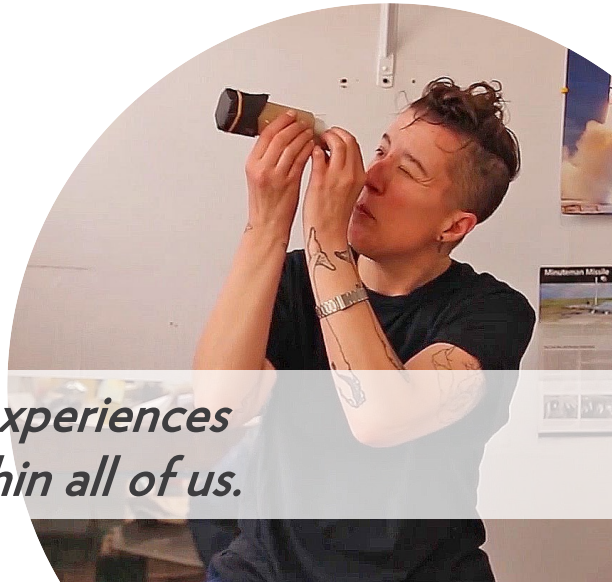




# Your COMPAS Impact Report

Fiscal Year 2020



*COMPAS delivers creative experiences that unleash the potential within all of us.*

## *Reflections on change...*

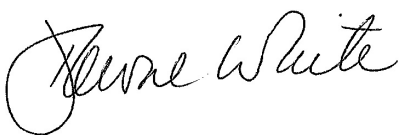
This year most Executive Directors' letters begin by describing the incredibly tough year we have all faced. This year has tested everyone and everything. For COMPAS, this year has taught us about the real meaning of **resilience** and the incredible power of creativity to **connect** people! **Thank you** for joining us on this journey.

Our fiscal year began with bookings up and our programs “humming along.” As we faced spring, our schedule was packed with residencies and performances and plans for teaching artist tours across the state.

Then, stop and pivot! In a matter of weeks, COMPAS reinvented our entire business model. Since 1968, COMPAS has placed teaching artists physically in classrooms, libraries, parks, museums, older adult programs, and other sites throughout Minnesota. Now, all our programs had to become “virtual” experiences. Our teaching artists learned new technologies. Our staff re-engaged our partners to provide support and resources as together we reinvented COMPAS programs. And you continued to be champions of creativity.

Together, we found new ways to **engage** people in need and **inspire** people as they isolated. COMPAS Home Studio now provides free teaching artist led projects online from drumming to dance, photography to poetry. Families living in shelters received hundreds of art kits. And students connected with teaching artists during distance learning.

Because of you, we responded to the rapidly changing needs of our community and remain committed to the power of creativity and the importance of supporting equity within our society. Thank you.



**Dawne Brown White**  
Executive Director  
dawne@compas.org

**Susan Rotilie**  
Board President

# A year of loss, and legacy...

It is with heavy heart that we share the news that COMPAS founder, Molly Taylor, passed away in August of 2020. Molly's impact on the Twin Cities arts community spanned over half a century, and she played a major role in making Minnesota the rich artistic center that it is today.

In 1968, with a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, Molly began a pilot program called Poets in the Schools. From the beginning, the artist roster at Poets in Schools included names of poets like Patricia Hempl, Michael Dennis Browne, David Mura, Robert and Carol Bly, all who have become nationally and internationally respected writers. These poets trained the next generation of writers continuing the rich literary tradition here in Minnesota.

Over the years she grew the organization both in program reach and in diversity of artistic disciplines, and in 1974 she renamed the organization COMPAS (Community Programs in the Arts).

From its inception, COMPAS focused on providing accessible creative experiences to every Minnesotan. In an interview in 2019 with Peg Guilfoyle, Molly discussed the optimism and turmoil of the late 1960 and early 70's and how COMPAS engaged artists and audiences throughout St. Paul and the region.

“At that time, as now, Saint Paul had wonderful arts organizations. But there was a fever in the air, and a strong feeling that funds being raised weren't serving the ordinary people and the neighborhoods of the city but serving people who got dressed up and came to events. We needed a whole new agency, and they hired me to run it. What we had was an idea, and a charge, and this tremendous energy, to take arts programs out into the city and connect people directly with artists.”

Molly's legacy continues to this day at COMPAS. Our communities have been fractured by a global pandemic, economic uncertainty, and ongoing racial injustice, echoing the same fever she described, and we believe her vision is more important than ever. Our mission reflects Molly's core belief to “deliver creative experiences that unleash the potential within us all.”

Molly deeply believed in creating a thriving arts ecosystem by paying all artists – especially those artists that were young and emerging – for their work. She also created opportunities for them to learn about their community and then ‘roam free’ to co-create within neighborhoods. This creative license has lived on in classrooms, children's hospitals, libraries, senior citizen residences and in jails and shelters with great results including the 41st Anthology of Writing published by COMPAS in 2020.

“One of the best things was being able to help those young artists who've gone on to do such great things, individually and together” Molly said. “Artists went to where the people were, and we could see the power of the arts right there.”

Molly Taylor will be greatly missed. Her legacy and passion for the arts, artists and creating meaningful experiences continues at COMPAS in her memory.

*Special thanks to Peg Guilfoyle for her interview with Molly originally [published in September 2019](#).*



COMPAS Founder, Molly Taylor in 2014

# ...and our commitment to equity.

Along with so many in the Twin Cities, across the country and throughout the world, we mourned the loss of George Floyd. This past year has served to reinforce our commitment to equity and to providing equitable creative experiences for all people.

COMPAS stands with our Black, Indigenous, and non-white artists, community partners, and program participants against systemic racism and institutional oppression. We thank Minnesotans everywhere who are standing up for racial justice with their words and advocacy.

We also recommit ourselves to participating in solutions to systemic inequities and serving as a catalyst for a more just future for everyone. As a staff, we are working to understand our own biases and how we can use our words and actions to create a more equitable community and world.

Our work continues, and we believe we must keep creating, educating, and using the arts to nurture equity and positive change.

## Injustice

I'm half black.  
I'm half white.  
People tell me I'm not black enough,  
I'm not white enough.  
My mama tells me to speak proper, "you're not ghetto."  
People tell me to talk white, so I talk white.  
So we speak in colors now?  
Teach me orange, green and blue.  
We put ourselves in our own stereotypes.  
Everyday I walk outta the house and, got a target on my back,  
I'm told to cover my butt, sit like a lady and be proper.  
In school, kids ask if they can touch my hair.  
Why is it braided?  
But now you think that's cool?  
Those protective hairstyles are not meant for your hair.  
Our people are being murdered each day  
Martin Luther King was shot to death for protesting,  
Ahmaud Arbery was murdered for taking a jog,  
Sean Reed was shot and murdered by 12  
And, recently in my city another name has been added to the list  
His name is  
George Floyd.  
Say his name,  
George Floyd.

This world we live in is messed up.  
The only way for people to notice George is dead was for riots and looting to occur.  
My people have protested peacefully before, but nobody has paid any attention.  
So it has gone to this extent  
To be able to get any tyta justice.

*Kirsten Eccles*, Grade 7  
Richfield Middle School, Richfield  
Teaching Artist, Frank Sentwali



This year marks our 41<sup>st</sup>  
Anthology of student writing,  
*We Tore Down the Forest.*

2019-2020 Selected Works from the  
COMPAS Creative Classroom Program

# COMPAS Programs: Creative Community

**You inspired** people in communities throughout the state with artist-led creative experiences in libraries, shelters for people experiencing homelessness or domestic violence; social service organizations that serve adults living with physical, intellectual or mental health disabilities; jails; youth organizations; community centers; and beyond.

2,035

Artful Aging™ programs inspired older adults in residential and community facilities with creative experiences that banish social isolation and build new skills.

Creative Community reached people of all ages!

32,840

4,590

Arts in Healthcare reached children and families when they need love and support most through artist-led performances and creative activities at pediatric hospitals.



Business of Music youth at SafeZone with Teaching Artists Christopher Keller (aka Kristoff Krane) and Stefon "Bionik" Taylor.

# COMPAS Programs: Creative Classroom

**You believe** in quality education for all our children and your support of COMPAS' Creative Classroom program makes a significant contribution to improving their experience.



Teaching Artist Charlie Maguire teaching a virtual residency from his studio

14,218

K-12 students connected with COMPAS Teaching Artists in-person and online.

43%

The percent of children who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Your support reached students in need.

61,922

Total number of people in all COMPAS programs you inspired with creativity this year. Thank you!

## You've made the difference!

"John\* was in his junior year and the shift from in person to virtual classroom learning had proved difficult for him. He became disengaged and I was concerned that he was on the verge of dropping out. Our COMPAS residency with Guante re-engaged John and drew him back into the curriculum. He ended the school year feeling valued and connected!" - High school teacher

\*John is a pseudonym

"This year more than ever, with the need to navigate big emotional topics like social justice, equality, and a pandemic... some kids don't have the life tools to name and express their experiences. So, providing students a way to explore their lives and their voices in an academic setting while moving the curriculum forward is invaluable." - High school teacher

**Thank you!**

# COMPAS Teaching Artists

You've brought more than 130 Minnesota-based COMPAS Teaching Artists into classrooms, libraries, community centers, older adult residential centers, and hospitals!



COMPAS Teaching Artists at 2019 Annual Roster Business Meeting

**29**  
Minnesota  
counties had a  
COMPAS  
program

**3,235**  
hours spent  
providing creative  
experiences

**93**  
libraries had  
programming

**60**  
schools  
hosted a  
residency

**833**  
community  
workshop  
hours  
throughout the  
state

**40**  
older adult  
residencies

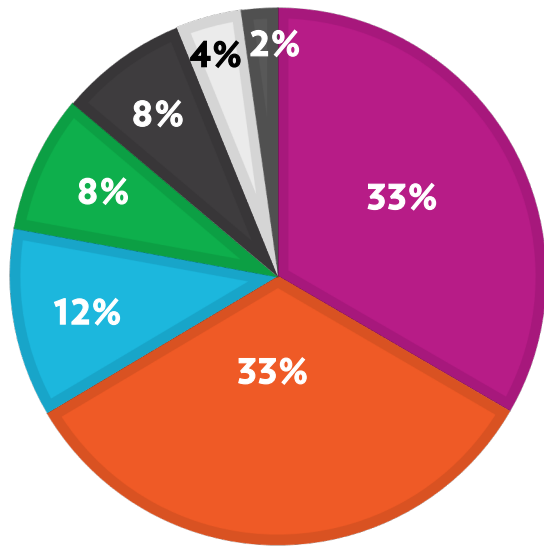
**26**  
school  
districts  
served

# Financials

## FY 2020 REVENUE:

\$1,200,125

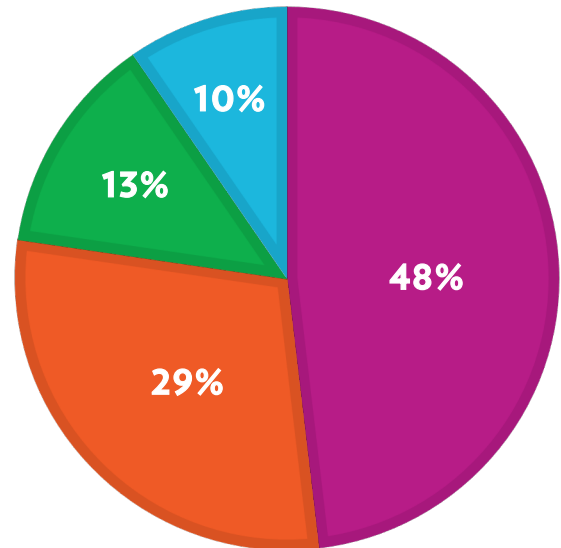
- Foundation & Corporate Support: \$244,019
- Program Service Fees: \$493,976
- Government Grants: \$144,693
- Other Government: \$99,100
- Individual Donations: \$91,448
- In-kind Contribution: \$10,299
- Special Events: \$54,742



## FY 2020 EXPENSES:

\$1,169,282

- Creative Community: \$562,808
- Creative Classroom: \$341,084
- Management & Government: \$153,279
- Partnership & Fundraising: \$112,111



Students learning video production at Riverside Elementary



# Board of Directors

## Executive Committee

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Walker Art Center, *retired*

**Mimi Stake, *Vice President***  
3M, *retired*

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Ecolab, *retired*

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COMPAS Emeritus Board Member  
Roderic Southall & Executive Director  
Dawne Brown White



COMPAS Board President Susan Rotilie

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\* Partial term

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\* Includes matching gifts

\*\* Denotes in-kind gifts

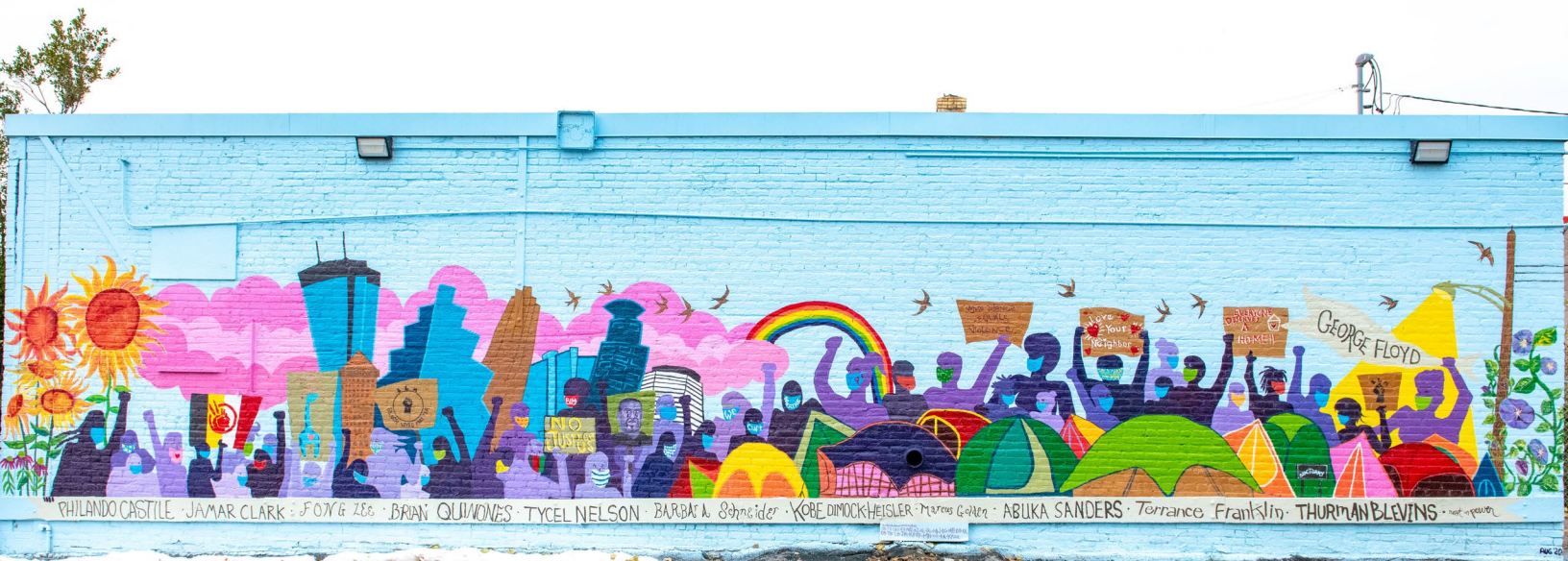
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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



# Thank you!



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