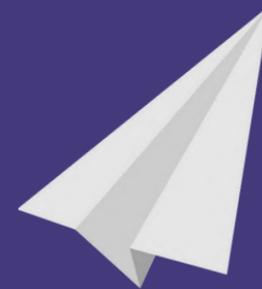
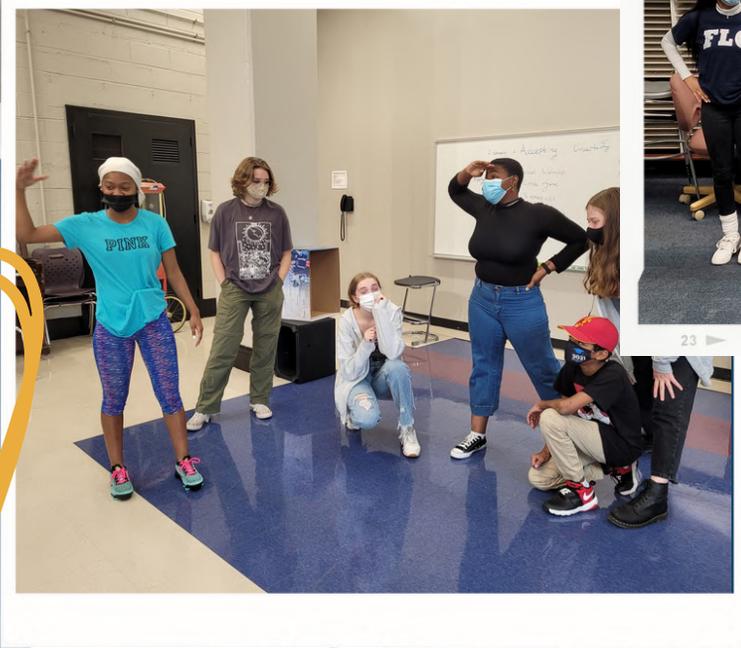
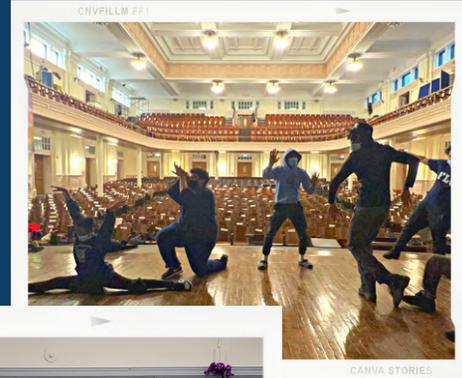


the unscripted project

21/22 Annual Report

NAVIGATING YOUR
WORLD THROUGH IMPROV





21/22 A YEAR OF RESPONSIVENESS, RESILIENCE AND RECONNECTION



"I've learned that being creative can
be fun and that it is ok to make
mistakes"

**UNSCRIPTED STUDENT
8TH GRADE**

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Who We Are

Need

Traditional education is not adequately preparing young people with the social-emotional and interpersonal skills necessary for life within and beyond the classroom

Mission

To equip students with the building blocks for personal and professional success through the power of an improv education

Vision

Every child leaves school prepared to embrace challenge, seize opportunity and unlock their own potential

About Us



The Unscripted Project is an award-winning, BIPOC-led Philadelphia-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to equipping students with critical social-emotional and interpersonal skills through the transformative medium of improvisational theater. We do this primarily through our core program, a free 10-week series of in-school applied improv workshops in public middle and high schools. Since our inception in 2020, we have worked with over 1000 students. Through our workshops, students develop key life skills like speaking confidently, collaborating effectively, and growing from mistakes in a low-stakes and laughter-filled environment.

Letter from the Founders



What a joy to be together again! The 2021-2022 school year was our first in-person year and 24 classrooms completed Unscripted Project's 10-week core program. Since our inception in 2020, we have now worked with over 1000 youth in the Philadelphia area.

Learning recovery was top of mind for our school partners and our program. We discovered that improv was more impactful than ever as we were able to help reengage students, create productive classroom communities and bring much needed laughter and joy back to school.

That's not to say this was an easy year. Philadelphia public school students remain at a disproportionate disadvantage due to the significant learning loss that occurred during the pandemic. Additionally, our students and their families faced tremendous loss this year in the face of continuing gun violence. Heavy burdens are being placed on our educators to support our students through these challenges in the midst of a teacher shortage. We are grateful for the trust that our school partners have placed in our program to support our students, and we applaud the work of our Unscripted teaching team, led by our Program Director, for continuing to be resilient in the face of ever-changing needs and circumstances in our school communities.

Our impact results will reflect that with a broader group of student participants, we are able to demonstrate real positive impact - students are leaving improv class feeling more confident, more in-tune with their emotions and those of others, and more likely to ask for what they need and want - despite the fear of rejection.

As we are just enter our third year of programming, we continue to focus on our strategic goals of deepening our programmatic impact, building capacity, and developing a sustainable expansion plan. Thank you to the ongoing generosity and support of our entire Unscripted family. The best is yet to come.

With gratitude,
Meera Menon & Philip Chen

Letter from the Program Director

Coming off a year of social isolation, Philadelphia students needed our program more than ever before. Many of our school partners had common goals of building community and confidence in students. The Unscripted Project was proud to collaborate with our schools in supporting the changing needs of our youth.

Throughout the school year, I had the pleasure of visiting each of our classrooms. At the beginning of the year, there was an unmistakable reluctance in students. They were shy to speak, hesitant to participate, and self-conscious around their peers. After 10-weeks of improv, the transformation was inspiring. I entered classrooms filled with vibrancy, community and joy. Students were using improv tools to understand their own and other's emotions, to support each other and to create stories together. I discovered that our program was far more than just teaching skills but rather creating active, collaborative and creative learning communities.

As someone with a background in youth social work, listening to students engaging in meaningful discussions was a joy. It meant that we were meeting our goal of ensuring our students can use the tools of improv to become confident contributing members of their communities. I am excited about the progress we have made and would like to thank our school partners, teaching artists, and community members for your continued support.

With gratitude,

Karin Potter-Simmons



Year in Review

Core Program

Our core 10-week in-school workshop series was back in-person and more impactful than ever before. This year, we were fortunate to work across 10 public middle and high schools in 24 different classrooms. Our innovative curriculum is aligned to state standards and was refined to focus on building communities that support learning recovery and classroom engagement.

The series is taught by professional teaching artists in collaboration with classroom teachers. Using improv, we create a safe and nurturing environment for students to be themselves, make mistakes and grow with their peers. With a specific focus on developing one key life skill each week, our goal is for students to leave equipped with the improv toolkit - a mindset and a skillset that enables and empowers young people to be more adaptable, confident, and collaborative in life within and beyond the classroom.



"I learned how to work better with others, not overthink things and get out of my comfort zone"

- Unscripted Student
10th Grade

THE UNSCRIPTED ROADMAP:



Year in Review

Cristo Rey Partnership



We were thrilled to be a key partner in Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School's "Grad at Grad" program, designed to develop students as leaders and engaged members of the community following graduation. 213 students participated in our extended programming this year.

in 2022-2023, all freshmen will participate in our programming, and all ~80 Cristo Rey teachers and staff members will participate in our professional development training.

Professional Development



In our continued partnership with The School District of Philadelphia, we offered our ACT 48 accredited professional development program for 60 district teachers this year. Equipping them with the improv toolkit, our goal is for educators to understand the key mechanisms behind why improv is a valuable educational tool and be able to apply it to fit the needs of their students.

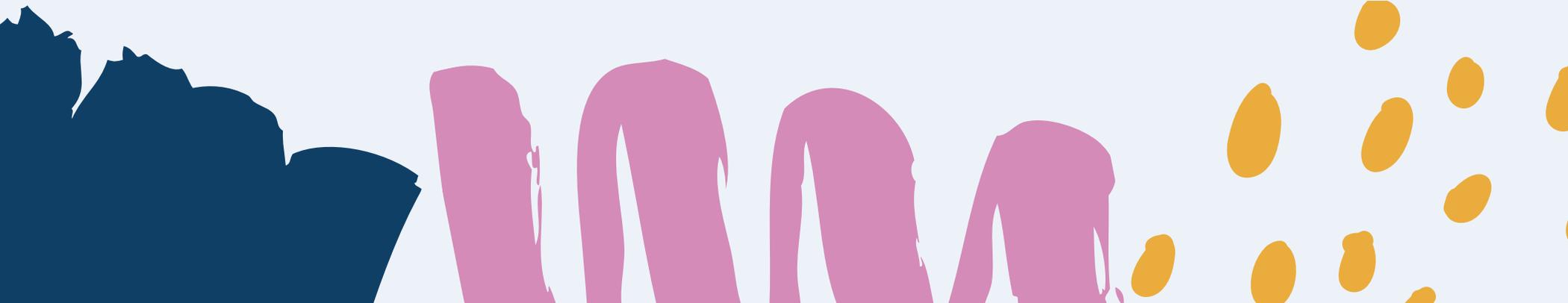
Improv for Teams



We are continuing to grow our corporate workshop offering - Improv for Teams! These are interactive, low-stakes workshops consisting of improv exercises, reflections, and applications to the workplace with all proceeds directly funding our school program. Our goal is to equip more people with the powerful toolkit of improv in a collaborative and laughter-filled environment. Clients have included start-ups, top consulting firms, Fortune 500 companies, and universities.



OUR IMPACT



By the Numbers

OUR SECOND YEAR IN REVIEW

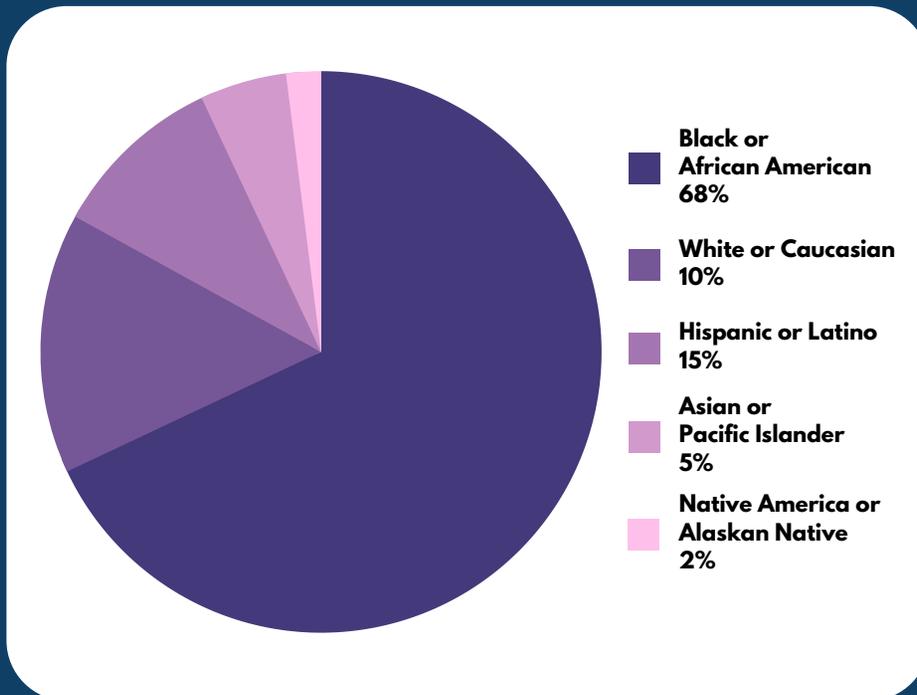
11 Schools

24 classrooms

630

258 hours of improv education

students



Program breakdown:

417 students completed core 10-week program

113 students completed one-time workshops

At the schools we work at, the average percentage of students who are classified as “economically disadvantaged” is 90%⁽¹⁾

(1) Based on CEP rates obtained by the School District of Philadelphia which tracks the % of students who qualify for free or reduced price lunch.

By the Numbers

THE IMPROV TOOL KIT IS TRANSFORMATIVE.

75% of students feel like they can better understand their own emotions and the emotions of others

73% of students feel like they have become a better communicator

68% of students feel more confident participating in class

74% of students feel more comfortable with their peers

71% of students displayed increased social engagement ⁽¹⁾

61% of students exhibited greater social self-efficacy after the program ⁽²⁾

69% of students reported a decrease in rejection sensitivity ^{(3) (4)}

"Development of SEL skills leads to improved long-term outcomes in educational attainment, employment, and mental health"

Aspen Institute, 2019

(1) Behavioural, Emotional and Social Skills Inventory (BESSI).

(2) Social self-efficacy questionnaire for children (SEQ-C).

(3) Children's rejection sensitivity questionnaire (CRSQ).

(4) A decrease in rejection sensitivity refers to a lesser likelihood of fear of judgement and rejection that inhibits social interactions and activities.

By the Stories

Student



"I feel free when I am doing improv - my mind is not preventing me or hindering me from doing what I actually want to do. Through Unscripted, I have learned that it is okay to make mistakes, not overthink things, and to work with your teammates, not against them"

Hear more from Unscripted Student Journae in her video testimony [here](#)

Journae Barnes, Unscripted Student 10th Grade

Teaching Artist



"When I first started improv I did not realize its application to my actual life but over the years improv has taught me so many skills. In the classes I teach, the children already see that - whether it is working together or being a better communicators. It is incredible to ask students - how did that feel? What did you learn? and hear students have actual insights into why we are doing these exercises" *Watch our teaching artist Tanya's video testimony [here](#)*

-Tanya Morgan, Unscripted Teaching Artist

Classroom Teacher



"The Unscripted Project has been a fantastic opportunity to introduce my students to life-changing skills and experiences all through improv. Having an outside partnership for this space allows us to break the routine, introduce new energies, and deepen students understandings of relationships — to themselves, each other, and the world around us."

-Classroom Teacher Partner, Dobbins Technical High School

The background features several abstract, hand-painted elements. At the top, there are horizontal brushstrokes in shades of blue and purple. On the left side, there are vertical brushstrokes in purple and blue. On the right side, there are vertical brushstrokes in blue and purple. At the bottom, there are horizontal brushstrokes in purple and blue. Additionally, there are several large, rounded shapes in various colors: a purple shape in the top left, a blue shape with white dots in the top right, a purple shape with white dots in the bottom left, and a blue shape with white dots in the bottom right. The word "HIGHLIGHTS" is centered in the middle of the page in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights

Expanding our team



The Unscripted team grew this year as we continue grow our presence and work with more schools and students in Philadelphia. Karin Potter-Simmons joined us as our Program Director: with years of experience in education and youth social work, Karin has become an invaluable asset to our team and a leader in championing our mission and advocating for our city's youth. In addition, our teaching artist team, the cornerstone of our program's success, has expanded to 10 incredible improv educators that teach our program within our partner schools.

Furthermore, we are excited to announce that we have built an advisory board of 9 community leaders in the fields of nonprofits, academia and business. These individuals will continue to advise us on Unscripted's strategic growth and support our Board of Directors.

As The Unscripted Project matures, we will continue our capacity building initiatives to ensure we build a team that can grow to support and sustain the mission and purpose of our work.

Highlights

2021 annual fundraising campaign

Our second annual fundraiser was a roaring success: we raised over \$48K across two distinct events. Our virtual celebration included stories from our teachers, students and staff and a guest performance from The University of Pennsylvania Glee Club. Our NYC in-person fundraiser was held at Blue Haven East and was attended by nearly 100 supporters - it was a lively evening of celebration and reconnection. Thank you to everyone who supported our campaign!

Watch our virtual celebration [here](#)

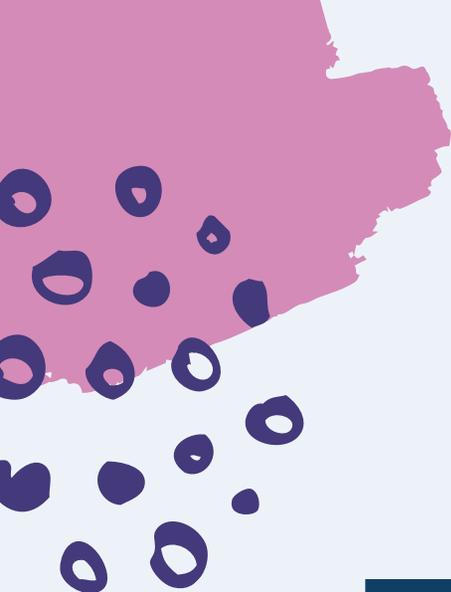
\$48,470

raised from individuals donors

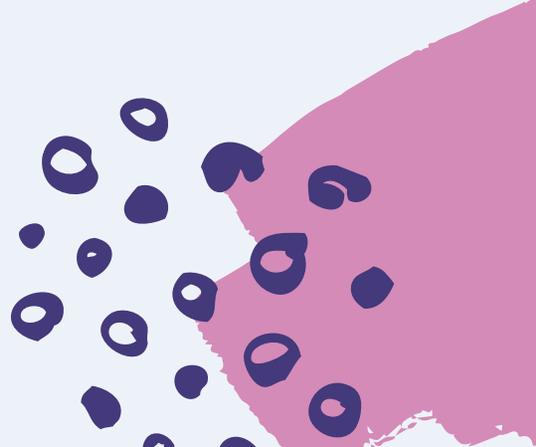
2 events

Virtual celebration
NYC wrap party





FINANCIALS & OUR FUTURE

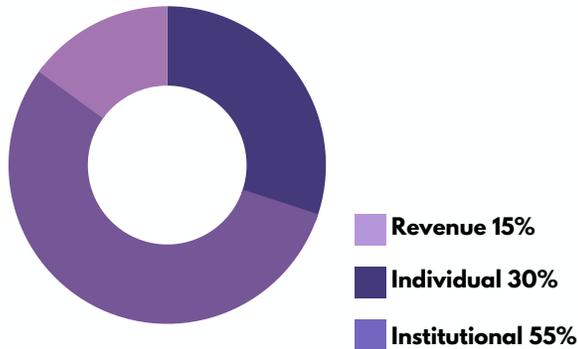


Financials

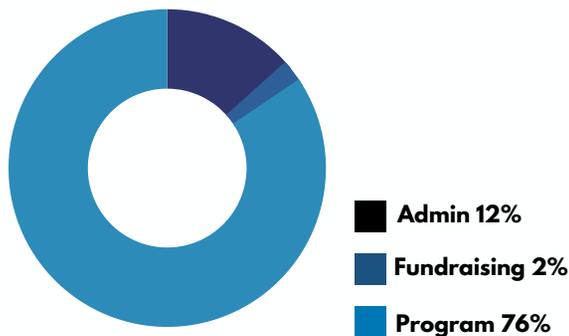
Expenses FY20/21:
\$106,524

Budget FY22/23:
\$165,000

Revenue FY21/22



Expenses FY21/22



Strategic initiatives



Keystone partnerships

At Wagner Middle School, KIPP DuBois High School, and Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School, all students in specific grade levels will be completing Unscripted programming. In this way, we are building keystone partnerships to magnify impact and build long-term relationships with students, educators, and admin.



Capacity building

We aim to solidify and magnify our connections to the communities we serve. Our program is built for our students and it is vital that the voices of our stakeholders continue to inform the work we do and the organization we become.



Afterschool program

For a select group of students, we plan to pilot an afterschool program meeting at least 3 hours per week for the school year. Our goal is to development an in-depth education in improv as well as supplementary supports (college prep, mentorship and cultural immersions) all within a safe and joyful afterschool space.



Established funding model

We have been fortunate to have received several grants and are in the process of applying to more. Over the next 2 years, we hope to secure reoccurring grant funding to cover most of our admin costs. We are also in the process of building out our revenue streams.



TO OUR UNSCRIPTED FAMILY

THANK
YOU

In Gratitude

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Rick Andrews

Lead Instructor, Magnet Theater

Adjunct Professor, Columbia University

Philip Chen

Co-Founder, The Unscripted Project

William Crowley

Senior Director of Marketing, NeuroFlow

Dr. Marcia Ferguson

Senior Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania

Meera Menon

Co-Founder, The Unscripted Project

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Darryl Charles

Paul Deichmann

Tara Gadowski

Josh Holober-Ward

Tia Kemp

Tanya Morgan

Francine Odri

Ryan Paters

Katherine Perry

Karin Potter-Simmons

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Director of Major Gifts, Franklin & Marshall College

Kelly Leonard

Executive Director, Second City Works

Christian Talbot

CEO, Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary and Secondary Schools

Stanford Thompson

Founder, Play on Philly

In Gratitude

School Partners

Bache-Martin School
Charles W. Henry School
Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School
Frankford High School
Franklin Learning Center
General Louis Wagner Middle School
KIPP DuBois Collegiate Academy
Murrell Dobbins Technical High School
Northeast High School
Science Leadership Academy (Center City)
Science Leadership Academy (Middle School)

In-Kind Supporters

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Julie Chen & Richard Bi
William Crowley
Ayushi Gupta
Sam Liu
Stanford Thompson
Hong Wang
Lin Zhao
Arthur Zhou

In Gratitude

Donors (\$100 - \$249)

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In Gratitude

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Jason Kim

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Serena Minitier

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Noreen Mohsin

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Angie Peng

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Vanessa Wanyandeh

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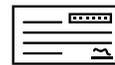
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Mail

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Philadelphia, PA 19104



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Donor advised fund

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Link works for Schwab Charitable, Fidelity Charitable, BNY Mellon. For others go directly to your DAF



Stock gifts

For stock transfer instructions, please contact philip@unscriptedproject.org



The Unscripted Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt will be provided for any contribution. We have a Platinum Seal of Transparency from Guidestar (the highest level), which means you can access financial, board, and impact information on our profile [here](#).

Additional ways to support

Connect

Building a strong network of educators, partners, community members and researchers has been critical to our success. We welcome any connections to those who you think might be interested in our work.

Share

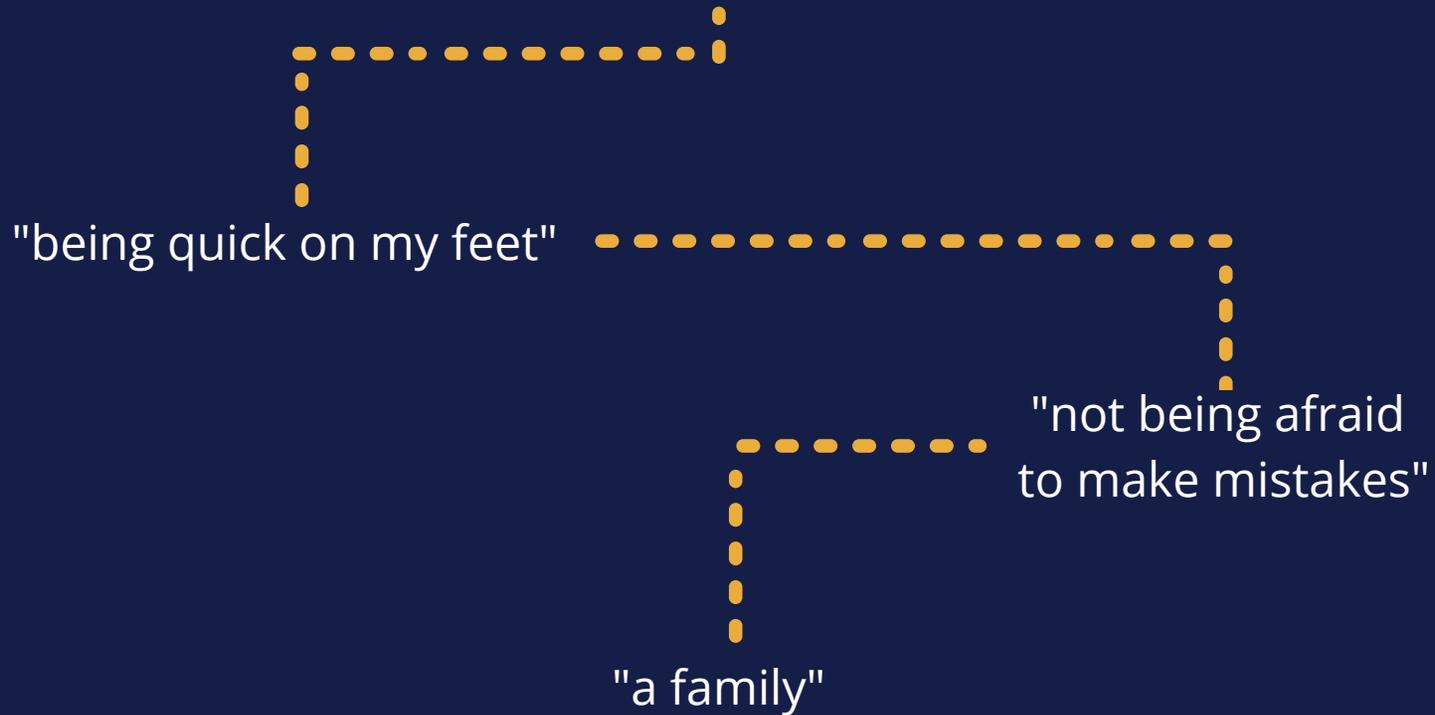
As a new nonprofit, it is important for us to get the word out about who we are and what we do. Share us on your social media and spread the word!

Grow

We are always looking for volunteers and pro-bono support (especially in marketing & web development, non-profit admin and fundraising).



IMPROV TO ME IS...



the unscripted project

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