

the unscripted project

2025-2026

Annual Report

Navigating
your world
through
improv.

www.unscriptedproject.org





“I found the improv techniques and learning environment really helpful. I became confident doing things out of my comfort zone.”

**UNSCRIPTED STUDENT,
12TH GRADE**

Table of Contents

Who We Are	4
Our Impact	6
Year in Review	11
Financials & Our Future	15
In Gratitude	17
Support Us	23



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 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 5,200 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. In addition, we launched the Unscripted House Team, a free, after-school program for Philadelphia high school students that includes improv immersion, college and career mentoring, and arts-based field trips. For corporations and organizations, our Unscripted for Teams workshops provide customized improv-based training sessions to build teamwork, communication, and leadership skills.

Letter from the Founders



Dear Unscripted Family,

When we started The Unscripted Project six years ago, we believed something simple: the skills that help us speak up, connect with others, and bounce back can be practiced and learned. Today, that belief feels more important than ever.

As technology transforms how we learn and work, knowledge has never been easier to access. But the skills that make us human: thinking independently, communicating confidently, listening to others, collaborating, and navigating uncertainty - are becoming even more essential.

That's why we believe so strongly in the power of improvisational theater. There's no script, no screen, and no answer to look up. Just students learning to listen, respond, take risks, and embrace the unexpected. As one student put it: "If you mess up, keep going."

This year, 1,019 students across 49 classrooms in Philadelphia and New York City participated in our programs. In Philadelphia, we completed our sixth year, welcoming new school partners alongside returning schools. In New York, we continued expanding our reach across three schools. Most importantly, students demonstrated measurable growth in their comfort with uncertainty after just ten weeks.

None of this would be possible without our incredible teaching artists, staff, school partners, board, funders, and donors. Thank you for believing in our students and helping us bring this work to life.

Technology will keep changing what students need to know. It won't change what it means to be human. We're preparing students for that unscripted world, and we're so grateful you're building it with us.

Philip Chen & Meera Menon
Founders, Unscripted Project



WOW

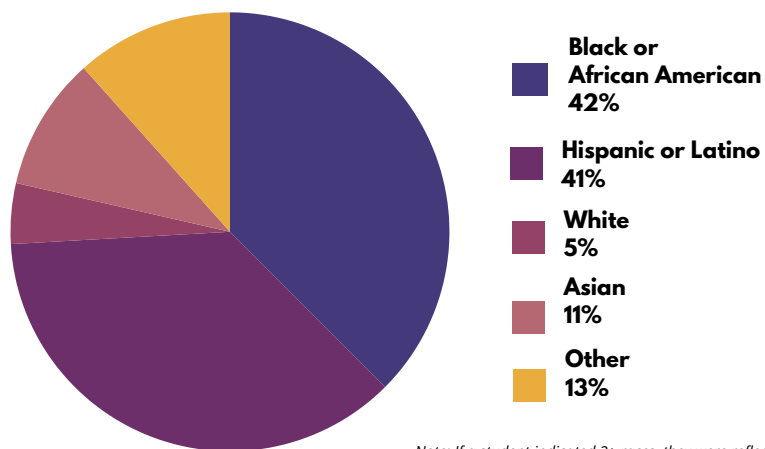
OUR IMPACT



By the Numbers

2025–2026 SCHOOL YEAR IN REVIEW

24 Schools | **49** classrooms | **1,019** students
500+ hours of improv education



Note: If a student indicated 2+ races, they were reflected in both categories which is why totals may be greater than 100%

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

Additional Programming:

65 K-12 students completed one-time workshops

120 college students completed one-time workshops

135 teachers / professionals completed our PD course

320 total Improv for Teams participants

(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.

69% of students feel like they can better understand their own emotions and the emotions of others

78% of students feel more comfortable with their peers

74% of students learned how to become a better communicator

70% of students feel improv class will help them in their everyday life

69% of students feel more confident participating in class

61% of students experience greater uncertainty tolerance

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

Aspen Institute, 2019

By the Stories

House Team

"I learned that it is okay to make mistakes and that some mistakes are actually allowed and important because you can learn so much from them."

-House Team Member



"Improvisation games aren't necessarily limited to being applicable to acting but also develops daily life skills."

-House Team Member

Unscripted Core Program Students

"The most valued thing I learned was being decisive and thinking on my feet."

-NY Core Program Student

"I enjoyed breaking out of myself and participating in a lot of activities that involved my creativity"

-Philly Core Program Student

"I find the ability to just be creative and not be limited to anything was very engaging. It also helps you deal with unexpected situations"

-Philly Core Program Student

By the Stories

Classroom

Teachers

"The Unscripted Project was so valuable for our students. Aside from having fun and getting to be silly, they became better speakers, listeners, collaborators, and friends in the process. Seeing growth within even the shyest of students in 10 weeks was a really cool thing to watch. Our teaching artist was not only an incredible educator to the students, but a fantastic partner to me and our school. I look forward to future partnerships with The Unscripted Project."

-Classroom Teacher, Queens Valley

"What impressed me most was the program's lasting impact. Even after their residency ended, students continued to ask to play the games and do the exercises they had learned. The experience not only built confidence and collaboration skills but also fostered a genuine enthusiasm for theatre and creative expression. I would highly recommend The Unscripted Project to any school looking to engage students through meaningful, joyful, and accessible arts experiences."

-Classroom Teacher, Corona Arts & Sciences



The background features a white canvas with several abstract, hand-painted elements. In the top left, there's a large, dark blue, rounded shape. Below it, a vertical, textured blue brushstroke runs down. In the top center, a horizontal, textured blue brushstroke is visible. In the top right, a dark blue, rounded shape with white vertical dashes is present. In the bottom left, a pink, rounded shape with white vertical dashes is shown. In the bottom center, a horizontal, textured blue brushstroke is visible. In the bottom right, a pink, rounded shape with white vertical dashes is shown, and a dark blue, rounded shape is partially visible below it.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Year in Review

Core Program

This year marked one of our biggest programs to date, with 1,019 students taking part across 49 classrooms in 24 public middle and high schools

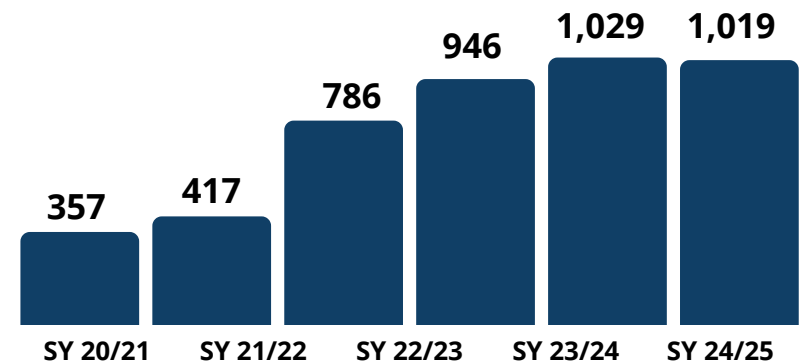
Philadelphia

In Philadelphia, our program wrapped its sixth year with 830 students in 39 classrooms across 11 schools. Our workshops reached students in a wide range of settings, from 9th grade SEL advisories and learning support classrooms to acting, playwriting, English, math, and choir.

New York City

In New York City, our work is well underway. Last semester, we worked with five classrooms at Queens Valley Middle School, Corona Arts & Sciences, and Isaac Newton Middle School. Each series is led by professional teaching artists working hand in hand with classroom teachers. Through improv, we build a supportive, welcoming space where students can show up as themselves, take risks, and grow alongside their classmates. Every week centers on one essential life skill, and by the end, students walk away with the improv toolkit: a way of thinking and a set of skills that helps young people become more adaptable, confident, and collaborative, both in school and out in the world.

**Students Served Annually:
Core Program**



THE UNSCRIPTED ROADMAP:



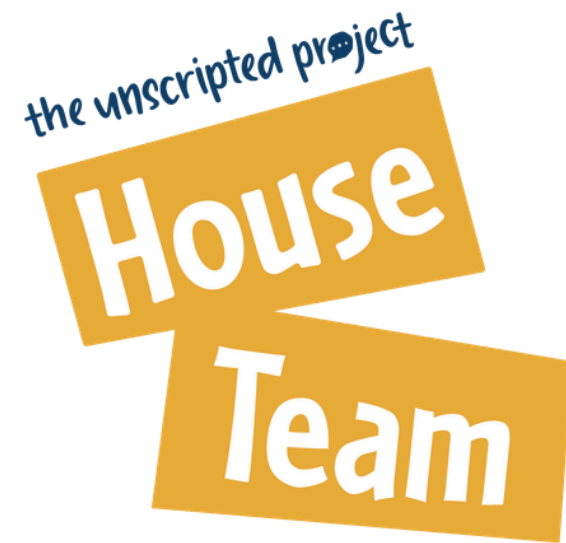
Year in Review

Unscripted House Team (Afterschool Program)

This year, we successfully continued the Unscripted Project House Team, our free after-school program for high school students in Philadelphia. Our cohort of 16 students spent the year building confidence, communication, and collaboration skills through immersive improvisational theater training. In a safe, laughter-filled, and creatively challenging environment, students learned to express themselves, think on their feet, and work as a team.

Led by professional teaching artists and supported by dedicated volunteers, the House Team offered high-quality improv instruction alongside college and career mentorship and unique enrichment opportunities. Students had the chance to earn community service hours through performances and public engagements, and this year they enjoyed a special outing to see Dear Evan Hansen the musical through our partnership with the Arden Theatre Company.

The year culminated in a final showcase attended by families, teachers, and community members — a celebration of each student's growth, resilience, and accomplishments throughout the year.



Beyond the Classroom

Community Partnerships



We believe our impact is stronger when we work together! We're always looking to partner with other nonprofits, and community organizations to bring the power of improv to more young people. From afterschool and summer enrichment to teacher training and student support initiatives, we collaborate with partners to deliver engaging, impactful programming. We'd love to explore how we can work together to expand access, support your programs, and help more students build confidence and resilience.

Improv for Teams



Bring the power of improv to your workplace! Our interactive, low-stakes Improv for Teams workshops blend improv exercises, reflection, and practical workplace applications to strengthen communication, creativity, and collaboration in a fun, laughter-filled environment. We've worked with startups, consulting firms, Fortune 500 companies, universities, and nonprofits. Best of all, all proceeds directly support our school programs.

If your organization is interested in a workshop, reach out or [visit our website](#) to learn more.

Professional Development



Bring the power of improv into the classroom! We train educators to bring the practice and lessons of improv into the classroom. We can customize the PD for your group and can offer Act 48 accreditation. This interactive training includes three modules: Improv as a Pedagogical Tool, Becoming an Improviser, and Classroom Applications of Improv.

Over 250 Philadelphia School District teachers have participated to date. We'd love to bring this transformative training to more educators and schools!



FINANCIALS & OUR FUTURE

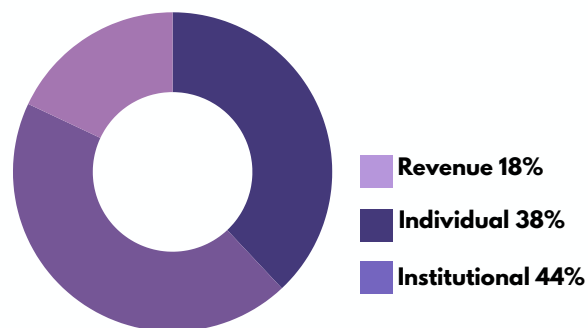
Financials

Revenue FY25/26:
\$220,000

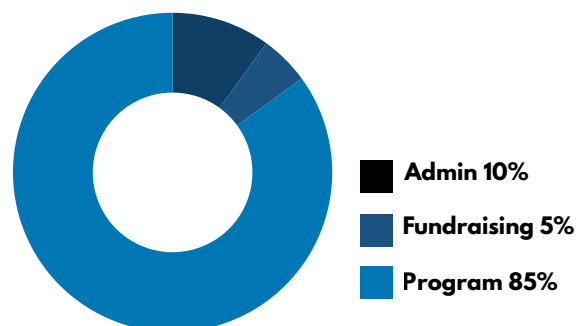
Expenses FY25/26:
\$244,000

Budget FY25/26:
\$265,000

Revenue FY25/26



Expenses FY25/26



Strategic Initiatives



NYC Expansion

We are continuing to grow in NYC, and starting to pilot a fee-sharing model to ensure long term sustainability. The goal is to secure separate long term funding, adapt the program to the unique needs and structure of the district, and independently and serve as a blueprint for future multi-city expansion.



Afterschool Program

We will continue strengthening the Unscripted House Team by deepening our focus on college and career readiness and expanding opportunities for high school students. We are bringing in more guests, adding requirements for the students to receive work-based learning credits, and better connecting students with additional opportunities.



Strategic Partnerships

We plan to expand our network of school, nonprofit, arts, and philanthropic partners across Philadelphia and New York City. Strengthening these partnerships and cultivating new partners will support program quality, increase visibility, and position Unscripted for thoughtful, scalable expansion.



Sustained Financial Health

Building a more resilient financial structure through diversified funding and dedicated regional support. We will continue cultivating new funders - especially for our Afterschool Program and NYC expansion, to create self-sustaining program hubs and lay the groundwork for future cities.



TO OUR UNSCRIPTED FAMILY

THANK
YOU



In Gratitude

Board of Directors

Rick Andrews

Lead Instructor, Magnet Theater

Adjunct Professor, Columbia University

Philip Chen

Co-Founder, The Unscripted Project

William Crowley

Digital Marketing Manager, Sourcegraph

Meera Menon

Co-Founder, The Unscripted Project

Unscripted Team

Kiersten Adams

Michael Amendola

Alex Braslavsky

Jael Brown

Tenara Calem

Kassidy Carlese

Bianca Casusol

Darryl Charles

Arantxa Chávez

Paul Deichmann

Tara Gadomski

Francis Gormley

Julian Hernandez

Ellie Hoffman

Katie Hutch

Ezekiel Jackson

Donovan Lockett

Tanya Morgan

Anita Nicholson

Katherine Perry

Karin Potter-Simmons

Camille Young

Advisory Board

Dr. Angela Duckworth

Professor, University of Pennsylvania

CEO, Character Lab and bestselling author of GRIT

Mae Early

Director of Education, Philadelphia Young Playwrights

Dr. Marcia Ferguson

Senior Lecturer, University of Pennsylvania

John Gamba

Director of Innovative Programs, University of Pennsylvania GSE

Kumud Goyal

Senior Vice President, Genomatica

Greg Hagin

Partner, CCS Fundraising

Greg Ippolito

President, Ippolito Media Arts

Kristen Krista

Director of Major Gifts, Franklin & Marshall College

In Gratitude

Advisory Board, con't

Kelly Leonard

Executive Director, Second City Works

Christian Talbot

*CEO, Middle States Association Commissions on Elementary
& Secondary Schools*

Stanford Thompson

*Founder, Play on Philly
Executive Director, Equity Arc*

Naomi Brezi

Chief Revenue Officer, Ruffalo Noel Levitz

Educator Advisory Board

Jamal Dennis (Crossroads Academy)

Kai Flowers (Dobbins Technical High School)

LaShawn Freeman (General Philip Kearny School)

Laura Frost (West Philadelphia High School)

Colin Sharp (Franklin Learning Center)

Jeremy Spry (Science Leadership Academy Center City)

Michelle Todd-Coleman (Forrest Elementary School)

Rebecca Wizov (Frankford High School)

School Partners

Philadelphia:

Castor Gardens Middle School

Crossroads Accelerated Academy

Frankford High School

Franklin Learning Center

George Washington Carver High School of Engineering & Science

Luis Muñoz-Marín Elementary School

Science Leadership Academy

Science Leadership Academy at Beeber

Vaux Big Picture High School

West Philadelphia High School

New York City:

Corona Arts & Sciences Academy

Isaac Newton Middle School For Math & Science

Queens Valley School for Performing Arts

In Gratitude

Institutional Supporters

City of Philadelphia Cultural Fund
Find Your Light Foundation
Hamilton Family Charitable Trust
Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial Trust
Highwind Impact Fund
J. E. Fehsenfeld Family Foundation
Patricia Kind Family Foundation
Pincus Family Foundation
Rosenlund Family Foundation

Individual Supporters

Patrons (\$1000+)

Chen & Liu Family
Denise Andriello Higgins
Hannah Simonson
Harry Arakkal
John Crowley
Kathy Hoffman
Lori Erhardt
Louis Hoffman
Meera Menon
Menon Family
Philip Chen

Pranav Pillai
Rick Andrews
Rishab Mittal
William Crowley

Friends of Unscripted (\$250-\$999)

Adam Fractor
Adam Ritter
Arthur Zhou
Arush Jain
Ayushi Gupta
Claire Fu
James Murphy
Julia Barnard
Julie Chen
Paris Wang
Ravi Kemburu
Ronda Lubin
Ronee Steiner
Tiger Fu
Victoria Warner
Wenrui Pei

In Gratitude

Donors (up to \$250)

Adam Fractor	Catherine Lau	Jared Shapiro	Melinda Hu
Akaash Kambath	Cecilia Sampaio	Jason Wang	Melissa Shang
Akhil Cherukupally	Christian Holmes	Jing Yi Zhang	Menglan Qiu
Alex Matthys	Christina Liu	Joan Hackbarth	Michelle Hoberman
Alexa Harris	Claire Yu	John Stinger	Ming Yao
Alexa Mangual	Clare Kearns	Jonald Reyes	Mom Mom
Alexandra Rivkin	Czarina Lokin	Josh Melnyk	Narayan Menon
Alissa Ji	David Fractor	Jude Kim	Neil Shapiro
Amanda Torborg	David Hochman	Julia Sandler	Nicholas Wu
Aminata Diane	Diego Valenzuela	Katherine Boggs	Nick Virag
Ananya Kuttikkad	Douglas Moe	Kathleen Conaton	Nithya Koganti
Ande Isom	Elaina E.	Katie Erhardt	Paul Canetti
Andrew Carlins	Elaine Li	Katie Hutch	Paul Roberts
Andrezj Zabicki	Eliza Loehr	Keisha Lugito	Paulina Gazin
Anika Jagasia	Elizabeth Cusick	Kevin Nizza	Prateek Agarwal
Anirudh Vadrevu	Eva Mullarkey	Kloey Battista	Rachel Li
Anna McDonough	Francesca Hoskyns	Kwaku Owusu	Rayna Battista
Anne Greer	Francine Dong	Leigh Flayton	Robert Brennan
Annie Lindenthal	Francine Sumner	Lillian Schenck	Ruiqi Li
Avishi Saxena	Francis Marks	Lin Zhao	Samuel Jacobson
Barbara Greenberg	Fred Schlesinger	Loaay Ali	Sanika Puranik
Brian Hathaway	Greg Ippolito	Lucy Liu	Sanjana Adurty
Brianna Tello	Harini Venkatesh	Madison Cannatelli	Sara Persian
Capri DSouza	Irene Su	Marcia Ferguson	Scott Klein
Carly Moss	Jacqueline Wang	Maria Rossie	Serena Minter
Caroline DePaul	James Kosann	Marni Battista	Shannon Lin

In Gratitude

Donors (up to \$250)

Shyam Kuttikkad
Simon Johnston
Sowgandhi Rayapudi
Stephanie Bianchi
Stephanie Prevost
Tanvi Kapur
Taylor Brockman
Terry Whitebook
Thomas Low
Vadim Ordovsky-Tanaevsky
William Crowley
Xiang Han Bai
Yijia Wang
Yilin Ma
Youran Li
Yuill Duncan Moore
Zhiyi Kuang
Zhuojia Lin

Support Us

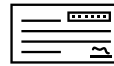
EIN: 85-0844633



Online

give now

Secure & easy. Accepts card, bank transfer, PayPal & Venmo



Mail

To write a check:

The Unscripted Project
3720 Spruce Street, Suite 404
Philadelphia, PA 19104



Matching gifts

Let your company increase your impact. Ask if they have a matching gift program.



Donor advised fund

give now

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



Corporate Workshops

Upskill your team while supporting Philly students. Learn more on our website or email info@unscriptedproject for a quote



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 growing 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...

"being quick on my feet"

"not being afraid
to make mistakes"

"a family"

the unscripted project

info@unscriptedproject.org | www.unscriptedproject.org | Follow us on   