



2018-2019

Annual Report

launch





Love them first

When you reflect on some of Launch's highlights of the past year - opening a new preschool at Delridge Community Center, adding new staff positions that expanded our ability to support children and families, and increasing the amount of tuition assistance we provide - the core philosophy underpinning everything we do shines through.

And that is to love our children first, above all else. No matter what a child experiences in their home life or what their struggles may be, we want our students to know they are loved unconditionally at Launch. Every decision we make is grounded in this philosophy.

We can't help children succeed in school and life, or fight for educational justice, or truly support families without this love. As you read this annual report, I hope you can see all the ways in which we try to put our children and families first.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our work. We couldn't be prouder to be part of such an incredible community that truly cares about supporting children and families.

Brianna Jackson
Executive Director

What We Do

Launch makes a difference for children and families by providing high-quality, effective preschool, before & after school and summer programs grounded in research on best practices. We work to close the opportunity gap and ensure equitable program access for children, and partner with families, schools, and nonprofits to ensure every child and family has the support they need to be successful. We advocate for policies, programs, and funding that benefits children and families, and participate in local, regional, and national program quality and collective action initiatives. We help build the youth development field by training the next generation of teachers, and create innovative programs that help drive changes in the sector and improve outcomes for children and families.

Locations

- Beacon Hill
- Delridge Community Center
- Hawthorne
- Highland Park
- Kimball
- Leschi
- Madrona
- Maple
- Miller Annex
- Montlake
- Rainier Community Center
- Sanislo

Mission

Lead the charge to brilliant outcomes for the children of our community by ensuring equitable access to the highest quality learning and care.



MEET A TEACHER Sharail

Launch's approach is best described by a quote from the documentary [Love Them First: Lessons from Lucy Laney Elementary](#): "Anytime anybody sees a child that looks forlorn, lost, not taken care of — spread your arms, scoop them up, ask questions later, but love them first." Below, Launch preschool teacher Sharail Butler shares her thoughts on teaching and 'loving them first.'

"I'm a big kid myself, so I really enjoy being able to play with the kids, be silly and watch them grow. You get to interject a little bit of your knowledge and wisdom, and watch them fly with it. One of the most exciting things is when a kid

gets something. A lot of times they'll say "I can't, I can't, I can't!" But when they finally tie their shoe, count to ten, zip up their coat, pour the milk without spilling it, or write their name — those are such magical moments.

If a child feels loved, they'll learn more, grow more, express more, and be willing to take more chances. I want kids to know they're appreciated, we care about them, and this is a safe place where they're free to be themselves, make mistakes and explore. All of that comes from love. Our kids know that we're not perfect but we're all perfectly us. You're going to have ups and downs, and you still need someone to love you through it. Life is all about making mistakes and picking yourself back up after.

Part of this work is loving parents first too. Sometimes parents will come in and haven't eaten or had coffee, or are having a tough day. So I'll give them a bagel or coffee, or be someone they can talk to. Kids thrive when their families thrive."



“My child is disappointed when she misses a day. Help with homework is given, food is provided, and I know my child is loved.” - Launch parent



IN THE SUMMER
WE SERVED

72

CHILDREN
in our Leap Ahead
summer kindergarten-
readiness program

395

SCHOOL-AGE
CHILDREN
in our summer camps

DURING FY 2018-2019 WE SERVED

974 STUDENTS



WE SERVED MORE THAN
170,250
MEALS



DURING THE
SCHOOL YEAR
WE SERVED

183

CHILDREN
in our preschool
programs

697

CHILDREN
in our school-age before
& after school programs

WE PROVIDED OVER

4,000
HOURS

of training and
professional
development to staff



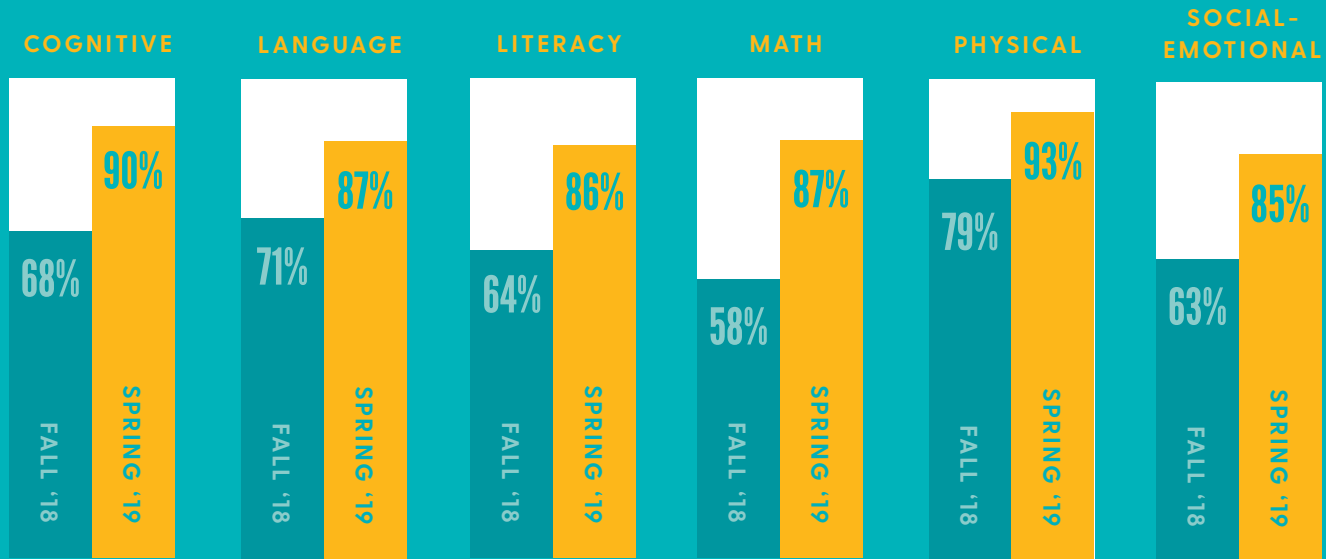
WE PROVIDED

467,059
HOURS

of programming, for a
per student average of
480 HOURS

PRESCHOOL ►

The percentage of preschoolers meeting or exceeding age-level expectations increased from fall to spring in 6 KEY KINDERGARTEN-READINESS AREAS:



THE IMPACT OF TUITION ASSISTANCE

A Launch Story

"The last year was challenging and nerve wracking for our family. My 3rd grader was attending Launch and loving it. However it wasn't easy financially with rising rent and another child in preschool. When the government shutdown happened, my job was up in the air for a few months with unknown answers. My husband's job went south and we lost substantial income unexpectedly. I remember trying to pick up my child from Launch unnoticed because I was worried how to face the director when I was late paying for after school care. Finally the director pulled me aside to offer some other options. She helped me apply for Launch tuition assistance and we were quickly approved. I cried to her quietly, and am forever grateful to the kind and generous offer that she gave us. To keep the consistent schedule for my child in a stressful and unknowing time was so helpful. Thank you, Launch, for helping our family and always being a fun safe place that my child absolutely loves and thrives in!"

◀ "My child has excelled since being in Launch. She has learned so much!"

- Launch Parent



MEET A STUDENT

Aoife

3rd grader Aoife has been at Launch since preschool. Over the last year, she's become a great leader in the program - she even helps lead activities for her fellow students!

What kinds of things do you like to do at Launch?

I like all of the activities. We do arts and crafts, and I like hanging out with my friends and talking to them. I liked going on the field trip to MoPOP, and the pumpkin patch field trip when I was in preschool was pretty fun. I've been here a long time, so I know how to do a lot of projects and I can teach them if someone else doesn't

know how to do them. I led an activity where we made pita, and I got to show the other kids how to make it. In the summer I got to help make slime. Teaching is hard, but it's fun. I like that I can share the things I know with other people. Knowledge is power!

What do you like about your Launch teachers?

I like that the teachers are really funny and nice, and you can tell that they have their own separate lives - they act like they're humans not robots that are only there to teach. You can actually have a conversation with them without them judging. I think people should know that if they have kids they should go here, because it's a fun experience. The teachers really care about the students.

What are you really good at?

I'm really good at reading. My favorite book is The Girl Who Drank the Moon, and my favorite series is Harry Potter. I'm on the 4th book. I only started the series last month, but I've been staying in for recess to read. Launch has definitely helped me move along in books because we have lots of time to read.



SCHOOL AGE ►

Our school-age students scored **HIGHER ON STATE TESTS** than the average student in their elementary school.*

* data only available for Beacon Hill, Highland Park, Leschi and Sanislo

“A Vital Part of Creating a More Livable City”

A LAUNCH FAMILY STORY

“When we had our kid, we had no family around, very little income, and barely any community around us to help. Childcare was extremely difficult to arrange and I ended up staying home after I was laid off from my job because I couldn’t find work that paid enough to cover the childcare costs. Luckily I had/have a part-time small business that helped us scrape by during the hardest period. The lack of money and time put a lot of strain on everyone.

Several parts of our family life have improved since then, but one of the most significant changes was when we were able to join the Launch program. We feel immensely grateful for how much it has reduced financial strain. The extra hours of care have allowed me to work more on my business, improve my health, and have more time as a family. We have also been delighted by the wonderful staff and programming. Our daughter loves the teachers, the food and the play/activities. The teachers are as caring as family would be, but also professional and very skilled at working with children. The environment is welcoming, diverse, and we feel more a part of our community. Before Launch we felt frustrated and exhausted by how difficult it is to have a young family in Seattle. Though we were always supporters of a public preschool program, we feel even more strongly now that programs such as Launch are a vital part of creating a livable city and that Launch is doing it the right way.”



Thanks to funding from the City of Seattle, during Summer 2018

WE PROVIDED
LEAP AHEAD
SCHOLARSHIPS TO

40

LOW-INCOME CHILDREN
who needed more support to
become kindergarten ready.

Of the children who weren’t
ready for kindergarten at the
start of the summer,

86%

IMPROVED
their kindergarten readiness
skills by the end of the summer.



WE PROVIDED MORE THAN

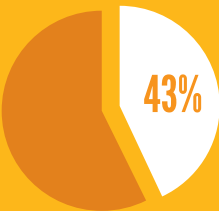
\$500,000

IN UNCOMPENSATED
CARE,* TUITION
ASSISTANCE, AND
SCHOLARSHIPS

*the unreimbursed costs for accepting
government subsidies for low-income families

43%

OF LAUNCH
FAMILIES
have an income
below 80% of
the King County
median.



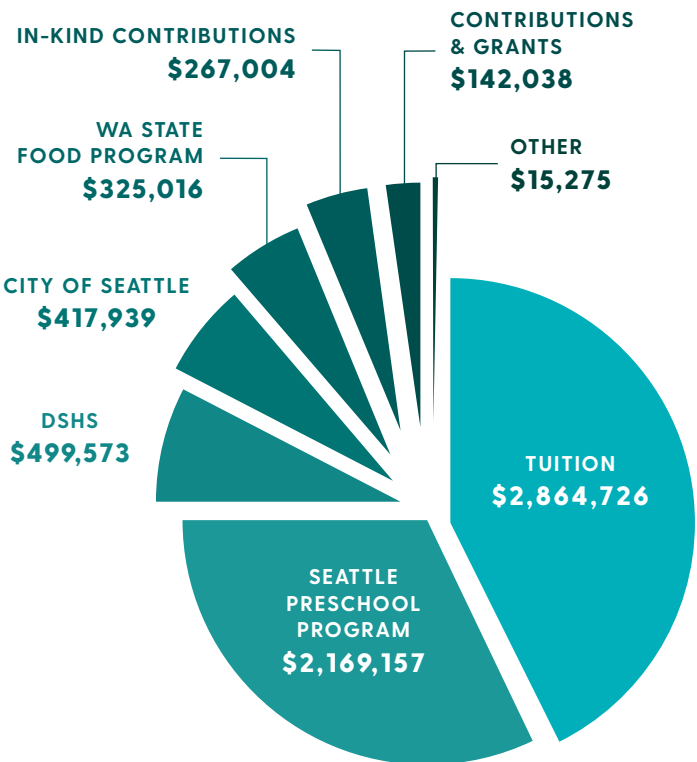
NEARLY HALF
OF OUR STUDENTS ARE
CHILDREN OF COLOR



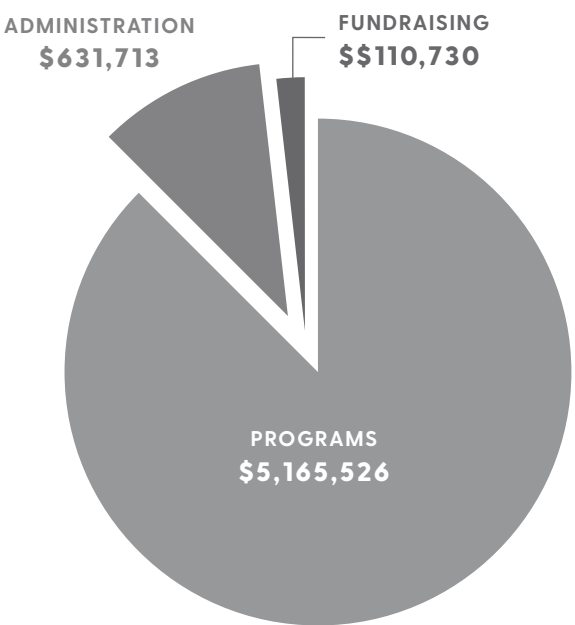
FY 2018-2019

Financials

Revenue ► \$6,700,728



Expenses ► \$5,907,969



FY2018-19 ended with a net cash surplus of \$792,000 due to expenses that were significantly under budget and revenue that was higher than projected. Expenses were under budget largely due to lower than expected costs for salaries, benefits, and payroll taxes for a portion of the year. The surplus was used to build our cash reserves.

THANK YOU TO OUR Donors

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		Bethany Furubayashi	Bethany Furubayashi	Patricia & Rodney Lewis	Patricia & Rodney Lewis	Patricia & Rodney Lewis	Patricia & Rodney Lewis



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“Launch gives kids the
space to be kids.”

- Launch parent