

Organization Name: [The Good Foot Arts Collective](#)

Date of Interview: 16 April 2024

Organization Interviewees: May, Louie, Safiya

Impact 100 GRT Interviewers: Heidi Narayan

Application: [Click here](#)

Organization Mission: The Good Foot Arts Collective mission is to prevent youth violence through arts education and to equip youth to end relationship violence before it begins.

What are the compelling reasons for Impact 100 to partner with this organization: According to NSVRC (National Sexual Violence Resource Center) 2023 Update, some quick facts regarding teen dating violence:

- Over 71% of women and over 55% of men first experienced intimate partner violence (sexual or physical violence, and/or stalking) under the age of 25.
- One in four women first experienced intimate partner violence prior to the age of 18.
- Over 80% of women and men report having experienced their first rape under the age of 25.
- Sexual violence is usually committed by someone the survivor knows. Over 28% of girls who experienced sexual violence under the age of 18 were raped by a current or former intimate partner.

These statistics are higher among immigrant and refugee communities due to non-reporting, fear of backlash and language barriers.

Some stats from student surveys on The Good Foot's work in schools:

- CLAY: 85.9% of students at the end of sessions said the CLAY sessions helped them to see the hurtful ways they have been taught about historical gender roles that influence violence.
- 98% said they have a better understanding about sexual harassment and consent.
- 95% said their awareness of dating violence and domestic violence increased about power and control and warning signs.
- 90% of students feel more confident in helping someone who is being harmed.
- 97% of students feel safer and gained more resources around preventing violence, abuse and dating violence in their school and community.

Do you have any reservations about this organization as a potential grantee partner for Impact 100? None.

What does the organization do? The Good Foot uses the platform of Dance, Art, Community Organizing and Culture to engage the youth and community. The programming includes:

CLAY (Creative Leaders Affirming Youth): is a healthy relationship, social/emotional support and youth violence prevention curriculum partnering with schools (2 HS, 1 MS, 1 ES)

Hip Hop Dance classes - Street Dance styles: Breaking, Locking and Popping. Our classes create safe space for anyone to participate, learn and cultivate a positive, loving, freeing and supportive community vibe.

Youth Collective - Youth Collective is an after-school leadership and activism mentoring pathway for high schoolers. Scholars from Rainier Beach and Franklin High School sign up through the CLAY curriculum and work together throughout the year. They are a part of leadership circles, one-on-one advocacy and skill building in arts, develop job readiness skills and participate in community event organizing.

No Excuses Campaign - The Good Foot Arts Collective "NO Excuses" campaign advocates for safety and empowers youth to build an environment of NO tolerance for violence, sexual misconduct, toxic behavior or abuse in BIPOC youth communities and in the Hip Hop, street dance community.

Summer Programs - "Power UP!" Power UP is a 4-week summer program for incoming 9th grade scholars to prepare them for high school transition. Focuses on financial literacy, social and emotional literacy and life skills through art engagement, team building, activities, and field trips.

Community Training - violence prevention and creating safe spaces.

Community Events including dance competitions, open mic nights and community performances. Youth are involved in the outreach, performances, volunteering and some organization.

The Good Foot has established a pathway for students, extending from school to after-school activities and into the wider community. This initiative aims to foster advocacy skills beyond the classroom setting, ensuring that students can independently advocate for themselves, regardless of their association with The Good Foot. The ultimate goal is to empower future changemakers, ensuring that their efforts in prevention and advocacy persist, even in the absence of The Good Foot.

Who does the organization serve? The Good Foot has served approximately 1,000 youth, through their CLAY Curriculum, Elementary and Middle School Leadership. They serve BIPOC youth and young adults in the South End community. In addition to teaching in Franklin and Rainier Beach High Schools and Aki Kurose Middle School, this year they started healthy relationship classes in Graham Hill Elementary and Orca K-8.

How does the organization reflect, maintain proximity to and stay accountable to the community it serves?

The Good Foot's physical location is strategically located right in the middle of the demographic that they serve. All staff are immigrant, refugee and BIPOC, and their life experiences are relevant and relatable to those they serve. They are physically in schools and do life in community alongside the same youth they serve. They ask for feedback with surveys and act on that feedback to stay true to helping youth by evolving and growing to meet the needs of their community. They aren't just in the schools and then leave, they also create a pathway through youth collective and their community events to create jobs and real-life experiences for their youth to succeed and have a bright future.

What inequity is your organization addressing and what do you think is the root cause of that inequity?

How is the organization addressing this? The primary objective of The Good Foot is to tackle systemic racism and academic disparities through a targeted approach to violence prevention. This is achieved through providing a platform for youth to engage in constructive dialogue and the following initiatives:

- Equipping youth with the skills to advocate for themselves within their community, thereby facilitating the development of localized policies within educational institutions that promote positive change.
- Empowering youth to become catalysts for change within their communities.
- Establishing culturally relevant and ethnically specific spaces to support immigrants and children of color, fostering inclusivity, and belonging among young individuals.
- Empowering cultural identity and understanding historical oppression to educate their awareness of ending violence in their own community before it begins.

How is the organization collaborating with other community-based organizations? The Good Foot has really grown in the non-profit sector and has created a web of partnerships with other community-based organizations.

- AGEP (is an ultimate frisbee organization for kids of color, they serve the same area as The Good Foot and collaborate on events or activities), Principals at the schools' act as interventionists, Kingmakers at Franklin High School
- Tier 2 students who have more behavior problems or academic or truancy or need support with ESL – knowing and learning the background of Tier 2 scholars helps us provide safe space and customized

support for mentorship in their lives that translates to academic engagement, social/emotional support and healthier approaches to conflict and mental health support,

- At the Back to School Bash – The Good Foot perform and spend time with the same communities they see in schools. Seeing individuals outside of the school site setting helps strengthen relationships.
- Rainier Action Coalition, Safe Passages (partner in summer programs), WSCADV (Washington state coalition against domestic violence), Youth Care, Young Women Empowered, Project Be Free, BOOM (breaking out of the margins) – they have joint conferences, RBAC (Rainier Beach Action Coalition), API Chaya (empowers survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking to gain safety, connection, and wellness), ACRS (Asian Counseling and Referral Service)

What is the vision for the organization in 5 years?

On a physical level The Good Foot would love to have their own large property so they don't have rent and can create a space that could be used in partnership with other nonprofits. They want to see more youth activated within their community - quality over quantity. They want to have more leaders around the nation learn from The Good Foot - giving others the tools to build in their communities! They want to continue to build very locally but want young people to see what is out there in other cities. They want to have unrestricted funding so they can build capacity to support more schools in the Puget Sound. They want to have more sustainable operations - donor development, keeping the lights on financial reports – right now everyone is wearing many hats!

What is the organization's area of greatest need? Sustainable funding is the number one need. They spend a lot of time chasing money and if they had sustainable funding, they would be able to put resources and energy into programming.

In addition to funding, they also need to continue to build up community leaders, including men of color - those living in the community and supporting community can end violence before it begins, and this is best done by bringing up leaders from within the community. With this they want to have more men of color from the community.

Highlight a story of impact.

Safiya was in a health class as a freshman 2 years ago. She loved it when The Good Foot would come into class and engage the youth to talk and have conversations that were things not talked about before. When the class ended Safiya signed up for the after-school program CLAY (creative leaders affirming youth). She was so enthusiastic about the class and wanted to share what she learned that she joined Youth Collective and started to teach summer classes with The Good Foot, learning about peer mentorship and advocacy. Through all of this she really learned about herself and thought deeply about things she was taught earlier were wrong like racism and sexism. Safiya learned how to speak up for herself and have healthy confrontations. Safiya's family is Muslim and Muslim families are very protective, especially of their daughters so for Safiya's family to support and trust The Good Foot speaks to the engagement and support they have from their community.

Safiya now is a junior at Franklin HS and is doing running start at Seattle College. She is in her third year as an intern with The Good Foot. This year, her desire is to learn more about how an organization runs and is shadowing May with administrative and operations support and training to facilitate high school CLAY (she assisted the last two semesters!).