2018-19 Annual Report
Dear Friends of Islands of Brilliance,

It has been an incredible year here at Islands of Brilliance! We continue to grow our core design and brilliant guest artist workshops welcoming many new and returning students and mentors. The artistic expression, pride, and self-confidence we see in our students participating in these workshops is truly remarkable.

We also launched several new programming models taking Islands of Brilliance to a whole new level.

**Digital Academy:** The past year we officially launched our Digital Academy with partnerships including Light the Hoan and the UWM Immersive Media Lab. Our students took part in a Design Thinking Seminar to learn team collaboration, creative thinking, and product design. If you walked in during Digital Academy Open Studios you would have seen our students working on 3D models of lighthouses, lamp posts and birds in Blender and working in virtual reality in Oculus.

**Brilliant Breakfast Club:** In early 2019 we launched our BBC for our 18+ students. These students meet for breakfast at a restaurant, navigate public transportation, make art, work on social and independent living skills and just enjoy being with friends. This has been extremely popular with our older students and importantly, it addresses the severe lack of programming and social opportunities for neurodiverse adults.

**Brilliant Sandbox:** In April of 2019 we kicked off our first Brilliant Sandbox. This new program held in locations in the community pairs a neurodiverse student with a peer or family member to participate in a shared experience of growth and learning. We look forward to more sandbox events in the future as a way for Islands of Brilliance to expand our reach into the community and include students not currently involved in our other workshops.

**Brilliant Studios:** We are excited to announce the recent launch of Brilliant Studios, our in house design team offering services to Islands of Brilliance and other community partners. We were able to employ 3 of our talented students and a mentor on a part-time basis this summer. It is exciting to see our employment model come to life!

**Community Projects**

During this past year, our students participated in design challenges creating t-shirt designs through partnerships with 88NINE Radio Milwaukee and Summerfest as well as designing labels for our Colectivo fundraiser Brilliant Beans. Look around our community and you might just see some of our students' amazing work!

It has been a truly remarkable year for Islands of Brilliance. This coming year will be filled with exciting possibilities as we continue to develop our pre-employment programming and pipeline. We are anxious to show the world what our brilliant students can do. We know with the right preparation, these students will become artists, storytellers, animators and more. Brilliant indeed!

Kelly Scott
Islands of Brilliance Board Chairman

Letter from the Board Chair
Employment and Independence

**TIER 4**
Brilliant Studios
Job/Intern
Undergrad Ready

**TIER 3**
Digital Academy
Highest rigor/Instructor led;
Assigned projects with independent study

**TIER 2**
Advanced Aptitude Guest Artist and STEM Workshops
Increased rigor on affinity based projects;
Students who can work independently with some support

**TIER 1**
Open Enrollment - Foundation Design Workshops and Brilliant Guest Artist Workshops
Ability appropriate intake; 1:1 mentorship with wrap around support;
Affinity-based projects; Ongoing assessment of skills - social and technical

NEURODIVERSE TALENT INCUBATOR
Our Mission

By using creativity, technology, and one-on-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.
The warm energy at IOB radiates from the mentors, volunteers, and leadership towards the students... it's very cool to witness.

- Amy Vance

We feel a sense of community and she feels validated and proud to be on the spectrum, which she should be. :)

- Kathy Kase

Islands of Brilliance has built his confidence tremendously and he feels safe in its environment.

- Talia Rosales

I love how happy my work makes me feel.

- Student Survey Response
Light the Hoan Virtual Reality Experience

In the span of eight days in June 2019 at UWM's Lubar Entrepreneurship Center, 13 of our Digital Academy candidates worked as a software development sprint team to create a virtual reality experience of the Milwaukee inner harbor and Hoan Bridge, complete with colorful lights that users can change through virtual interactions. The project is a partnership between Islands of Brilliance, Light the Hoan, UWM's Immersive Media Lab, and Outer Rim Studios.
## Financials

### Total Revenue: $393,731
- Individual Contributions $27,852
- Corporate Contributions $31,693
- Fundraising Events $91,068
- Tuition and Consulting $102,354
- Foundation Contributions $140,764

### Total Expenses: $314,398
- Administrative $19,764
- Fundraising $25,347
- Programs $269,287
- Foundation Contributions $140,764
Thank you to the foundations, corporations, and individuals who provided financial support in 2018-19 for programming and operations.

FOUNDATIONS
Autism Speaks / Game Stop
Bader Philanthropies
Eisner Creative Foundation
Denise, Bill, and Luke Eisner Family Foundation
Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Green Bay Packer Foundation
Jacobus Family Foundation
Kohl’s Cares
McGinnity Family Foundation
Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Tarrence Family Foundation

CORPORATIONS
7 Summits
88Nine Radio Milwaukee
About Face
Amazon Smile
Aurora Health Care
Baird
Big Shoes Network
Boelte + Lincoln
Brilliant DPI
C2 Graphics Productivity Solutions
Colectivo Coffee
Core Creative
Crisis Prevention Institute
Cramer Krasselt
Digital Color Solutions
EPIC Creative
Godfrey + Kahn
Hoffman York
Hailey Sault
Jigsaw
Locatelli & Associates
Majesty Mortgage
Milwaukee Ale House
Milwaukee Brewing Company
Milwaukee Mental Health Associates/ Irving H. Raffe Fund
Purple Onion
Serve
Wisconsin Chapter Model A Club
West Bend Mutual
Wonder Wonder Sound
Zero Studios

INDIVIDUALS
The Aronson Family
Phillip Backe
Michelle & Steven Bersell
Chris & Laura Borg
Jeff & Jennifer Buth
John & Kathie Buono
Mark & Loree Daase
The DiBlanco Family
Carole Donovan
Bill & Chris Dzwierzynski
Ryan Engelhardt
Patricia Eubanks
Ellen Ferrara
Marc Filippioni
Dr. Karen Finder
The Fiorita Family
Mary Louise Frederick
Brent Gohde
Roberta Greve
Wendy Gunderson
JoAnne Grunewald
Kristie & Todd Grunze
Katie Heil
Lewis Holtsclaw
Eric & Kathy Kase
Carolyn Kearns
Jason Kleist
Ben Koch
Robert & Mary Krill
Raschell Lewis
Jim Locatelli
Kimberly Ludwikoski
Barry Mandel
Marvin & Amy Mason
Nydia Maurus-Jones
Cynthia MacLeod
Anne Mank
Kent McLeodKathy & Ronald Merlo
Yvonne Miller
Bob & Barb Monnat
Katy & Dave Moore
Novy O’Connell
Christopher Pappas
Emily Peters
Roderick Place
Joel Plinska
Robert Rauh
Josie Redfield
Justine & Mike Roe
David Roldrian
Mary Russell
Peter Saiia
Tony Saiia
Mychele Schartz & Dylan Thomas
Emily Schweitz
Frank & Kelly Scott
Katie Sorenson
Melanie St. Clair
Richard Stahle
Dan Tarrence
Margaret Thelen & Craig Anderson
Brian Thompson
Brian & Caroline Timmis
Paul & Susan Waldo
The Wells Family
Ned White

In Memoriam — Richard Pearson
Dan and Leslie Ashmore
John and Janice Brewer
Pam and Bill Corrigan
Sam Courey
Ted and Kathleen Delancy
Michael Fairbanks
Rob and Amy Franks
Van Paul and Judith George
Deb and Gerald Gillman
Barb and Neil Goodwin
Jane and Gary Haefner
Laura Hart
Mitchell ann Maureen LaFleur
Cathy and Kent Mundon
Milton and Maureen Oldenburg
Ann and Bill Roberts
Barb and Pete Sorenson
Ann and Jim Swanson
Solveig and Larry Theis
Ann Trenda
Tracey and Jeff Vint
90.0 PERCENTAGE WHO REPORTED A CHANGE IN THEIR PERCEPTIONS AROUND AUTISM STEREOTYPES

72.0 VOLUNTEER RETENTION RATE SINCE PROGRAM BEGAN

34.2 PERCENT INCREASE IN VOLUNTEER DATABASE IN CALENDAR YEAR 2018

6,409 TOTAL # OF VOLUNTEER HOURS LOGGED BY PROFESSIONALS/UNDERGRADUATES WORKING IN ART, DESIGN, AND TECHNOLOGY RELATED FIELDS SINCE PROGRAM BEGAN
Colors & Chords is a one-of-a-kind event that celebrates music and art by pairing bands with prominent local artists onstage for a 30-minute set. Held in the historic Turner Hall Ballroom, Colors & Chords merges musical craftsmanship with each artist’s interpretation of the music. The event on Friday, November 9, 2018, drew almost 700 guests and grossed $82,646. The highlight of the evening was the introduction of 25 of our students onstage at the beginning of the show, followed by IOB student Kim Dzwierzynski live painting during the opening set!
EXECUTIVE BOARD

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