



The Good Foot Arts Collective

<https://www.thegoodfootarts.org>

Organizational mission/vision

Good Foot Arts Collective's mission is to provide youth violence prevention advocacy through arts education. They envision youth of marginalized communities equipped to end violence before it begins, expressive in the arts through transformative movement and artistic mediums, empowered to reach their full potential through mentorship and educated to advocate in their community.

What communities does the organization serve?

South Seattle, traditionally including the Central District, Rainier Valley, Rainier Beach, Seward Park, Mt. Baker, and Beacon Hill neighborhoods. Currently delivering curriculum at Franklin and Rainier Beach High Schools with the goal to add Cleveland High School and expand to area middle schools.

What does the organization do?

Their CLAY (Creative Leaders Affirming Youth) program is a healthy relationship, social/emotional support and youth violence prevention curriculum utilizing healing centered engagement. The program is delivered in high schools. They also offer classes, events, and other community engagement initiatives.

Recently, the organization launched a No Excuses campaign that broadens the reach of their anti-violence work. With this campaign they are creating a flipbook as a tool for community education. The flipbook contains personal stories contributed by youth who participate in their programming and curriculum.

How does the organization maintain proximity to the community it serves?

The staff and leadership of Good Foot is composed of BIPOC domestic violence professionals and dancers/artists. The organization is led by individuals who have lived experience with domestic violence and toxic relationships. Several of their adult facilitators went through the curriculum as youth.

Describe the impact of an unrestricted grant for this organization.

This is a pivotal moment for them and a 2021 grant from Impact 100 would be transformational. The main use would be to fund staffing for a program assistant and development director which would allow them to expand their reach and increase individual donors. They are also planning a capital campaign for a permanent space to host dance/music classes, after school programs and organic, impromptu jam/dance sessions.

Describe how the organization affects individuals and systems.

Through teaching youth skills for healthy relationships and violence prevention, The Good Foot is empowering people to live safer, happier lives with impacts on their families and communities.

More broadly, they are addressing and working to disrupt toxic mainstream hip hop and bboy culture that perpetuates violence against women and promotes hypersexuality. Their No Excuses campaign, annual 400+ person jam event and music/dance programming collectively provide a platform that calls attention to this issue on a larger scale, beyond the classroom curriculum. Further, they offer partnership and education curriculum to dance and art studios in the area that can advertise that they are “Good Foot certified.” Parents and families can trust these art spaces to perpetuate the vision and mission of Good Foot.

How does the organization’s leadership and financial position reflect stability and capacity to execute its mission?

May Praseuth is the current Executive Director and co-founder of Good Foot. She has been running and growing the organization alongside her husband since 2005. Since partnering with RVC in May 2020 as their fiscal sponsor, May has received substantial training through their capacity building support including assisting her with developing a 3-year strategic plan. RVC also provides them with operational and financial management support. The relationship with RVC appears to be an essential source of support that has brought the organization to a critical pivot point with real potential for near term growth. May and Louie are passionate and committed leaders and while an Impact 100 grant would be transformational for Good Foot, their leadership is undeterred at the prospect of not being funded or, as May expressed, “Money can’t stop us.”

What are the compelling reasons for Impact 100 to partner with this organization?

The Good Foot Arts Collective is a grassroots organization, emerging out of the co-founders’ understanding and healing of their own toxic relationship and others they saw within the Hip Hop community. For fifteen years May and Louie Praseuth, along with many artists and community members, grew the organization organically working integrally with schools and community centers to bring their anti-violence curriculum to high school students. With Hip Hop as the modality and entry point for building trusting relationships with students, they’ve been able to have real and sustained impact advocating for safety and empowering youth to build an environment of no tolerance for violence, sexual misconduct, toxic behavior, and abuse. They have done this all on a volunteer basis and not until February 2020 did they create a part time ED position and begin to work with RVC. May is a passionate leader with a broad vision as well as practical skills to grow the organization to the next level including adding more schools and creating a dedicated space of their own for classes and curriculum delivery.