

2020

ANNUAL REPORT



TOTEM STAR



A LETTER FROM US

MIRABAI + ZOSER + PAK



Hey Totem Star family,

2020 was a wild year, huh? COVID-19. Protests for racial justice. Wildfires and murder hornets. COVID-19. The election. The vaccine. COVID-19. It's been a rough one for sure. After all that and some, can we take a deep breath together? You know, like six feet apart (minimum)?

Even though the year was tough, 2020 represented a huge milestone for Totem Star. It was our tenth anniversary! Ten years in and nearly 3,000 young recording artists served, Totem Star continues to fill the arts education and creative youth development gap through safe, encouraging, and inclusive creative spaces with music as our common language. The resilience that we see in our artists -- collaborating and releasing music reflective of the times, showing up in our virtual spaces to build community, and in the streets to protest police brutality -- demonstrates their defiant stance against a system in need of deep healing.

The Totem Star recording studio, once a bustling hub full of creative energy, love, and new music, was closed due to the pandemic March 9, 2020. We all miss the studio! But despite being physically closed, we've moved all of our programming online, and continue to provide our talented young recording artists with access to music production, performance, and mentorship opportunities. Artists can still book one-on-one sessions with artist mentors, now via Zoom. We've launched Virtual Open Mics (on Instagram Live), Lavender Sessions (a space for our women and non-binary community members), and the Totem Star Leadership Collective aka TLC (a six-member committee of Totem Star artists working to inform policy and bridge the communication gap between youth, staff, and board).

"Being in Totem Star has taught me perseverance," explains Aleyanna "Grae Violet" Allgood, a Totem Star recording artist who just finished their first semester at Cornish College. "Having a project, sticking through with it even if it is really hard, has taught me the value of community. I do a lot of art things and felt a part of things, but I never really felt a part of the art spaces I was in. Totem Star is truly one of the few places that I feel completely safe. When Pak says 'we are a family' that is really true. I really do feel like Totem Star is my family."

On behalf of Totem Star, we are so grateful to have you as part of this family and we hope you enjoy reading through this annual report! As we gear up to start fundraising for our new recording studio and headquarters at King Street Station, we know you'll be standing alongside us, as we can only do this work together! As one family! Be safe, be healthy, and let's all celebrate together when we don't need to be six feet apart (minimum). Cheeeee!!!

In love and solidarity,



Mirabai "Miraboo" Kukathas (she/they)
Artist, Co-Chair of the Totem Star Leadership Collective (TLC)



Zoser "Ziggy Z" Dunbar (he/him)
Artist, Co-Chair of the Totem Star Leadership Collective (TLC)



Daniel "Pakadamian Nut" Pak (he/him)
Co-Founder, Executive Director



MISSION

Totem Star supports a diverse community of young recording artists learning music and life skills through mentorship and meaningful relationships. Our work in the studio and on the stage fosters growth in collaboration, leadership, and self-identity.



Photo by Tracey Wong

Totem Star envisions a more just society where all young people have access to music learning opportunities and youth voice is championed in support of healthy, engaged, and productive young people using music as a universal language.

VISION

Photo by Tracey Wong



Photo by Avi Loud



Photo by Paul Laughlin



Photo from Seattle Art Museum



THE STUDIO

The creative heart of our programming, where our artists book weekly studio sessions (now on Zoom) with Totem Star artist mentors and collaborate with their peers to work on songwriting, vocal technique, beat making, mixing, mastering, music business, and more.

THE STAGE

Quarterly series of open mics and youth arts showcases (now on Instagram Live) open to the general public where youth perform their original music and learn about live performance in the process.

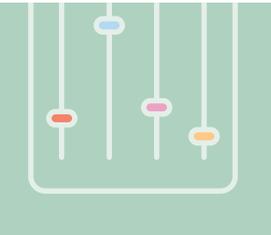
THE STORY

Quarterly talk series with guest panels comprised of culturally relevant touring artists and music industry professionals. Past guests include Nikkita Oliver, Clinton Fearon, Hollis, Rell Be Free, and SassyBlack.

ARTIST BOOKING

Performance opportunities in the community with organizations such as the Seattle Art Museum and Northwest Folklife Festival. Totem Star manages contracts for our artists and we are able to either advocate for and negotiate fair pay from partners or pay artists directly.

PROGRAMS



100% OF ARTISTS SAY THAT THEY HAVE LEARNED VALUABLE SKILLS AND LESSONS AT TOTEM STAR

Totem Star has become my second home. It's been really dope and I appreciate what Totem Star has done for all of us.
RUSS.LE, TOTEM STAR ARTIST

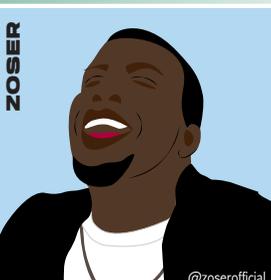
ARTISTS SAY THEY CONSIDER TOTEM STAR AS THEIR SECOND HOME



As parents, having Totem Star's support during this time has been immeasurable.
JERMAINE & SIDDEEQUA ALLGOOD, PARENTS OF TOTEM STAR ARTIST, GRAE VIOLETT

Totem Star has helped me learn more about my music and what I want. I want to someday work for a youth non-profit like Totem Star.
LILY INDIGO, TOTEM STAR ARTIST

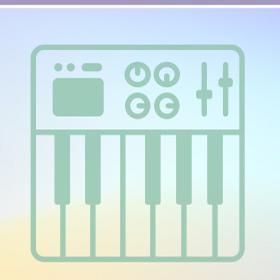
Totem Star magically points the way to a compelling future where young musicians, aspiring artists & marvelous mentors combine music & meaning into an unstoppable force for good.
THOMAS GOLDSTEIN, FRIEND OF TOTEM STAR



100% OF ARTISTS SAY TOTEM STAR HELPED THEM ACHIEVE THEIR MUSIC GOALS

Totem Star is my second family, a place where I feel truly safe and valuable. The amount of fun I have and the amount of learning I do is something I haven't gotten anywhere else.
MIRABAI KUKATHAS, TOTEM STAR ARTIST

Totem Star is an open and free space for all to express themselves and what they are passionate about.
ZOE ROBERTS, TOTEM STAR ARTIST



NEW WIRE



ARTIST DEMOGRAPHICS*

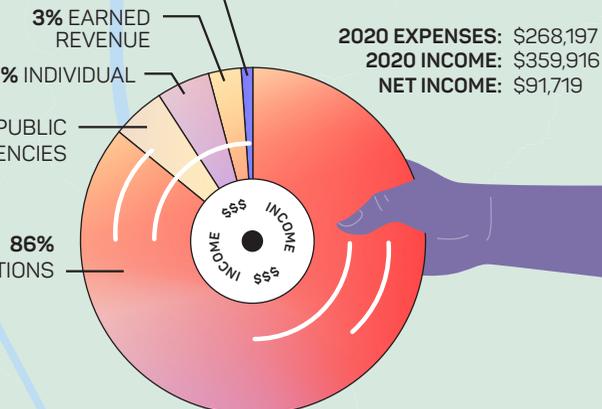
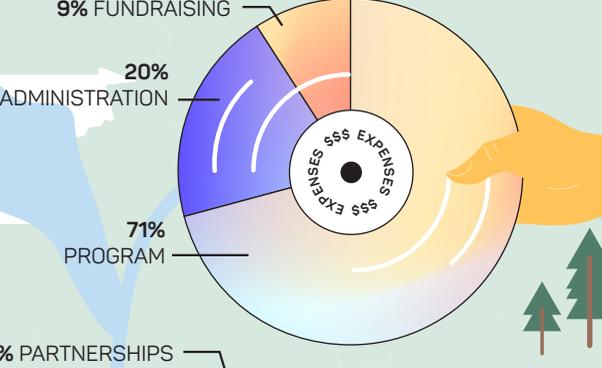
*1,190 YOUNG ARTISTS SERVED IN 2020

- 38% BLACK
- 29% WHITE
- 15% LATINX/HISPANIC
- 14% ASIAN
- 2% NATIVE AMERICAN
- 1% MIDDLE EASTERN/NORTH AFRICAN
- 1% PASIFIKA

2020 #TOTEMSTAR



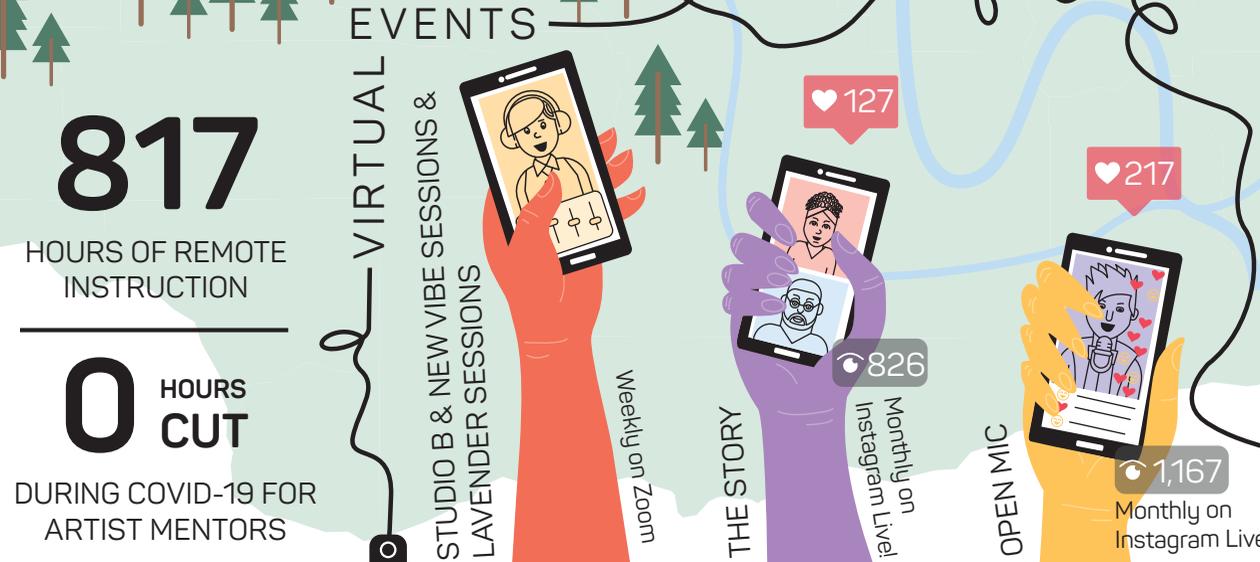
2020 FINANCIALS



2020 | WE'VE BEEN BUSY IN QUARANTINE!

100% OF ARTISTS SAY TOTEM STAR HAS SUPPORTED THEM DURING COVID

1,167 HOURS SPENT ON PROGRAMMING



THE TOTEM STAR FAMILY ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE WORK WE DO TAKES PLACE ON THE UNCEDED ANCESTRAL LANDS OF THE FIRST PEOPLE OF SEATTLE, THE DUWAMISH PEOPLE. WE HAVE DEEP GRATITUDE FOR THE DUWAMISH PEOPLE, THE ORIGINAL STEWARDS OF THIS LAND, AND A PEOPLE THAT ARE STILL HERE TODAY.

10

TOTEM STAR

YEARS

♥ TOTEM STAR IS FOUNDED BY DANIEL PAK AND THADDEUS TURNER THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JUVENILE REHABILITATION ADMINISTRATION, WITH THE VERY FIRST PROGRAM AT RAINIER COMMUNITY CENTER

♥ TOTEM STAR LAUNCHES **THE STUDIO**, OFFERING FREE RECORDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ASPIRING YOUNG ARTISTS

♥ MAYOR MIKE MCGINN PERSONALLY INVITES TOTEM STAR ARTISTS TO DO A MIXTAPE LISTENING PARTY IN HIS OFFICE



2010

♥ IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE, SEATTLE PARKS & RECREATION, AND THE SE SEATTLE P.E.A.C.E. COALITION, TOTEM STAR ESTABLISHES RESIDENCY AT AKI KUROSE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND PRODUCES THE 'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE' MUSIC VIDEO

♥ PROGRAMMING ESTABLISHED AT RAINIER VISTA BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

♥ TOTEM STAR MOVES INTO THEIR FIRST DEDICATED STUDIO SPACE AT YOUNGSTOWN CULTURAL ARTS CENTER

2013



2011

♥ TOTEM STAR BEGINS PARTNERSHIP WITH SEATTLE YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE (SYVPI) AND FISCAL SPONSORSHIP WITH SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

♥ PAK AND THADD BRING STUDIO OPERATIONS TO THE ROYAL ESQUIRE CLUB, NORTHWEST AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM, METROCENTER YMCA, AND YOUTHSOURCE RENTON

♥ PAUL LAUGHLIN JOINS AS DEVELOPMENT INTERN THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON'S EVANS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY & GOVERNANCE

♥ ARTS CORPS TAKES OVER FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

♥ PARTNERSHIPS BEGIN WITH SEATTLE INTERAGENCY ACADEMY, COLUMBIA CITY BEATWALK, AND MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN TRIBE

♥ TOTEM STAR LAUNCHES **THE STORY**, A TALK SERIES WITH GUEST TOURING ARTISTS AND MUSIC INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS. GUESTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES AS YOUNG ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS



2015



2014

♥ TOTEM STAR BEGINS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE THROUGH PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

♥ TOTEM STAR LAUNCHES **THE STAGE**, QUARTERLY OPEN MICS AND SHOWCASES INCREASING PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG ARTISTS.



2016

♥ TOTEM STAR IS AWARDED REBRANDING SERVICES AND STORYTELLING COLLATERAL BY C'MON TEAM!, A COLLECTIVE OF VOLUNTEER CREATIVE PROFESSIONALS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

♥ PARTNERSHIP WITH THE OSTARA GROUP BEGINS THROUGH FUNDING FROM THE SATTERBERG FOUNDATION, HELPING TO LAUNCH TOTEM STAR'S GRANT AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

♥ MATT SABLAN JOINS AS CLASSROOM ASSISTANT AND EXPANDS STAFF'S CAPACITY TO SERVE MORE YOUNG ARTISTS

♥ PAUL LAUGHLIN BEGINS TWO-YEAR COMMUNITY IMPACT FELLOWSHIP AS DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP WITH RVC

♥ TOTEM STAR LAUNCHES STUDIO SCHEDULING APP, ADDING EFFICIENCY TO OUR ARTIST SCHEDULING PROCESS

♥ SOUTHWEST AND SOUTHEAST INTERAGENCY ACADEMY STUDENTS RECEIVE ARTS ELECTIVE CREDIT TOWARDS GRADUATION THROUGH PARTICIPATION WITH TOTEM STAR



2017



2018

♥ TOTEM STAR OFFICIALLY BECOMES A 501(C)(3) TAX-EXEMPT ORGANIZATION

♥ **THE SPOTLIGHT**, TOTEM STAR'S FIRST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER DINNER AND SHOW, TAKES PLACE AT YOUNGSTOWN

♥ TOTEM STAR LAUNCHES ARTIST BOOKING PROGRAM, EXPANDING PAID PERFORMANCE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

♥ PARTNERSHIP WITH SEATTLE INTERAGENCY ACADEMY CONTINUES THROUGH 7TH PERIOD MUSIC CLASSES LED BY EVA WALKER AT THE BEACON ACADEMY, AN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN

♥ TOTEM STAR LAUNCHES **ALL ACCESS FRIDAYS** PROGRAMMING, A MONTHLY WORKSHOP SERIES WHERE WOMEN, FEMME, TRANS, NON-BINARY, QUEER/LGB+ ARTISTS SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

♥ NORTHWEST FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL INVITES TOTEM STAR TO HOST A YOUTH SHOWCASE

♥ MOMMA NIKKI JOINS AS AN ARTIST MENTOR AND TAKES LEAD OF 7TH PERIOD MUSIC CLASS AT THE BEACON ACADEMY

♥ TRACEY WONG BEGINS TWO-YEAR RVC COMMUNITY IMPACT FELLOWSHIP AS COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER, BUILDING MORE SYSTEMS FOR PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNICATIONS AND CULTIVATING DEEPER RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUNG ARTISTS

♥ TOTEM STAR BEGINS PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RESIDENCY, OFFERING RECORDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEIR ARTISTS

♥ TOTEM STAR LAUNCHES **FRIDAY NIGHT FEASTS + JAM SESSIONS** PROGRAMMING, A QUARTERLY EVENT WHERE TOTEM STAR ARTISTS CAN GATHER, EAT WELL, AND CREATE MUSIC WITH ONE ANOTHER

♥ NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH MUCKLESHOOT INDIAN TRIBE BEGINS, LAUNCHING A MULTIMEDIA PROJECT CENTERING THE CANDE FAMILY JOURNEY AND RECORDING CANDE FAMILY SONGS AT LONDON BRIDGE STUDIO

♥ SINGER-SONGWRITER MIRABAI KUKATHAS BECOMES THE FIRST PAID TOTEM STAR INTERN



2019

2020

♥ AMY PIÑON JOINS TOTEM STAR AS AN ARTIST MENTOR, INCREASING CAPACITY BY OFFERING VOCAL COACHING AND SONGWRITING EXPERTISE

♥ RECORDING ARTISTS ZAG AND ZOSER BECOME TOTEM STAR INTERNS

♥ TOTEM STAR RESPONDS TO COVID-19 BY LAUNCHING REMOTE PROGRAMMING: **REMOTE SESSIONS, VIRTUAL STUDIO B & WORKSHOPS, OPEN MIC NIGHTS, LAVENDER SESSIONS, NEW VIBE SESSIONS, AND THE STORY**



WHAT TOTEM STAR MEANS TO US



GRAE VIOLETT
(SHE/THEY)



"Totem Star has also taught me the value of community. When Pak says, "we are all family", that is really true. I really do feel like Totem Star is my family...During quarantine, I like that Totem Star is going above and beyond to make sure that it is super accessible and easy for us to pursue our art and I think that is incredibly beautiful."



"Totem Star has been a constant to a lot of our lives. To be in a space and place where you level with one another. They level you. We can talk to each other, we can clown on each other, we can laugh. It's a constant that we always need in our lives and it is nice that Totem Star always finds ways to reach us. It is a consistent thing we look forward to every day. It's been hard during this time [of quarantine], but Totem Star makes it easy."



AMINA
(SHE/HER)



KIDDUS FECTO
(HE/HIM)



"It's been one of the best experiences ever being at Totem Star. Making music there, communicating with everybody, being able to get opportunities to perform and do the things I love to do. I can't thank them enough for it."

BLACK LIVES MATTER BLACK LIVES MATTER



Art right now is CRUCIAL. As someone who benefits entirely from Black culture and who has learned a lot through my mentors who identify as part of the Black diaspora, the music I make will always be in solidarity and support for Black liberation!

AURELIO VALDEZ
TOTEM STAR ARTIST



"If you are a Black artist, put yourself first. Don't feel guilty for needing a mental break from online or offline activism. You're living the movement just by looking the way you do.

You're protesting just by existing."

GRAE VIOLETT
TOTEM STAR ARTIST



"Art is so malleable that it can be used as a form of protest.

Tell your stories and raise awareness. Express your pain and oppression. Be bold, Black and proud. Exist and be unapologetic.

As a Black Muslim woman, my art and poetry is political by default because my mere existence is political."

AMINA
TOTEM STAR ARTIST



"... It is our job to use our privilege and our voice to talk to those around us [as non-Black people]. We need to talk to our relatives, our friends, our neighbors about why Black Lives Matter."

BIANCA AKA FRESA
TOTEM STAR ARTIST



I'm an African American male witnessing my people deal with police brutality in the media and it's maddening...We have to come together and stop fighting one another because at the end of the day, we're fighting the same enemy. THE SYSTEM."

KIDDUS FECTO
TOTEM STAR ARTIST

MEET THE FAMILY

Photo by AvtLoud

TOTEM STAR ARTISTS



Yung Fuego
(he/him)



Russ.Le
(he/him)



Kiddus Fecto
(he/him)



PRIMOE
(he/him)



\$m alvi\$
(he/him)



Alec
(he/him)



Lily Indigo
(she/her)



Cobb
(he/him)



AMINA
(she/her)



DiceVampira
(she/her)



Saturn Star
(they/them)



Justus White
(he/him)



Damon Dahl
(he/him)



Gonny
(he/him)



ZAG
(he/him)



Zoser
(he/him)



Grae Violet
(she/they)



Agent OrangeTree
(he/him)



Mirabai Kukathas
(she/they)



Aurelio
(he/him)



AJANI
(he/him)



Aréte
(he/him)



FRESA
(she/her)



Sharmaine
(she/her)



Zoë Roberts
(she/her)

STAFF



THADDEUS TURNER
Co-Founder,
Artistic Director,
Artist Mentor



MATT SABLAN
(he/him)
Artist Mentor



AMY PIÑON
(she/her)
Artist Mentor,
Totem Star
Leadership
Collective Liaison



MOMMA NIKKI
(she/they)
Artist Mentor



DANIEL PAK
(he/him)
Co-Founder,
Executive
Director, Artist
Mentor



TRACEY WONG
(she/her)
Communications
Manager



PAUL LAUGHLIN
(he/him)
Deputy Director



ROSE NOBLEZA
(she/her)
Accountant

BOARD



KRISTA WELCH
(she/her)
Communications
& Development
Committee Chair



MICHELLE TRAN
(she/her)
Finance
Committee Chair



MARIA EWING
(she/her)
Events
Committee
Co-Chair



WENDY SIMMONS
(she/her)
Board Vice Chair



BRIAN MYERS
(he/him)
Board Secretary



SHAWNA ANGELOU
(she/her)
Board Treasurer,
Events
Committee



JON STONE
(he/him)
Board President,
Nominating
Committee,
Finance Committee

TOTEM STAR LEADERSHIP COLLECTIVE



ZOSER DUNBAR
(he/him)
Totem Star
Leadership
Collective
Co-Chair



MIRABAI KUKATHAS
(she/they)
Totem Star
Leadership
Collective Co-Chair



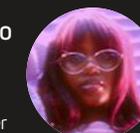
LILY GARRITY
(she/her)
Totem Star
Leadership
Collective Member



CORNELIUS CAMBRONERO
(he/him)
Totem Star
Leadership
Collective Member



DANIEL NARANJO
(he/him)
Totem Star
Leadership
Collective Member



ALEYANNA ALLGOOD
(she/they)
Totem Star
Leadership
Collective Member

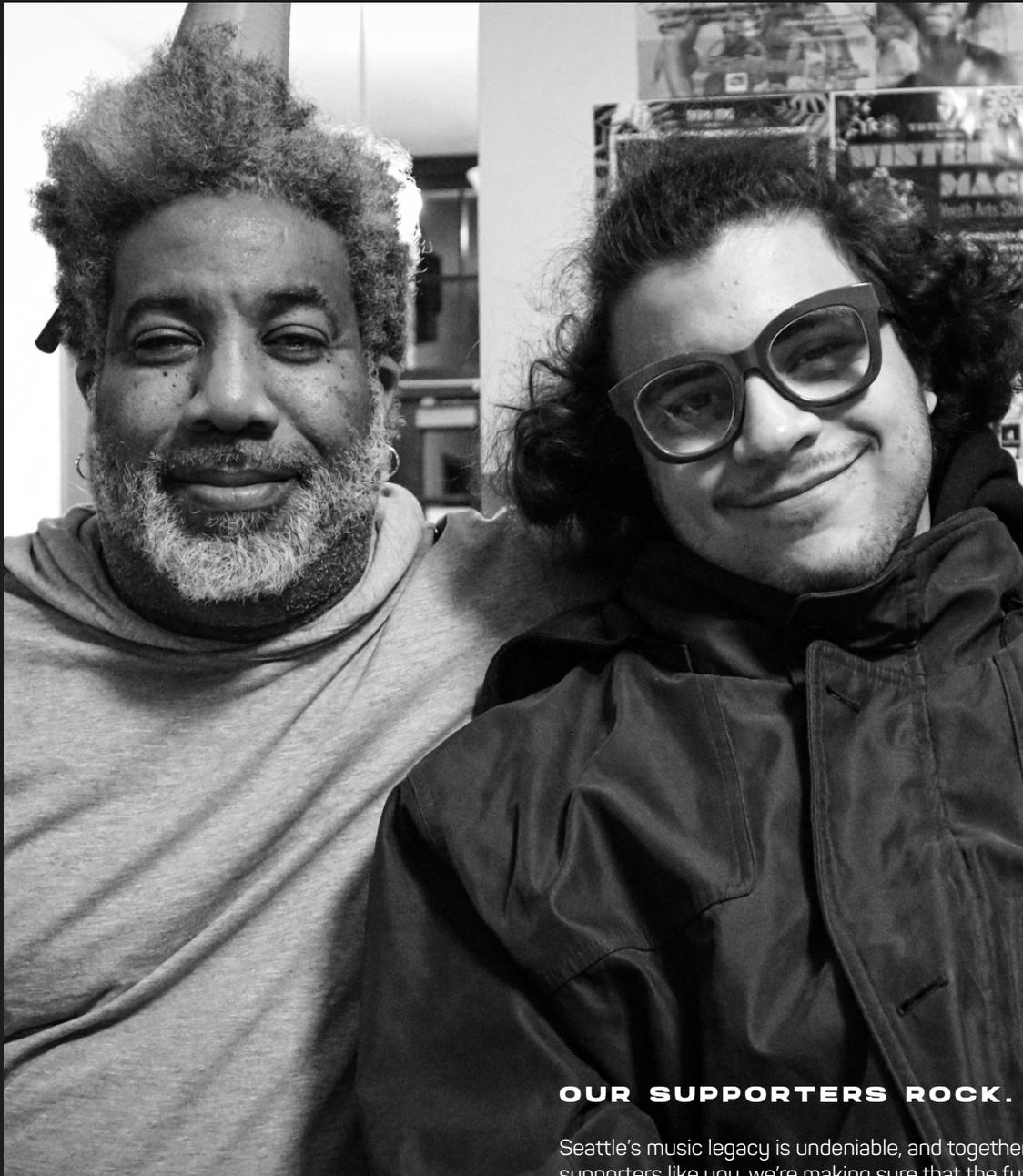
TOTEM STAR INTERNS



Amr Awwad
(he/him)



Zoser Dunbar
(he/him)



THANK YOU

OUR SUPPORTERS ROCK.

Seattle's music legacy is undeniable, and together with supporters like you, we're making sure that the future of that legacy remains bright.

In Totem Star's studio, our young people grow as recording artists, community leaders, and individuals who have the ability to have a positive impact on our local community and beyond. With your help, we are fueling our artist mentors to empower the youth we serve.

Photo by Avi Loud

TOTEM STAR
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