





Dear Friends of Islands of Brilliance.

"The Power of 10"! 2022 marked the 10th anniversary of Islands of Brilliance. We are extremely grateful for 10 years of fearless creativity, impactful learning, and a supportive community. It is humbling to look back at our start with a single workshop of 7 students and see how much we have grown!

**Programming:** We provided 839 programming hours in 2022, serving students all over Wisconsin and in multiple states across the country. We continued to offer programming for a wide range of skill levels, both in-person and virtual to meet our students' needs. Our popular Foundation and Blender workshops, and our Brilliant Breakfast Club continue to have strong enrollment. Sandbox@ workshops, where we take our programming "on the road", have been very well attended and are a great way to attract new students. We also added new programming including our Homeroom for homeschooled students and Sandbox Summer Camps. Our grand finale of the year was the Holiday Express, a multi-location workshop where students from Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Duluth worked together to develop amazing video backgrounds for the Holiday Express train.

**NEA Research Lab:** IoB is honored to partner with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to create the Autism Brilliance Lab for Entrepreneurship (ABLE). This research lab funded by the National Endowment for the Arts will yield empirical insights into the impact of art education based on design and technology on the quality of life and employability of neurodiverse individuals.

**Workforce Innovation Grant:** IoB has been selected to participate in a network of organizations working together to launch Think Ability Wisconsin, which will address workforce issues for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in counties across our state. This grant will allow IoB to grow the organization to meet the needs of more neurodiverse individuals and expand our efforts to break down barriers to employment.

**Colors & Chords #8:** Our Power of 10 fundraising campaign culminated with over 250 people attending our annual fundraising event. We exceeded our fundraising goal with a strong silent auction, generous sponsors, and a very generous gift from our board of directors. The highlight of the evening was a showstopping video our Digital Academy students created where the students took student artwork from the past 10 years and brought them to life through animation. It was a wonderful night of celebration!

Thank you to all our friends and supporters over the past 10 years. We are honored to have been able to make a difference in the lives of so many individuals. We have come a long way these past 10 years and we can't wait to see what the next 10 years will bring!

Kelly Scott *Board Chair* 

## Our Mission

By using creativity, technology, and one-to-one guidance, we are positively changing personal perceptions of self and promoting broader community views of those on the autism spectrum from people with disabilities to people with capabilities.

FY 2022 Operating Revenues

**FY 2022 Operating Expenses** 

\$738,998 +38% vs. 2021 \$685,365

30% Earned Income
29% Private/Corporate Grants
23% Government Grants
9% Fundraising Events
9% Individual Contributions

76% Programming13% Administration11% Fundraising

### Honors

# NATIONAL #ARTS

ABLE Research Lab, a multiinstitutional study on the efficacy of IOB programming funded by the NEA, led by UW-Milwaukee and Michigan State University



Chief Education Officer Margaret Fairbanks serves on the Governor's Autism Council



### Media

milwaukee journal sentinel

slands of Brilliance finds 'their way nto' worlds of students with autism by embracing the things they're passionate about







Scan for Journal Sentinel article





Scan for CBS58 segment

# Magic

Jimmy, age 11, had not previously used an Apple Pencil, Procreate, or an iPad prior to his participation at the Sandbox@ Sherman Phoenix workshop. He intuitively figured out the pressure sensitive Apple Pencil in a matter of minutes, producing exquisite line work in his drawing. Scan the QR code at right with your smartphone camera to watch a time lapse of the illustration of his imaginary friend "Imichoy" come to life.



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# **Gratitude**

Thank you to the foundations, corporations, community partners, and individuals who provided financial and in-kind support in 2022 for programming and operations.

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# 2022 Highlights



ROW 1 Sandbox@ Sherman Phoenix, Milwaukee; Sandbox@ Planet Propaganda, Madison; Sandbox@ Neville Public Museum, Green Bay ROW 2 Summer Foundation Workshops: UWM Lubar Entrepreneurship Center ROW 3 Sandbox Summer Camp: Urban Ecology Center - Riverside, UWM Lubar Entrepreneurship Center, Minneapolis College of Art & Design ROW 4 8th Annual Colors & Chords at Turner Hall, celebrating IOB's 10th anniversary

**Cover Illustration:** Shayne Mack is a talented illustrator who has participated in all three layers of IOB programming: Digital Academy, Foundation workshops, and Sandbox. He is a recent graduate with a certificate in graphic design from WCTC. Shayne is a regular in daily Doodle Lounge virtual workshops. The creative direction given for the illustration: if you could turn your fellow Doodle Lounge students and their subject matter interests into artwork for a potential Cartoon Network series, what would it look like?