helped create Islands of Brilliance.

Mark and I know first hand from our experience with Harry, that individuals with autism are often overlooked, undervalued, and even feared. Yet we saw the incredible gifts in Harry, just as we see the incredible gifts in each of the students who walk through our doors. Yes, it can be messy and some will color outside of the lines. But then, so did Picasso.

The bottom line is this—we see potential where many cannot. We nurture creativity and vision. In just four years we have gone from that risky experiment with seven students to serving over 173 students in four cities in 2016. Each time we uncover hidden gems: illustrators, Pokémon experts, meme mavens, map builders, sculptors (of the model magic variety), researchers, craftsman, Pixar pundits—the list goes on and on. The pride and poise displayed at the end of each session—whether a five week workshop or a one day create-a-thon—is when we get to see these unique learners at their best. Best of all, we get to share in the hugs, the celebrations, the confidence, and the connections that are built from one simple idea: provide a space that doesn't underestimate what can be done when empathy, acceptance, understanding, integration, and love come together.

That is what "we" do at IoB. It's all pretty amazing. =)



Margaret Fairbanks, Director of Education

Margaret Fairbanks

Growth

2012-2014

MILWAUKEE

2015

MILWAUKEE
MINNEAPOLIS
PORTLAND

2016

MILWAUKEE
MINNEAPOLIS
CHICAGO
DULUTH



2012

7 STUDENTS



2013

25 STUDENTS



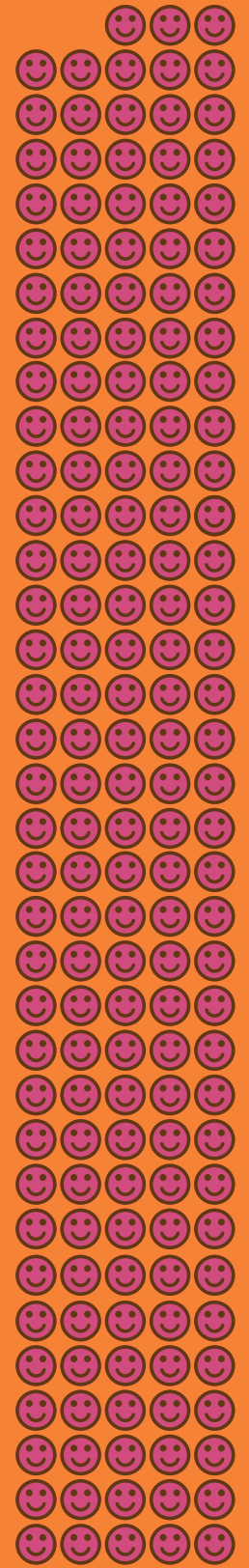
2014

46 STUDENTS



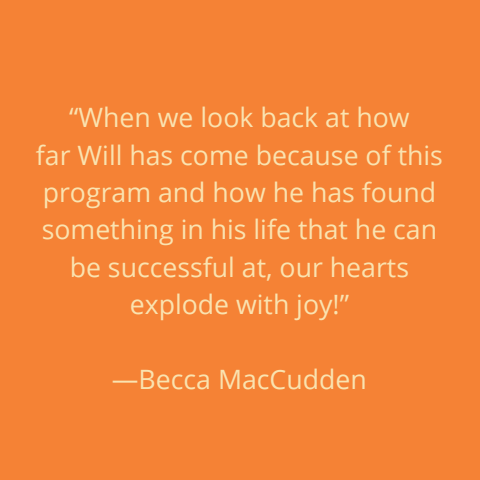
2015

111 STUDENTS



2016

173 STUDENTS



“When we look back at how far Will has come because of this program and how he has found something in his life that he can be successful at, our hearts explode with joy!”

—Becca MacCudden



“To interact with these kids and see them grow over the sessions—to get to know them personally and see their capacity to have fun and to laugh and be deeply interested and ultimately proud of what they can accomplish is awesome.”

—Jerry Higgins
Creative Director, Core Creative



“I like to do the work in the atmosphere here—everyone around me creating art on computers.”

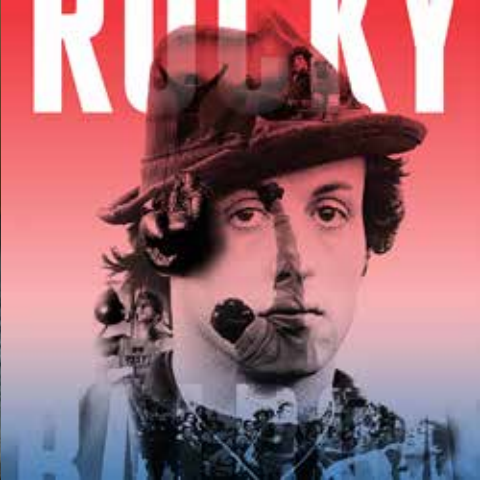
—Kim Dzwierzynski
Islands of Brilliance student since 2013





Our Mission

By using creativity, technology, and one-on-one guidance, we are positively changing personal perceptions of self and promoting broader community views of those on the autism spectrum from people with disabilities to people with capabilities.



"The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away."

—William Shakespeare

One glance at this list and you quickly understand that volunteers are the lifeblood of our program. We thank the following individuals for making Islands of Brilliance a reality for 173 students in four different cities in 2016.

MILWAUKEE

Alexis Achs
Andrea Ackley
Eric Addeo
Hannah Agpoon
Shavonne Alvarez
Jessica Anderson
Brett Baeten
Kelsey Barnowsky
Mike Bate
Nathan Benz
Jax Berndt
Doug Birling
Sabrina Buchanan
Jennifer Buth
Stephanie Cardarelle
Meghan Collins
Jenn Cooley
Scott Covelli
Ryan Day
Christina DeCheck
Sean Donnelly
Chris Dzwierzynski
Natalie Eichers
Ruby Engen
Miles Fabishak
Alice Farr
Jenny Farr
Steve Farr
Bridget Feerick
Nate Felhauer
Andrew Feller
Gina Ferisse
Rissy Fiora
Shauna Fowler
Patrick Fox
Zach Freding
Kris French
Jeff Ganger
Braulio Garcia
Kim Gerdes
Deb Gillman
Brent Gohde
Marisa Greco
Donovan Green
Nicole Green
Cat Guinan

Amanda Hardy
Brea Heath
Joe Heinen
Nick Heiser
Jessica Hernandez
Jerry Higgins
Blake Himsl Hunter
Kari Holte
Paula Jones
Katherine Jovanovic
Matt Juzenas
Melis Kaplan
Erin Keefe
Colin Kirchner
Krissy Kloke
Neil Kloppenborg
Steve Kodis
Kim Kriegel
Jen Kuhn
Samantha Lennox
Eric Leukert
Myranda Lope
Becca MacCudden
Nick MacCudden
Becca Mader
Nydia Mauras-Jones
Sarah McCutcheon
Emily McNulty
Matt McNulty
Dave Moore
Katy Moore
Brad Nault
Caroline Neal
Olivia Nelson
Dena Nord
Andrea Nordgren
Alli Olson
Erin Ormsby
Meghan Ormsby
Barbara Paulini
Erin Petrik
Alli Pfeil
Eddie Platz
Kayleigh Rappaport
Cam Robinson
Diane Roeder
Nastia Roeder
Sasha Roeder

Steve Roeder
Katya Ryder
Tom Sanders
Eric Sandoval
Kaivahn Sarkaratpour
Jessica Schiller
Riley Schoonover
Tony Seaman
Tami Severinsen
Tori Silva
Jennifer Sinnen
Maggie Steignhauer
Ashley Steinberg
DeChazier Stokes-Johnson
Damian Strigens
Emily Strozinsky
Pegge Sytkowski
Simmi Urbanek
Kenzie Vorass
Lauren Wiech
Sara Wiles
David Mark Zimmerman
Brianna Zoldan

MINNEAPOLIS

Paul Asao
Dawn Benson
Shaun Binneboese
Emily Callaghan
Paul Conigliaro
Lindsay Doyle
Becky Eilers
Galen Fletcher
Austin Gullixson
Nicole Haugen
Kathryn Heinz
Leeya Jackson
Reed Larson
Chuck Lundquist
Becca Mader
Kate Nelson
Craig Nordeen
Meredith Oberg
Jason Rabbitt
Jake Schlichting
Brie Sievers
Miranda Soukup

Kelsey Storkamp
Victoria Sturzl
Leslie Sweetland
Troy Swope
Brenda Taylor
Donald Thomas
Kathy Umland
Bethany Whitworth
Shelley Wicinske
Stephanie Wittchow

Host agency: Haberman

CHICAGO

Katie Banovich
Maria Barbera
Elizabeth Cavanaugh
Kathy Galli
Caitlin Howe
Isaac Pagan
Nancy Robles
Ellen Winston
Michael Zhang

Host agency: Ogilvy & Mather

DULUTH

Phil Davidson
Tate Galle-From
Joe Gunderson
Marsha Hildebrand Hystead
Mark Huebsch
Alan Josephson
Jake Kapsner
Jacey Kufahl
Sara Losinski
Matthew Olin
Jill Pring
Jeff Ruprecht
Yahya Rushdi
Deb Salzer
Annie Schweiger
Diane Tobin

Host agency: HTK Marketing

FINANCIALS

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$145,073

Administrative \$11,996

Fundraising \$14,008

Programs \$119,069

TOTAL REVENUE: \$148,236

Products and Misc. Income \$6,030

Individual Contributions \$9,029

Corporate Sponsorships \$25,438

Workshops \$32,341

Grants \$75,398

Gratitude

Thank you to the foundations, corporations, and individuals who provided financial support in 2016 for programming and operations.

FOUNDATIONS

Bader Philanthropies
Eisner Creative Foundation
Denise, Bill, and Luke Eisner Family Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Herzfeld Foundation
McGinnity Family Foundation
Northwestern Mutual Foundation

CORPORATIONS

414 Photography
88.9 Radio Milwaukee
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Barrie D’Rosario DiLorenzo
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Hoffman York

HTK Marketing
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Kohl’s
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Milwaukee Brewing Company
Milwaukee Coffee Peddlers
Ogilvy & Mather
Pizza Luce
Plunkett Raysich Architects
Purple Onion
Quest CE
Serve
Stir
Stone Creek Coffee
West Bend Mutual
Wonder Wonder Sound

INDIVIDUALS

Shaunna Balady
Jeff Bentoff
John & Kathie Buono
Katie Felten
Barb & Neil Goodwin
Wendy Gunderson
Carolyn Kearns
Jason Kleist
Ben Koch
Jim Locatelli
Kimberly Ludwikoski
Bob & Barb Monnat
Katy & Dave Moore

Joel Plinska
David Roldrian
Katie Sorenson
Melanie St. Clair
Leslie Sweetland
Brian Thompson
Jim Vaughn
Ned White

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Fairbanks
Nella Aiello
Ann Barriere
Catherine Clementi Anderson
Kirsten and Christopher Corbell
Nello Cristiano
Andrew DeLorenzo
Matt and Jane DeLorenzo
Vic DeLorenzo and Karen Keene
Jim and Lena Dresen
Thomas Fiorita
Rob and Amy Franks
Debra and Gerald Gillman
Tom and Terry Hoffman
Frank Knautz
JoAnn Knutson
Joe and Ruth Mandala
Julie & Felix McCauley
Frank Nicotera, Jr.
Frank and Evelyn Nicotera
Steve and Michelle Pape
Charlie Presta
John Sprecher



TURNER HALL – NOVEMBER 22, 2016

Over 325 guests attended Islands of Brilliance annual fundraiser Colors & Chords at Turner Hall Ballroom. Creativity, collaboration, diversity, and inclusion were all on display in abundance onstage and in the audience. Many thanks to our partners Milwaukee Brewing Co. and 88NINE Radio Milwaukee for making it another successful fundraising event. See you again in Fall 2017!



Photos by 414 Photography

EXECUTIVE BOARD

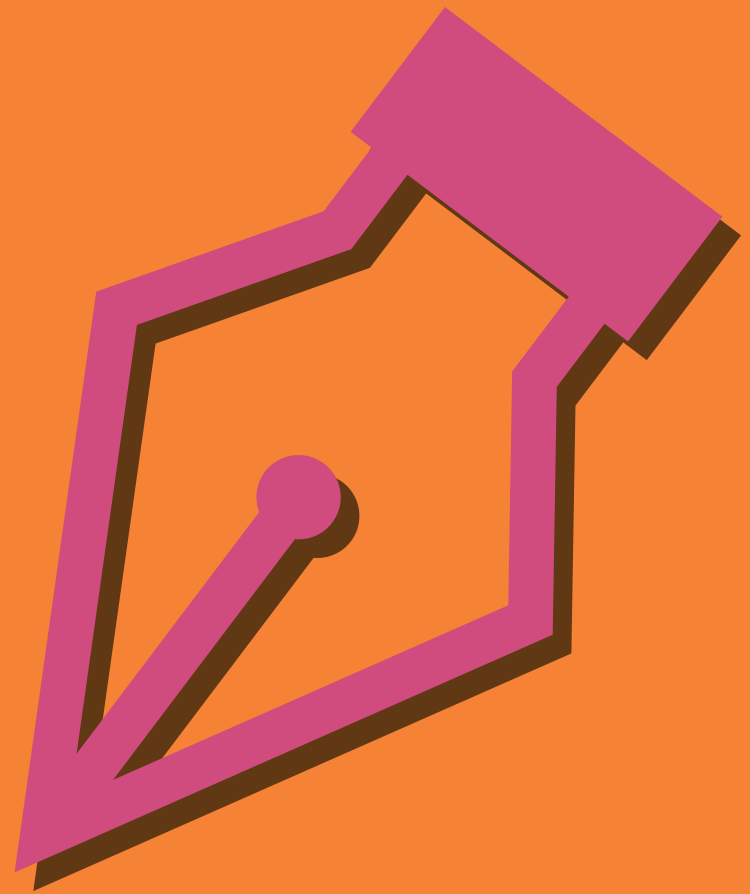
Elizabeth Drame, UW-Milwaukee
Steve Farr, Purple Onion
Dave Hanneken, Hoffman York
Doug Johnson, BMO Harris Entertainment
Maria Lopez Vento, Bader Philanthropies
Cindi Short, Translator
Nick Wichert, Northwestern Mutual

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Mark Fairbanks, Director of Design and Development

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Erin Ormsby, Kornit Digital
Tom Sanders, CORE Creative
Damian Strigens, Hanson Dodge



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Mount Mary University
United Adworkers
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, Peck School of the Arts



Stay tuned—Colors & Chords returns to Turner Hall in November 2017!



415 E. Menomonee St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 651.236.0474 islandsofbrilliance.org
mark@islandsofbrilliance.org | margaret@islandsofbrilliance.org

