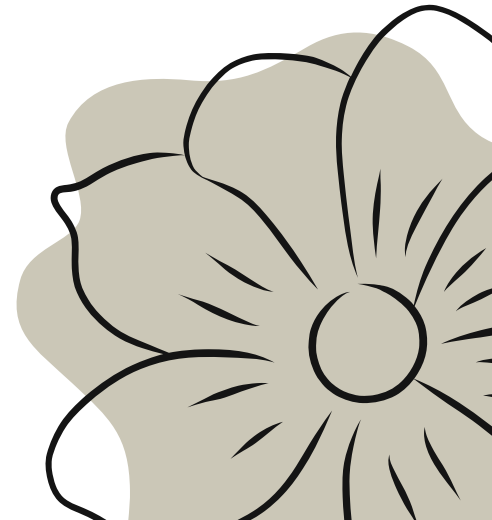


# Annual Report 2021

**WOMEN AND YOUTH SUPPORTING EACH OTHER**



# What is WYSE?

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**Women and Youth Supporting Each Other (WYSE)** is a national mentorship organization that provides adolescent girls in underserved communities with the information, resources, and support to make healthy decisions and create community change. With branches at eleven universities nationwide, WYSE focuses on empowering women and girls through group-based and one-on-one mentorship offered by college women volunteers, and employs a national curriculum to address critical issues from building self-awareness to exploring future options.

WYSE is committed to inclusivity and belonging for all women: trans women, cis women, femmes, female-identifying, and individuals assigned female at birth. We envision a world in which we are all empowered to determine their future and effect change.







## **Mission**

To empower young women by providing the resources and support necessary to make positive life choices and create community change

## **Vision**

To create a world in which all women are empowered to determine their future and effect change



# **Pillars of WYSE**

## **Critical Thinking and Decision Making**

WYSE women explore fully and think deeply about significant issues in order to make informed, deliberate decisions.

## **Personal Identity and Self Esteem**

WYSE women strive to recognize, explore, and proudly express who they are as individuals.

## **Strong Relationships**

WYSE women believe in the power of positive relationships to change lives. WYSE women dedicate themselves to being a positive influence and role model for those around them.

## **Safe Community and Exploration**

WYSE women express their ideas, ask questions, and learn in a safe, open, and accepting community. WYSE women encourage others to speak up and help each other discover new ideas.

## **Community Change**

WYSE women strive to make a better society by gathering information, spreading awareness and taking action on issues that are meaningful to them.



# Our Branches

George Washington University | Marquette University | Occidental College |

Stanford University | Tulane University | University of Chicago |

University of California, Berkeley | University of California, Irvine | University of California, Los Angeles |

University of California, Riverside | University of Southern California



# Our Middle Schools

Langston Hughes Academy	New Orleans, LA
Scholarship Prep	Santa Ana, CA
John B. Drake Elementary	Chicago, IL
Cesar Chavez Ravenswood Middle School	East Palo Alto, CA
Jefferson Middle School Academy	Washington, DC
Eliot-Hine Middle School	Washington, DC
Garland Middle School	Milwaukee, WI
Vista Charter Middle School	Los Angeles, CA
Camino Nuevo Charter Academy	Los Angeles, CA
Francisco Sepulveda Middle School	North Hills, CA
Mark Twain Middle School	Los Angeles, CA
PUC CALS	Los Angeles, CA



YAY!





# Program Year 2021 - 2022

## Milestones



**146** 6th-8th Grade Mentees

**216** Mentors

**59** College Women in Branch Leadership

Of the branches that were able to host sessions (**7**), **25%** were virtual, **75%** were in person

**150** total hours of sessions

**65** total hours of mentor training



# Summary of Mentor Survey Responses



100%

WYSE helped me know that I have the power to make a difference in my community

**"My fellow WYSE mentors were kind, helpful, knowledgeable, and overall a wonderful team to be apart of."**

100%

I would recommend being a WYSE mentor to other young women

**"The mentees were so great and open to learning about new things."**

100%

WYSE is a safe space for all participants.

## Methodology:

Start-of-year surveys were administered at all WYSE branches. Questions were asked on a four-point scale from 1 ('Strongly Disagree') to 4 ('Strongly Agree'). Percentages reflect the proportion of respondents who answered 3 or 4 on the scale.



# Summary of Mentee Survey Responses



100%

WYSE helped me be confident in my ability to make healthy decisions to achieve my goals.

**"Learning more about STEM was really cool!"**

100%

WYSE helped me to have the resources and tools I need to help friends and others make wise choices

**"Keep running this program, you can't imagine the impact it has on the young women!"**

100%

WYSE helped me know that I have the power to make a difference in their community

## Methodology:

Start-of-year surveys were administered at all WYSE branches. Questions were asked on a four-point scale from 1 ('Strongly Disagree') to 4 ('Strongly Agree'). Percentages reflect the proportion of respondents who answered 3 or 4 on the scale.





Steph Kennedy (she/her) Board/U...



Nathalie Sarju



Lauren Gorski - Board / UCI Alum...



Ra'Janae Morris



Tess Hendelman (she/her) | USC



Ellie (she/her) | Oxy



Ebony Breaux - NLTC Planning Co...



Aimee UCI (she/her)



madison ambrose (she/her) | stan...



Manik Marasinghe (she/her) Boar...



Brisa Bernal



Emily (she/her) Tulane



Allyson Bonhaus



Melissa Pierce - Board/Stanford al...



Carlotta (she/her)- Tulane



Chandra Desai (she/her) | GW



Labiba (she/her) | GW



Clau Diah GWU (she/her)



Chloe



Samantha Scheinfeld



Anna Mesibov (she/her) USC



Ashley Goyal (she/her) - Cal WYSE



Mila Mendoza (she/her) USC



Funke Adeleye Tulane (she/her)

# NLTC



Rebeca | UCLA | (she/her)



Pearl Doan (she/her) - UCLA

# 2021

# Virtual NLTC 2021



**THE ANTIRACISM**  
ACADEMY

We hosted our National Leadership Training Conference (NLTC) for the second year in a row over Zoom. We had over 40 branch participants, along with our WYSE Board, and alumni volunteers. Special thanks to our NLTC Planning Committee: **Stephanie Kennedy, Lauren Gorski Allen, Joelle Jackson, and Ebony Breaux** for their hard work in planning the three-day virtual event!

Once again, we had a full weekend of knowledge-sharing and leadership development. It was so great to welcome back guest speaker **Jathusha Mahenthirarajan** who spoke on Youth Engagement and Community Action, as well as featuring **Brandee Blocker Anderson**, a Yale WYSE alumna and founder of the Antiracism Academy!

# WYSE Week 2022

WYSE Week is the annual celebration of WYSE's mission. It inspires mentors and mentees across our branches nationwide to take community action.

In the 2021-2022 program year, WYSE branches celebrated WYSE Week with the theme "Oh, The Places We'll Go!"

WYSE Week honors the core pillars of WYSE. Throughout the week of April 11th, branches had various celebrations and the week ended with a WYSE Alumni Career Panel held virtually for branch mentors and alumni to watch nationwide.

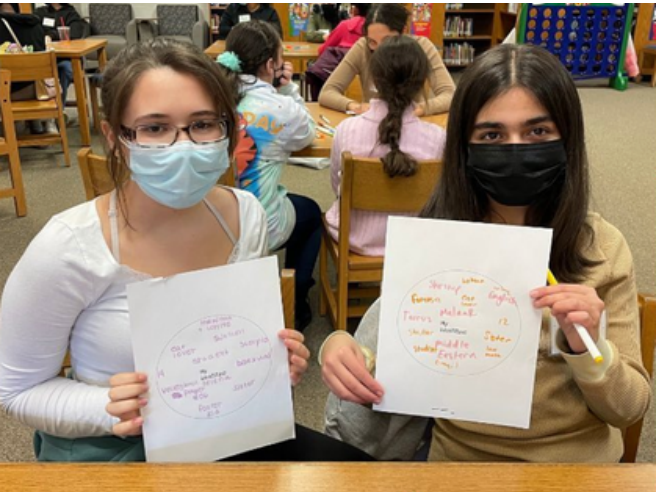




# WYSE Week 2022: UCLA Spotlight



*UCLA participated in WYSE week by creating a career and college site with our mentees at both our schools - Mark Twain Middle School and Francisco Sepulveda Middle School. We focused on college and explained possible career paths and how they can correspond to a major. Our mentors split into groups based on majors, and we had our mentees rotate from group to group. We had a quick Q&A with each new group. Our mentors and mentees also emphasized how it is okay not to know exactly what you want to do, and we all talked about ways to discover topics you might be interested in.*







**SPOTLIGHT:  
UCI WYSE**

FIRST  
GENERATION  
LEGE  
ATE

YOU NEED COFFEE  
Luke's  
Coffee & Snacks



Last year was a great year for our UCI WYSE. We really enjoy the school we work with; their counselor is so good at communicating with us and helped a lot with getting the mentees more engaged in sessions. Our group of mentors was great, too. They were all very enthusiastic about all of our session topics and were able to have great discussions with the mentees every week.

We were able to create a yearbook full of memories and give our mentees graduation presents at the end of the year (including a hand-painted tote, a note from their paired mentor, and some self-care items) which was very special to us all as it provided as much normalcy as possible within reason because of the pandemic.

The UC Irvine branch is preparing to start going in person for the first time since the pandemic started this year! I know our mentors and the school are super excited about that!

*Edelya Silva, Co-Executive Director*

SPOTLIGHT:  
UCI WYSE

In May 2021, Edelya got the opportunity to speak at the mentees' 8th grade graduation. Here is an excerpt from her speech:

*Jack Harlow once said: I didn't peak in high school, I'm still out here getting cuter.*

*And honestly, it's words to live by. High school is going to be the time for you to BEGIN to figure out who you really are, not finalize it. See, the you you are now, will not be the same you at the end of your freshman year or your senior year. For all we know, you could all be so different next week!*

*I challenge you all to lean into this - lean into the unknown & change. Doing this will truly help you discover who you are and can be. What your likes and dislikes are. What your talents and interests are. Who you want to be - but then you'll keep learning and realize you want to be something else, and that's okay...*

SPOTLIGHT:  
UCI WYSE

...There will be ups and downs - a lot of ups and downs - but if you really focus on those ups, all the good memories, then you can enjoy your time in high school and you can grow as a person. If you only focus on the downs, you won't be able to enjoy high school and you might end up feeling stuck. So focus on the good. Have fun. Join clubs. Make friends. Learn new things. Find new hobbies. Find out who you are and who you can be. Take lots of pictures. Go to every game and rally. Go to prom with friends. Wear too much eyeliner so you can laugh at it later. **HAVE FUN** and slow down to appreciate the fun.



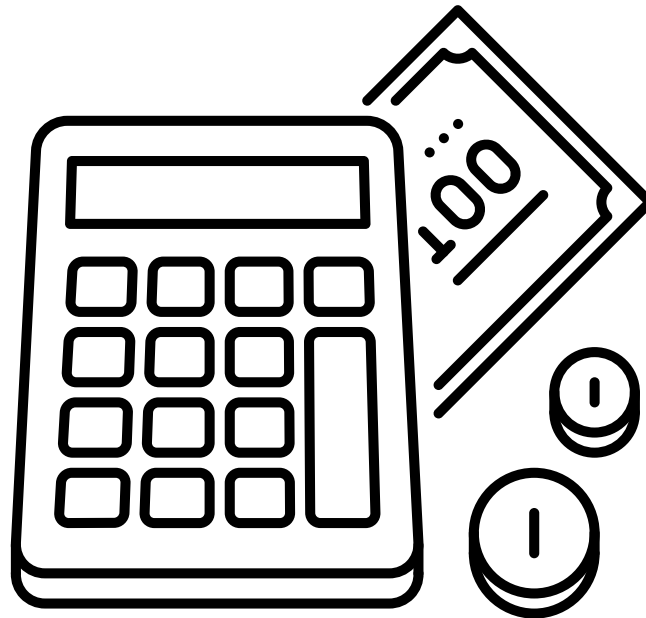
SPOTLIGHT:  
UCI WYSE

# Financial Overview

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What did our finances look like in 2021? Here is an overview of the expenses and revenue for WYSE, with comparison to years past, from **January 2021 through December 2021**.

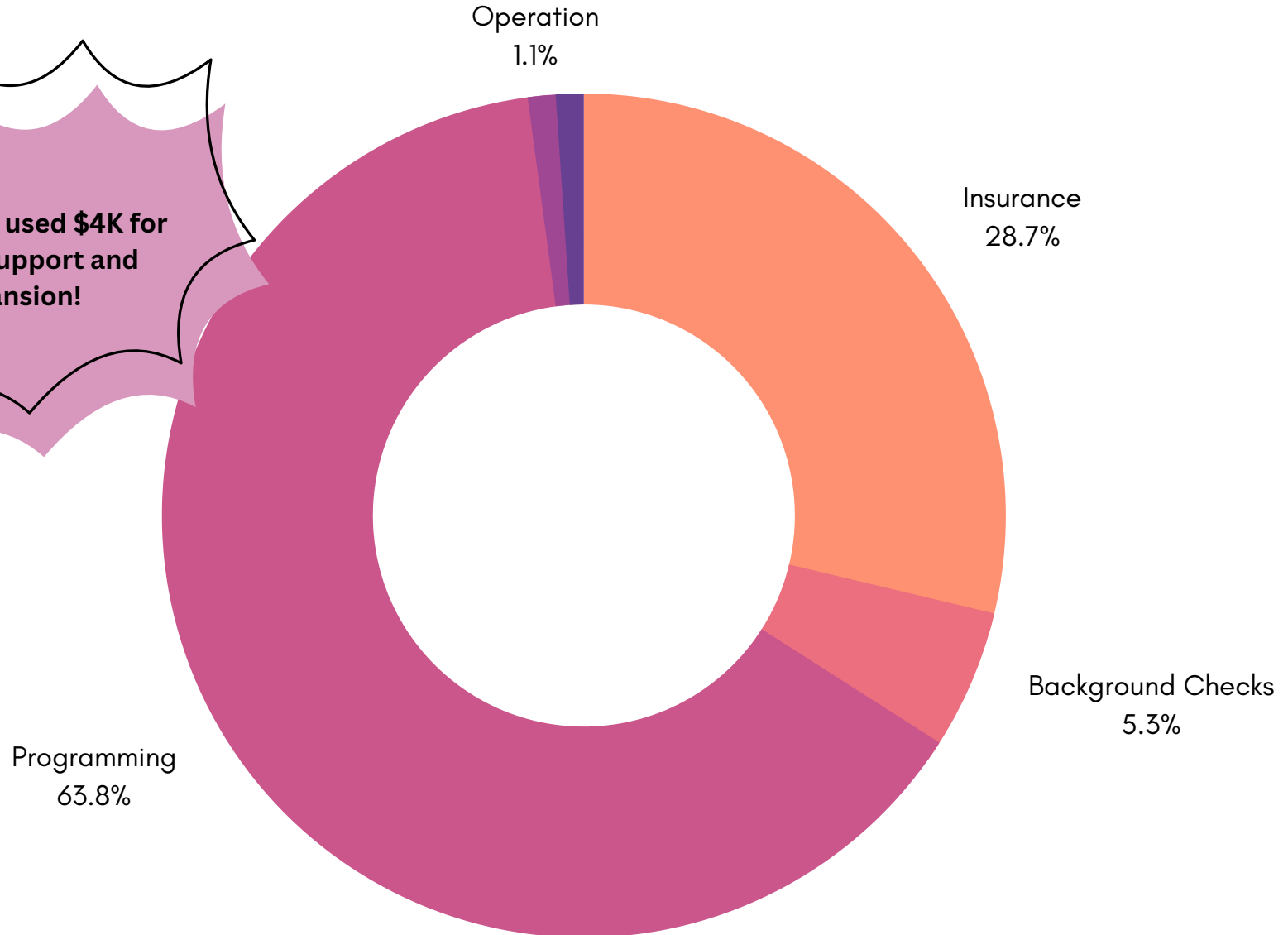
WYSE is a 100% volunteer-run organization, with nominal overhead expenses and all revenue channeled directly to programming, operations, and fundraising support.



# Expenses

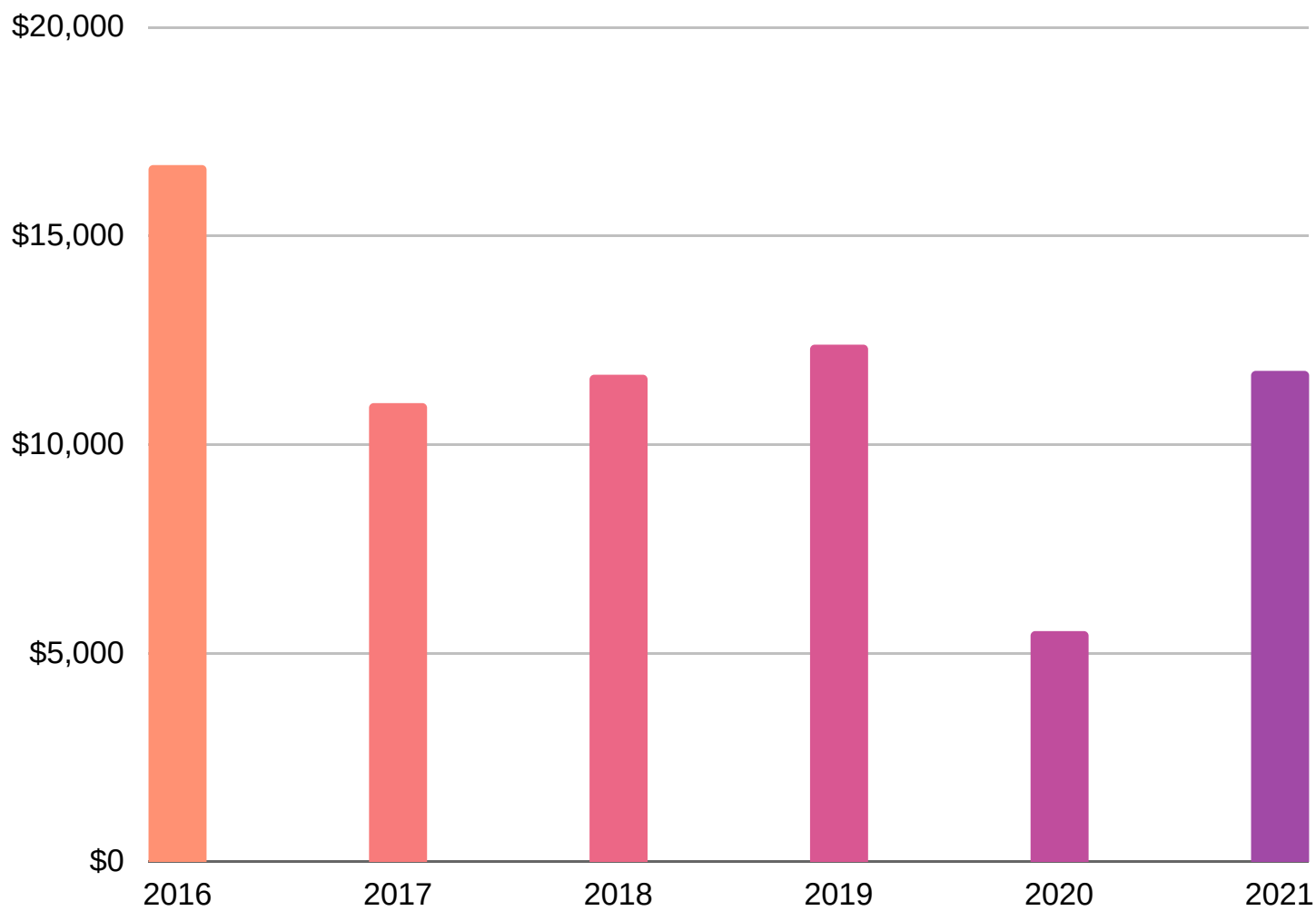
Total expenses in 2021: \$11,739.51

In 2021, we used \$4K for branch support and expansion!





# Expenses

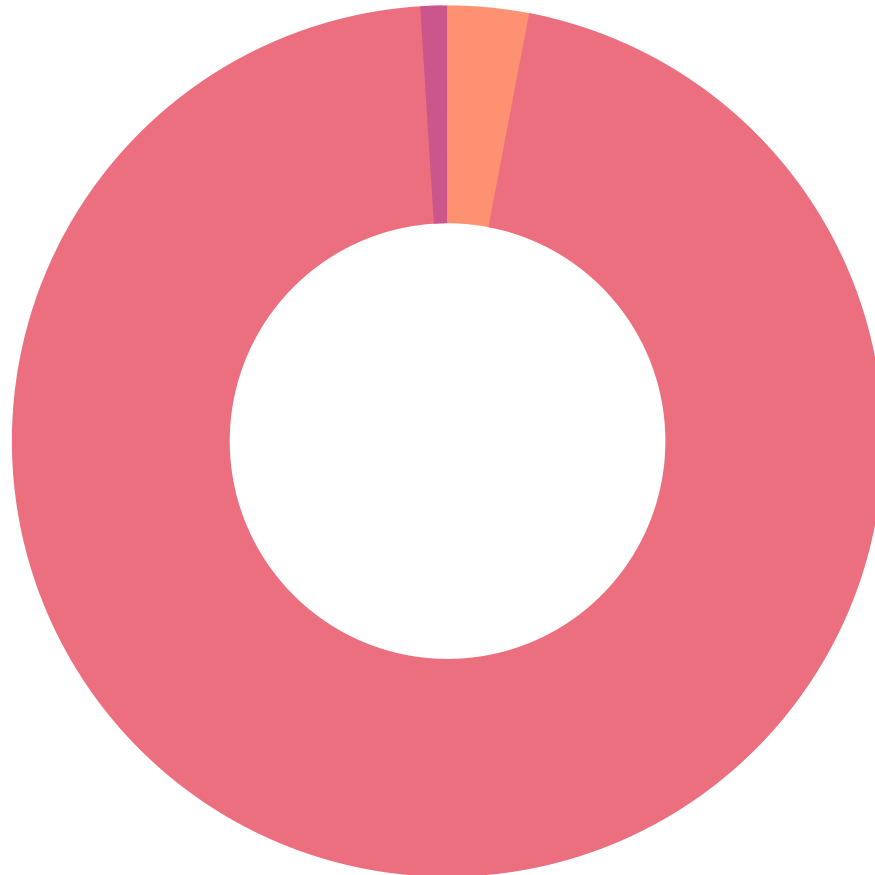


# Revenue



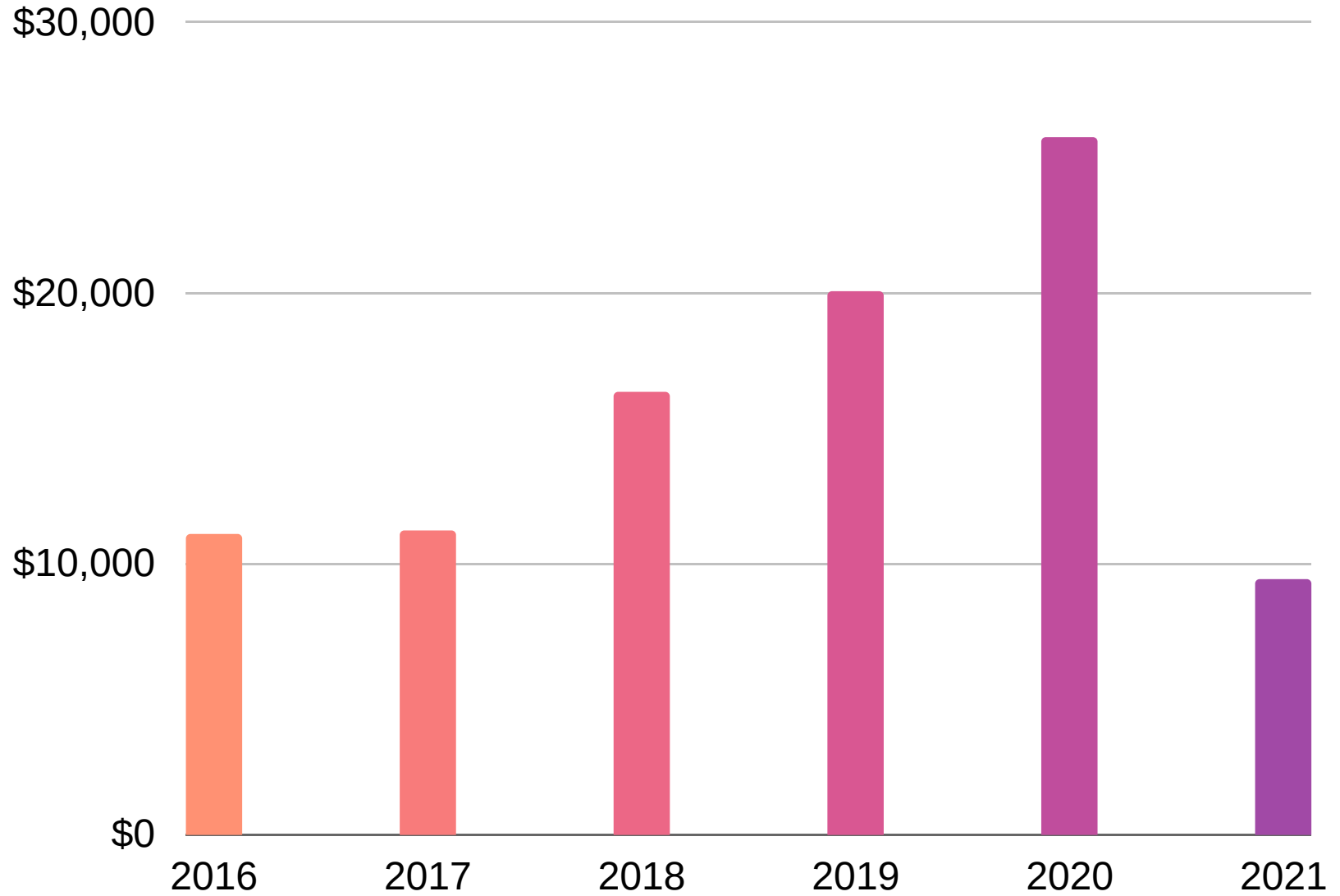
Total revenue in 2021: \$9,396.97

Foundation/Grants  
3%



Individual Donations  
96%

# Revenue



# Thank You, Donors!

Thank you to our generous WYSE family of donors in 2021\* that supported our programs nationwide.

Melissa Pierce

Donna Masucci

Tyler Kusma

Sara Schlichting

Melissa Beek

**Meghan Bondy\*\***

Tia Kim

M Yvonne Chao

**Leah Ghoston\*\***

**Nathalie Sarju\*\***

Russ & Nancy Ghoston

Laura Rensing

Michael Elmore

Rachel Donaldson

Antonia Molina

**Laura Shaw\*\***

Julie Kilger

Sophia Sidhu

Melinda Goedeke

Linda Kim Leung

**BJ Serviss\*\***

Victoria Moy

Lauren Gorski Allen

Ashleigh Meyer

Ryan Trecartin

Donnu Dande

Vibha Govindarajan

Vivian Anderson

Keith Marasinghe

Erin Burns

Kimberly Meyer

Anna Shaw-Amoah

Manik Marasinghe

Stephanie Kennedy

*\*These donations span January 1, 2021- December 31, 2021*

*\*\*These donors made recurring monthly gifts. We appreciate your ongoing support!*



# Connect with us

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## EMAIL

info@WYSE.org

## WEBSITE

www.WYSE.org

## SOCIAL

*LinkedIn:*

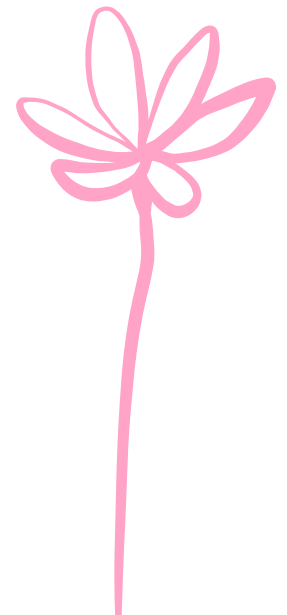
Women and Youth Supporting Each Other

*Facebook and Twitter:*

@WYSEmentoring

*Instagram:*

@WYSE\_Mentoring





Women and Youth Supporting Each Other

Est. 1992

Thank You!