



NOW IS THE TIME

2021-2022
ANNUAL REPORT

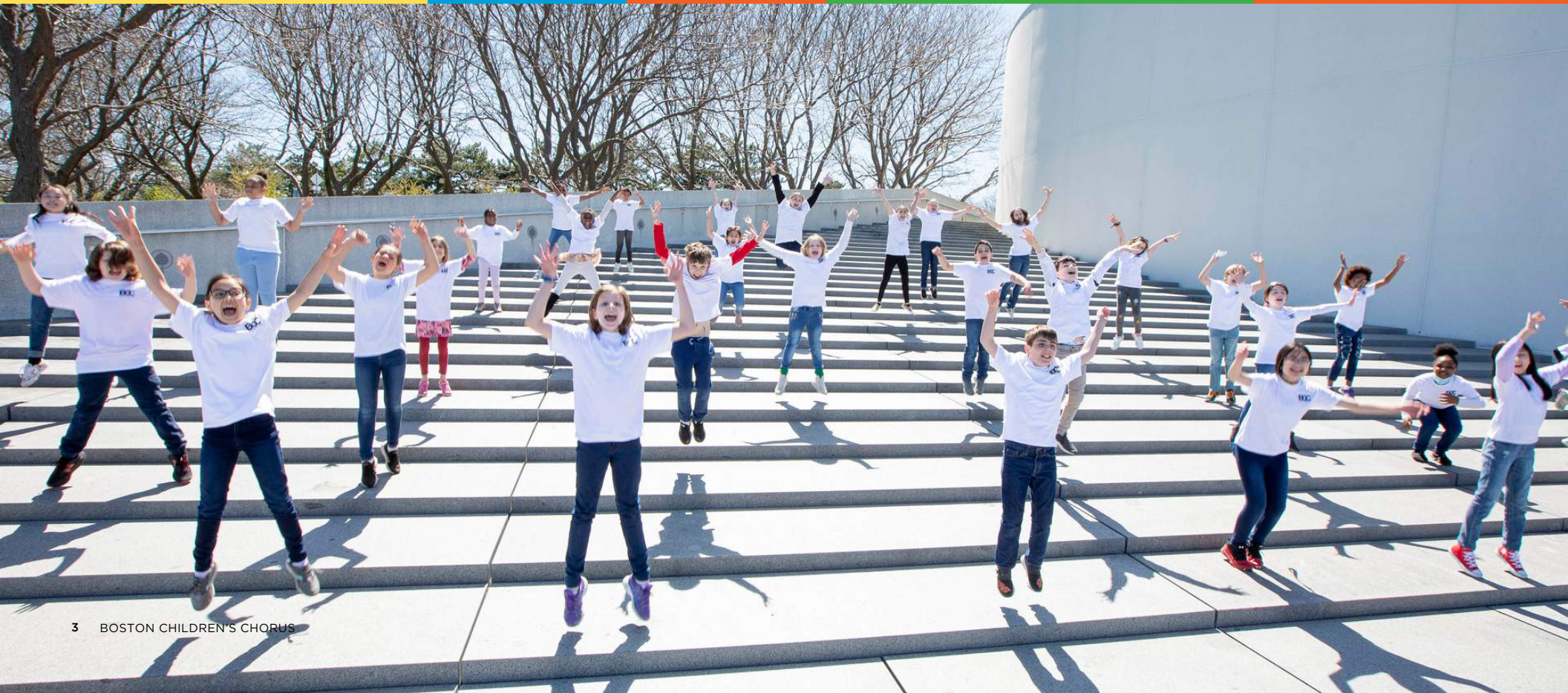
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OUR MISSION

Boston Children's Chorus (BCC) harnesses the power of music to connect our city's diverse communities, cultivate empathy, and inspire social inquiry.



A Letter from BCC's Executive Director

Dear BCC Friends,

The 2021-2022 season, "Now is the Time," marked a joyful reunion for singers and audiences at Boston Children's Chorus. Following months of social separation and uncertainty presented by the pandemic, it was a thrill to be together again and experience the energy of live rehearsals and performances. While the pandemic closed our doors in 2020, the learning continued in digital rehearsal rooms and stages. In the Fall of 2021, we welcomed singers and audiences back in-person to share in an unforgettable season! We are grateful to our entire community for your steadfast support during these transformative times.

True to our tenacious nature, BCC launched numerous initiatives this past season and expanded into a brand-new territory, maximizing our reach and impact. New partnerships provided exciting opportunities for singers to perform with artists, including Idina Menzel, and to collaborate directly with international composers through BCC's commissioning project, "Opus Nuovo." We engaged with new audiences at "We Sing: Boston," a free summer concert series in neighborhood public parks in and around Boston in collaboration with Friends of the Public Garden.

I am proud of our new rigorous, targeted recruitment campaign which prioritizes neighborhood access points to reach communities and youth new to BCC. This year alone, the new initiative provided choral experiences to over 1,043 students from public and charter schools in Greater Boston with free pop-up choirs and school-based workshops across the city than ever before!

Our 20th Anniversary season promises to advance and uplift commitments to cultural equity and representation of historically underserved communities. We continue progressing with our strong vision and an immense gratitude for you, our enthusiastic community.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Holder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'A' being particularly large and stylized.

Andrés Holder
Executive Director



A Letter from BCC's Board Co-Chairs

To our BCC Community,

Under Executive Director Andrés Holder's new leadership and guided by our singers' talents, we pivoted towards joy and community even in the darkest times. We are proud of the organization's accomplishments and resiliency during this life-altering pandemic. We engaged thousands worldwide through live-streamed concerts, hosted vaccination drives, and launched a brand-new recruitment and access initiative to rebuild from pandemic choir attrition. This was all made possible thanks to you, our generous and encouraging community.

Boston Children's Chorus has a bold tradition of award-winning musicianship and arts education, diverse leadership, and deep community investment, enabling the organization to grow and nurture a unique interconnection of mutually beneficial partnerships. Our reputation allows for annual collaborations with prominent cultural institutions and urban public school districts to vital community organizations and social service agencies. BCC continues to be resolute in our promise of excellence and engagement, drawing talented conductors, composers, and guest artists from Boston and beyond, and most importantly, sharing the voices and creativity of our singers present and future with audiences around the world.

Each of you plays a part in upholding the Boston Children's Chorus legacy into our third decade and beyond. Your generosity provides a safe space for our singers to feel joy and share their talent, empathy for each other, and hope for a more just, harmonious, and inclusive future.

Kind regards,



Pat Temple & Alec Francesconi
Board of Directors, Co-Chairs



NOW IS THE TIME 2021 - 2022 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS



CALLING FOR CLIMATE ADVOCACY

In our 19th season, the singers of Boston Children's Chorus joined their voices to call awareness to the climate emergency. Celebrating the wonder of this planet that we call home, singers examined the systemic inequities that so often cause marginalized communities to suffer the greatest at the hand of environmental disasters. Through the power of song, we sent an urgent message: Now is the Time to act!



Now is the Time: 2021 - 2022 Season Highlights

WILD: A Musical Becoming with Idina Menzel

BCC partnered with the American Repertory Theater (ART) at Harvard University for the creation and premiere of a brand new musical, "WILD: A Musical Becoming." Singers joined a star-studded creative team, including Justin Tranter (songwriter to Dua Lipa, Ariana Grande and Lady Gaga), V (former Eve Ensler, author of The Vagina Monologues), and Artistic Director, Diane Paulus.

"Best of all is the inclusion of members of Boston Children's Chorus... It is hard to remember a moment in the theater as immediate and powerful as this one."

- Edge Media Network, 2021

Arnold Arboretum Filming

More than 90 Boston Children's Chorus singers gathered at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University to create a video focused on environmental justice. We partnered with our friends at the Arboretum to share a critical message about preserving the environment for generations to come. Known as the museum of trees, the Leventritt Shrub & Vine Garden was an ideal backdrop to film two environmental themed music videos featuring our Lower Choir singers.





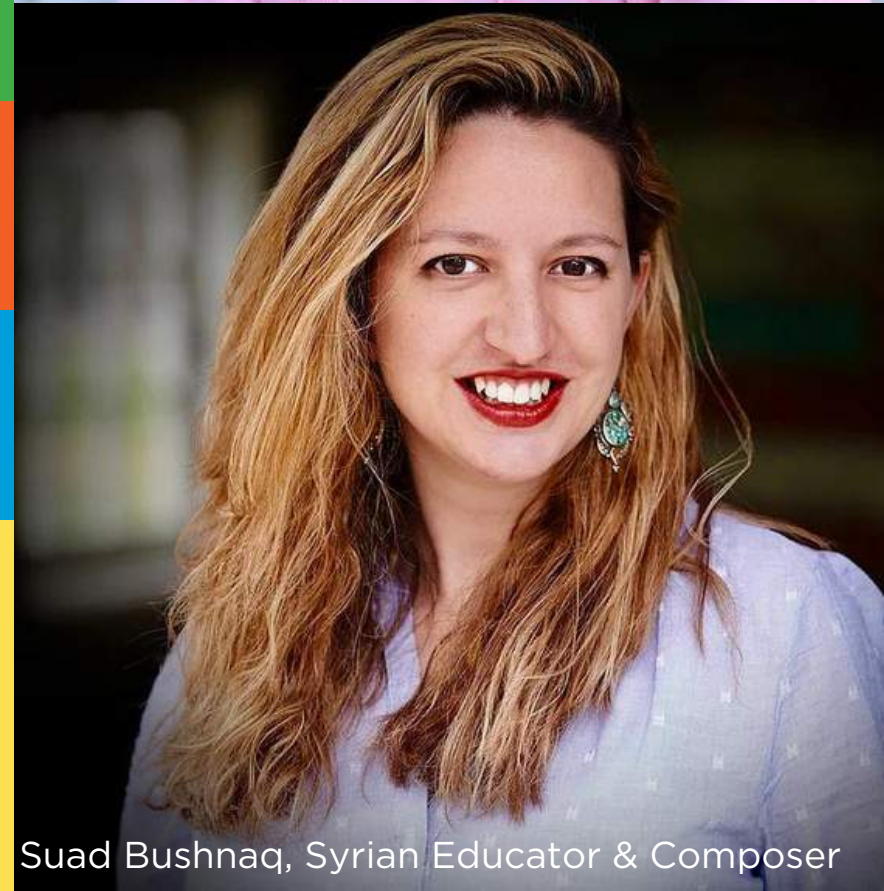
A Diverse Approach to the Choral Canon in the 21st Century

BCC is well regarded for its pedagogical model centered on cultural equity, celebrating diverse musical cultures, and facilitating creative artistry through student voices. The "Opus Nuovo" initiative is our innovative response to broaden the choral repertoire for both student and professional choirs. Now in its second phase, this project is designed to identify, commission, and collaborate with ten highly sought-after global composers and artists to facilitate the creation and performance of a collection of new choral works. Aligned with BCC's vision of cultural equity, these new pieces represent a true spectrum of global musical styles and approaches. BCC singers actively participate in the creative composition process, hone listening and understanding skills, and gain rich performance opportunities.

This past season, BCC engaged two composers to work with our singers to focus on new works focusing on environmental justice, aligning with our season theme. Syrian educator and composer Suad Bushnaq worked with our Lower Choir singers to create a three-movement "Climate Cantata," telling stories of climate change through fairytale characters and stories. Mexican composer Jorge Sosa engaged with our Upper Choir singers to develop a new youth operetta - "The Rising Tide" - reflecting on the climate emergency through the eyes of youth.



Jorge Sosa, Mexican Composer



Suad Bushnaq, Syrian Educator & Composer



Recruitment and Access Campaign

Designed to build bridges and access to BCC's programs for more diverse and underserved young people, the Recruitment and Access Campaign addresses the pandemic-related attrition experienced by BCC and many other youth choirs.

BCC is committed to bringing the joy of choral music to even more young people! We plan on dramatically expanding our local neighborhood services over the coming years. By creating neighborhood-based access points, BCC can more readily:

- Recruit new singers into BCC's musical training and social justice programming, build our visibility, and increase trust.
- Share our curriculum and the joy of choral singing to a broader audience.
- Prioritize the needs of underserved and underrepresented families, fostering deep reciprocal partnerships with the schools and other institutions that anchor their communities.
- Connect Boston neighborhoods and nearby Gateway Cities, and provide vital support for transportation and financial aid.

Through our partnership with the Surround Care Coalition, under the leadership of Mossik Hacobian and the Higher Ground team, BCC has been fortunate to visit classrooms in Dorchester once weekly for seven weeks each semester to provide music and movement classes for young children ages 4-6. Next season, the initiative will increase targeted outreach to ten neighborhood schools between South Boston, Mattapan, Dorchester, East Boston, Chinatown, and Allston/Brighton.

Summer with "We Sing"

In partnership with the Friends of the Public Garden, BCC hosted free outdoor community open singing events each Saturday and Sunday in the summer of 2021. Available to community members of all age and skill levels, these joyful programs provided free summer enrichment and social opportunities for children in BIPOC neighborhoods and low-income communities immediately following a year-long period of isolation and distance from peers. Each weekend day, BCC singers joined their families, alumni, and community members for a 75-minute celebratory event of singing, games, socializing, and community building.



Vaccine Clinics



120 Community
Members Served

BCC teamed up with partners at Boston Medical Center to host pop-up vaccine centers to contribute to the health equity movement sparked by the COVID-19 crisis. The events were held at our main office on Old Colony Avenue in Boston and were open to all singers, their families, and the general public over the age of 5.

RETURNING TO THE STAGE



Our singers were thrilled to return to Boston Symphony Hall for the "19th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute Concert: Can You See The Stars?". The performance highlighted Dr. King's labor and civil rights work, which paved the way for the activism embodied in the modern-day environmental movement.

Over 250 BCC voices were joined by

- Guest Conductor Alysia Lee, a Kennedy Center Citizen Artist and Founder and Artistic Director of Sister Cities Girlchoir, the El Sistema-inspired, girl empowerment choral academy in Philadelphia, Camden, and Baltimore;
- Guest Artists Renese King, a nationally recognized instrumentalist, choral director of the New England Gospel Ensemble, and arranger; and,
- Reverend William Bodrick, Senior Pastor of the Historic Twelfth Baptist Church in Roxbury, MA.



Youth have boldly been at the forefront of climate change activism. Taking inspiration from social and climate youth leaders, Boston Children's Chorus sang about their power to affect change. Joined by featured artists the Eureka Ensemble and Opus Nuovo composers Jorge Sosa and Kathy Wonson Eddy. This end-of-season concert, entitled "Lift Every Voice: Future Generations", shared a musical call to action on climate change while celebrating our class of graduating seniors.

"[Youth] speak truth to power because we genuinely want change and to create a better world. And this is why the voices of youth are so pure and powerful, why they always have been, and why they always will be."

- Youth to Power, Jamie Margolin (19)

ACTIVITY MAP

3

Pop Up Choirs

15

Partner Schools

28

Workshops

43

Community performances

263

Singers in core programming

1042

Students served in schools

"Working with BCC over the past months has been a joyful, empowering experience."

- Ellis Elementary School

Performances

We Sing

Workshops

Partnership

Those Heroes Who Healed the Nation

for the rededication of the Shaw 54 Memorial on the Boston Common

"CACC loves our visits with BCC. Thank you for always making your activities fun and engaging."

- Crispus Attucks Children's Center

DEMOGRAPHICS

BCC's demographics reflect intentional recruitment and retention of children ages 7-18 across differences of race, ethnicity, culture, and class.

53%

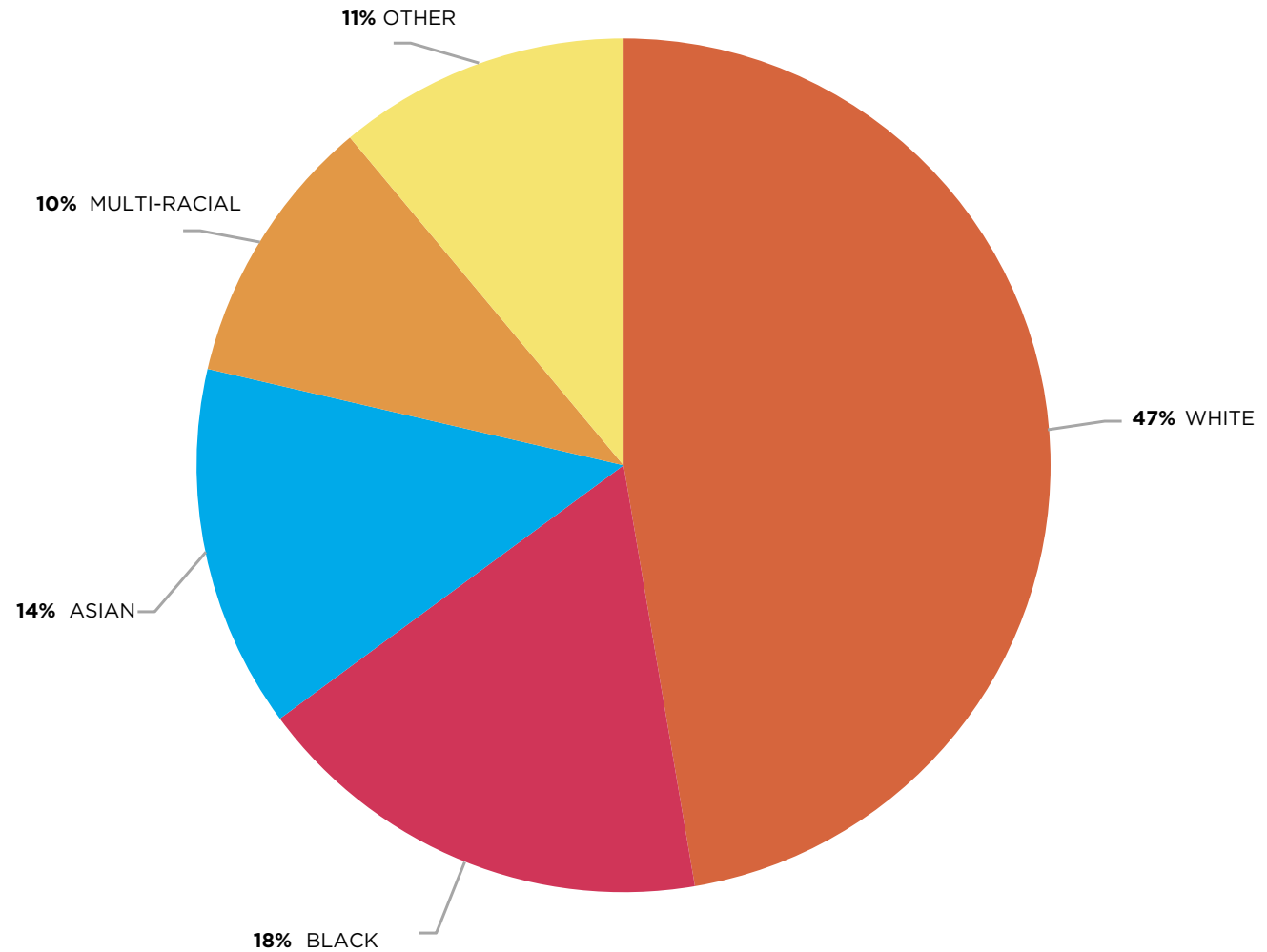
of 263 singers ages 7-18
are non-white

22%

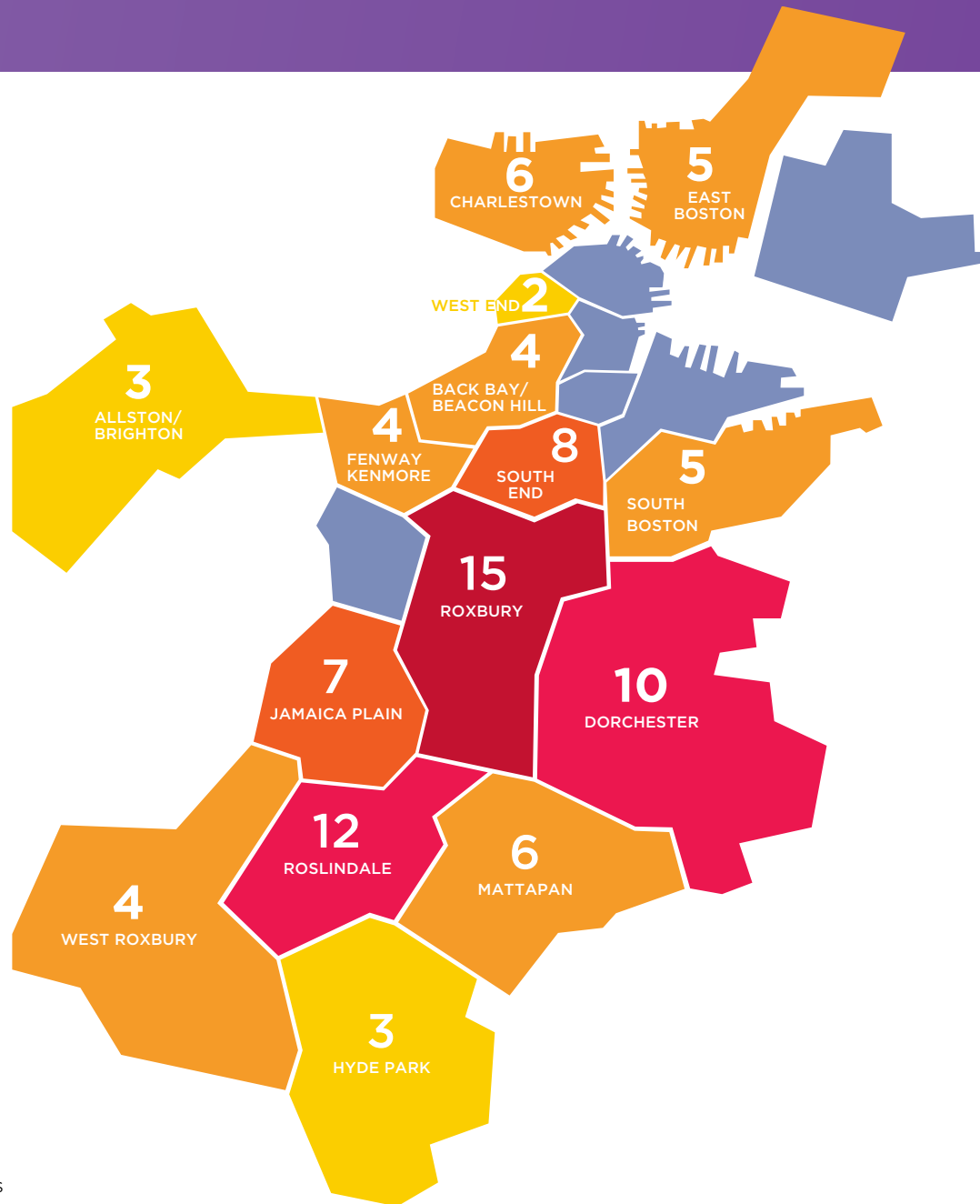
are Hispanic/Latinx

41%

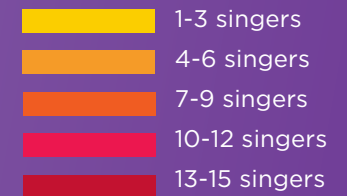
of singers are from
households with
an income below
the Boston median
\$76, 298 a year



BOSTON DEMOGRAPHICS



SCALE



36%

of 263 singers live in the City of Boston



Financial Information

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	JUNE 30, 2021	JUNE 30, 2022
TOTAL ASSETS	1,451,394	1,254,748
TOTAL LIABILITIES	492,084	226,729
TOTAL NET ASSETS	959,311	1,028,019
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	1,451,394	1,254,748

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	2,114,803	2,051,648
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,721,828	1,982,220
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	392,480	69,427
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	566,831	959,311
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	959,311	1,028,738

ANNUAL DONORS 2021-2022

CIRCLES MEMBERS

Boston Children's Chorus recognizes generous donors who make possible the work & heart of the mission.

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\$50,000+

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Willa and Taylor Bodman
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SUSTAINERS CIRCLE

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