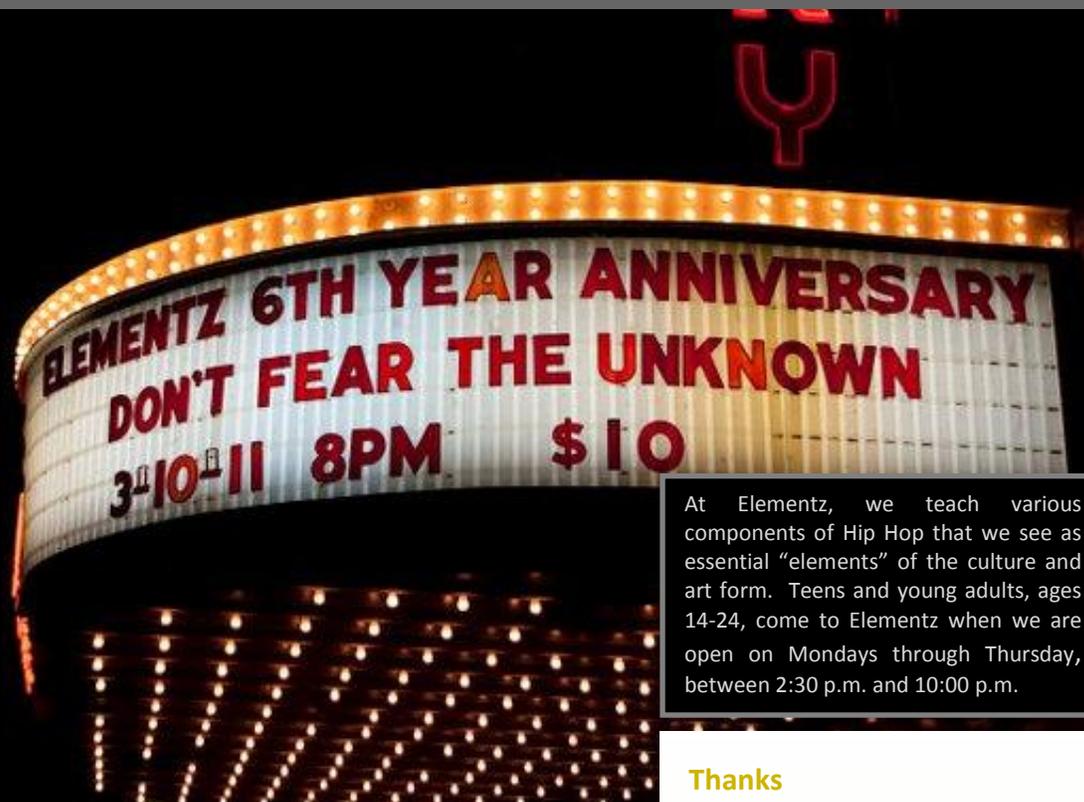


ELEMENTZ

2011 Annual Report

www.elementz.org



At Elementz, we teach various components of Hip Hop that we see as essential “elements” of the culture and art form. Teens and young adults, ages 14-24, come to Elementz when we are open on Mondays through Thursday, between 2:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.

Thanks

In 2011 we had many friends who pitched in to make the year a success. Our friends at ArtsWave gave invaluable support throughout the year. Our Board and Board President, Peter Block were always working hard to keep the momentum going. And we can't leave out our many donors who gave so generously to help us grow.

I would like to thank Derek Peebles, volunteered his time for several months before becoming an employee and helping building our workshop model. Finally, I would like to recognize once again Brother Abdullah, our Program Director, and part of Elementz for five of our six years, for his significant all-around leadership and vision.

-Tom Kent, Exec Director

Elementz in 2011

2011 was a pivotal year for Elementz. We kicked off the year with our first ever Showcase outside our center, in March at the 20th Century Theatre in Oakley. We had a terrific audience of 400 that night as we recognized the contributions of our founders and celebrated our sixth anniversary. This was also the kickoff for a series of “Don't Fear the Unknown” concerts, which ended with another major performance at the Freedom Center in September.

In 2011, we also began giving workshops and instruction outside our center in dance and graffiti art. In all, we had 63 public events and over 4,500 youth and adults in attendance at one or more of our events. We performed at Baba Budan's in Clifton, O'Bryonville's Wine Walk, the Black Family Reunion, two appearances on Fountain Square, the Boone County Library, Land of Illusion in Middletown, and on the steps of Music Hall for the Cincinnati Pop's opening weekend in September.

We also had terrific media coverage all year. Two of our artists were featured on the front page of the Cincinnati Enquirer on ML King Day, and Brother Abdullah was featured in October in the Enquirer as an “emerging African-American leader”. We ended the year with strong programs and positive community reception for our youth programs.

Elementz Promotes Core Change

Why we support improbable outcomes in our core city

In the summer of 2011, Elementz youth were performing on the stage at Fountain Square in Downtown Cincinnati, when shots rang out. Our young people quickly jumped off the stage and gathered the children who were watching the performance into a protective space nearby.

Not far away, a teenager known to many of our members lay dying, another victim of violence that plagues our core neighborhoods where Elementz exists.

Brother Abdullah, our Program Director, said “we know these young men that choose to carry weapons, and we also know those who have chosen the path of respect and non-violence.” Elementz is in a unique position to bring its message of respect to the youth in our urban neighborhoods.

In 2011, we reached out to Dr. Victor Garcia, a surgeon at Cincinnati’s Children’s Hospital. After another child died on his operating table due to gunshot wounds, he promised the child’s mother that he would not stop working until our city could get to the root causes of not only child and teen violence, but other outcomes of dysfunctional life including poor health outcomes for inner-city residents.

We also reached out to our own board president, Peter Block, who has written extensively about community-building.

In an “improbable partnership”, Elementz, Peter Block and Dr. Garcia paired up present a workshop on September 10th at the Cincinnati Underground Railroad Freedom Center. In this workshop, 75 members of the community gathered to discuss a new language to help us identify the assets of our communities and our youth.

In the workshop, we broke into small groups to discuss how to create an alignment of our strengths and ignite a vision for true change in our core communities.

We also learned a new language that we could bring back to our own work at Elementz. We learned at we do not work

with “at risk” children, but with “at promise” youth.

We learned to look at every youth for their gifts and look for ways to strengthen those gifts.

As a result of the workshop and year-long discussion on the use of new language in youth work, the Elementz staff now interviews each youth who joins, and inventories their unique gifts. Part of our process includes recording the circle of supportive adults for each young person in our center, and supplementing that support circle with additional caring adults where appropriate.

At the same time, we have reached into our local community to identify strengths and assets that we can use for collaborative efforts to change the lives of the youth who live in the “core city” and come to Elementz.

Elementz gives grateful appreciation to Peter Block and Dr. Garcia for their important insights and their helpfulness in bring new language that we can use to redefine our program.



Elementz Collaborates with the Taft Museum



John Blake Jr., a jazz violinist visited Elementz to talk about and demonstrate Jazz-Hip Hop fusion. A large crowd turned out, including the entire string section of the Fairfield High School orchestra. High School students and our own members had fun with music, beats and freestyling. Vincent VegaGenesis, Nitty Morris, Jacob Fortner, Gamm LeBeau Black’Cartel, & Bri Breezy Middlebrooks did some freestyle and improv with John and the Fairfield string students.

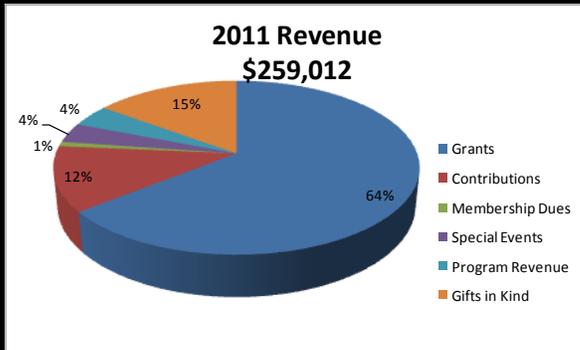
John Blake Jr. and his band appeared at Elementz in collaboration with the Taft Museum’s Duncanson Artist-in-Residence program.

“Elementz has motivated me to give my all in everything I do.”

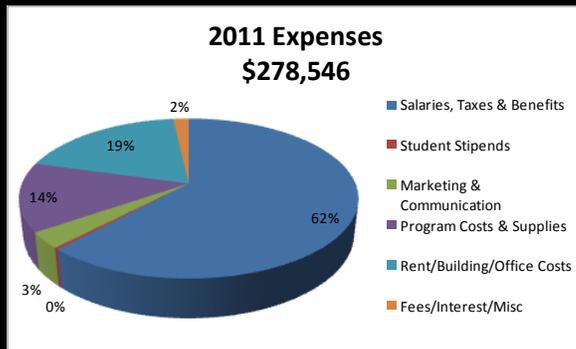
-a member



2010 Financials



In September, Elementz helped create a “street festival” for the opening of the Pops Concert series. Our graffiti artists, Ben Thomas, created his version of the new Pops logo and Maestro John Morris Russell posed in front for a photo op. Our dance team Kre8v also performed on Music Hall steps as patrons entered for the season opening concert.



Assets

Property & Equipment	\$ 18,372
Security Deposits	\$ 3,525
Other Assets	\$ <u>39,417</u>
Total	\$ 61,314

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities	\$ 41,292
Equity	\$ <u>20,022</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 61,314

Elementz Board of Directors

Tysonn Betts

The Procter & Gamble Company

Peter Block, President

Author & Consultant

Diane Jordan-Grizzard, Secretary

Beech Acres Parenting Center

Tom Hagerty

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Community Building Institute,
Xavier University

Gavin DeVore Leonard

Ohio Center for Progressive
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Dr. Art Shriberg

Xavier University

Tonya Warren

US Bank

Brook Westheimer

Watercourse Technology

OUR SPONSORS

Elementz is very grateful to our donors and funders. We especially want to recognize the following for major gifts and support in 2011:

ArtsWave

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation

The Harmann Family Foundation

The Ira Block Foundation

Pepsi

Christ Church Cathedral

Purdy Foundation

Charles H. Dater Foundation

Haile/US Bank Foundation

AD2

Accent on Cincinnati

Telstar Media

Zone CG

Greater Cincinnati & Northern KY African-

American Chamber of Commerce

Switch Lighting and Design

Sam and Margo Ross

Webb deVlam

Radio One and the Wiz

CET



2011 PERFORMANCE & EVENTS

February Elementz Showcase
 February Get Smart About Art (ArtsWave)
 March Anniversary Showcase at the 20th Century Theatre
 March Save the Northside Pool
 March Newport Dance Class
 April Poetry Slam at Findlay Market
 April Columbus International High School
 April In-school Winton Montessori and Academy of World Languages
 May Pepperdine Alumni Concert
 June In-school Graffiti Class at Hays Porter
 July Showcase at Boone Country Library
 July Performance on Fountain Square
 Aug Emanuel Community Center's 'Women of OTR' event
 Aug Black Family Reunion performance
 Aug Fountain Square Summer Series Performance
 Sept Roh Street Café Performance
 Sept Work and Concert at the Freedom Center
 Sept O'Bryonville Wine Walk
 Sept Cincinnati Pops "Pop Up Party"
 Oct Land of Illusion Performance in Middletown
 Oct Style Wars Screening in Covington
 Oct Dance Workshop
 Oct Live Stream with Hi-Tek
 Nov Thanksgiving Showcase at Elementz
 Nov Black and Latio Gala
 Dec Duke Energy Employee Party



In October, our Program Manager, Brother Abdullah, was recognized by the Cincinnati Enquirer as one of the emerging Black leaders in Cincinnati.

He was asked about the most pressing problem for local black community. Brother Abdullah responded, "Connection. Our program in hip-hop and visual arts tries to provide connection. I see youth on a day-to-day basis. For many the father is missing. They don't have a support system in their lives that could include a coach or a minister. Many of our youth are looking for a job and are dealing with the typical things as teenagers. They know they're supposed to stay in school, but dropping out and selling drugs are options. The streets do call."

Producers, Dance and DJ Labs

Reaching out to the community in 2011, Elementz sponsored labs and workshops on subjects of interest for members and community professionals. DJ April Reign sponsored several workshops for area DJ's during the year, including a workshop by DJ Vajra. On August 4th, we sponsored a Producer's Lab (photo at left). On April 21st, Producer Joey Cutless from Fairbanks, Alaska came by for a workshop. In October, our dance instructor, Kasib Hasan prepared a dance workshop for members and guests.

