



Youth Innovation Lab Director's Report

I am thrilled to share that the **Innovation Lab** has thrived despite the fundraising challenges we experienced during the first half of the year. Our program funding was affected by the political climate and DEI cutbacks, yet our youth remained fully committed. Thanks to the unwavering dedication of our instructors and volunteers—many providing pro bono support—we were able to keep our programs running strong.

We are especially grateful to the **Minnesota Humanities Center**, our very first donor to the Innovation Lab in 2024. Their support allowed us to transition from a successful 2023 pilot program to a fully launched program that continues to impact youth in transformative ways.

Performance Outcomes

The Innovation Lab youth met or exceeded expectations in two major areas—**workshops** and **courses**—and came very close to surpassing our goals in all four categories. I am filled with pride every time I witness our youth embracing creativity and growth. They inspire me to keep our momentum strong.

It has been my lifelong dream to create a space where women, youth, and families are immersed in a safe and inspiring environment—a place where they do not need permission to be creative. The Innovation Lab is a **sacred space** where art, music, and literature thrive in the hearts of all who embrace our mission and vision.

Innovation Lab Program Guidelines	Q1 2025	Q2 2025	Total (Jan–June)	Annual Requirement
Workshops	4	8	12	12*
Courses	4	4	8	6*
Events	4	6	10	12
Community Development	5	6	11	12

*Met or exceeded the annual program requirement.

Annual Budget

Annual Budget and Fundraising Goals

To address our **budget shortfall** from the first half of 2025, we are launching a fundraising campaign:

- **\$54,000** to complete 2025 programming
- **\$150,000** to secure 2026 programming

In addition, we are in need of **backline gear** for live performances outside of our studio. We are seeking partners to donate equipment to help expand our performance opportunities. (Our **Gear Wish List** is included below.)

All non-profit donations to OMG Studios Youth Innovation Lab are accepted through our fiscal sponsor, **MN Humanities Center**.

We remain deeply grateful to everyone who has supported our mission of **cultural sustainability**.

Sincere appreciation and gratitude for your love and support!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ML' with a stylized flourish.

Monique Linder



Gratitude and Appreciation to Our 2025 Donors, Supporters, and Volunteers

Donors

- MN Humanities Center
- OMG Media Solutions

Instructors

- Thomasina Petrus
- Jevetta Steele
- Thom West
- Walter Chancellor, Jr.
- Monique Linder

Supporters

- Kevin Lindsey (CEO MN Humanities Center)
- Bryan Stevenson (Equal Justice Initiative)
- Jerry Martini (Founding Member of Sly and the Family Stone)
- The Family Stone Band
- The War and Treaty (Michael and Tanya Trotter)
- Tank and the Bangas (Tarriona "Tank" Ball and her band)
- Willie Adams (Purple Playground)

Volunteers

- OMG Studios Engineers, Marketing, and Technical Support
- Parents of Youth Innovation Lab Participants

Gear Wish List

Backline Requirements

Drums

DW PRO Drum Kit / Sabian Cymbals

A. Drum Sizes:

- 20" kick drum (or 22" if not available)
- 14" Snare (primary)
- 14" Backup Snare
- 10" Rack tom
- 12" Rack tom
- 16" Floor Tom (or a 14" if not available)

B. Drum Heads:

- Aquarian drumheads, newly installed
- Kick drum - superkick 2
- All toms - response 2
- Snares - texture coated

C. Cymbals:

- AAX Stage Hi-Hats 14"
 - Sabian AAXplosion crash cymbal 16"
 - Sabian AAXplosion crash cymbal 18"
 - Sabian AAXplosion ride cymbal 20"
- (or Zildjian A or K cymbals if not available)*

D. DWHardware:

- (1) - DW 7000 or 9000 snare stand
- (1) - DW 7000 or 9000 hi-hat stand
- (3) - DW 7000 or 9000 cymbal boom stands
- (1) - DW 9000 series double bass pedal
- (2) - DW 7000 or 9000 tom stands
- (1) - Roc n Soc drum Throne

E. Sticks:

- Promark Rebound 5A wood tip

F. Drum Riser: 8'X 12' X 4' with stairs

Microphones

- (4) Wireless Hand Held Systems - Shure UHF-R/Axient/ULXD with SM58 capsule.
- (7) SM58
- (1) AMTQ7-LS
- (2) e906
- (3) BETA56/e904
- (2) BETA52
- (1) SM91
- (2) SM81
- (2) KSM137
- (3) SM57
- (1) BETA57
- (2) SM58 with on/off switch

Bass

- (1) Fender Jazz Bass

Amplification:

- (1) Aguilar DB-751 Hybrid Bass Amp

Cabinet:

- (2) Aguilar DB-410 4x10 (side by side)
- (1) Boss Chromatic Tuner: TU-3
- (2) Guitar Stands

Guitar

- (1) Fender Stratocaster USA Guitar
- (1) Fender Telecaster USA Guitar

Amplification:

- (1) Fender HotRod Deville (4x10) 60Watt
- (2) Fender HotRod Deville (2x12) 60Watt

Effect Pedals:

- (2) Cry Baby Wah Pedals
- (1) Boss Chromatic Tuner: TU-3
- (3) Guitar Stands

Keyboards

- (1) Korg Kronos
- 61,73, or 76 non weighted keys
- (1) NORD ELECTRO 6 (or newer)
- (1) Roland Juno-G 61 Keys
- (1) Boss Vocoder VO-1
- (1) X Keyboard Stand (Nord)
- (1) Double Tier Keyboard Stand (KRONOS, JUNO-G)
- All Power & Audio Cables

Microphone Hardware/ Stands/Misc.

- (5) Short Boom Mic Stands
- (4) Medium Boom Mic Stands
- (7) Tall Boom Mic Stands
- (6) Strait Mic Stands
- (3) Drum Clamps
- Mic Stand Clips
- Mic Stand Clips (Wireless)
- (2) Tambourines with heads
- (1) Active DI Box
- (3) Stereo DI Box

Instrument Cables –

- (12) × 25ft ¼" TS (straight) instrument cables
- (8) × 25ft ¼" TS (straight to right-angle) cables
- (12) × 3ft ¼" TS patch cables (pedals)
- (8) × 25ft ¼" TRS balanced cables (keyboards, DI lines)
- All cables must be high quality, tested, and include at least 2 spares per type. Cable runs should accommodate clean routing across a 36x24 ft stage.
- (6) Black Padded bar stools for soundcheck
- (5) Multi Speed Fans