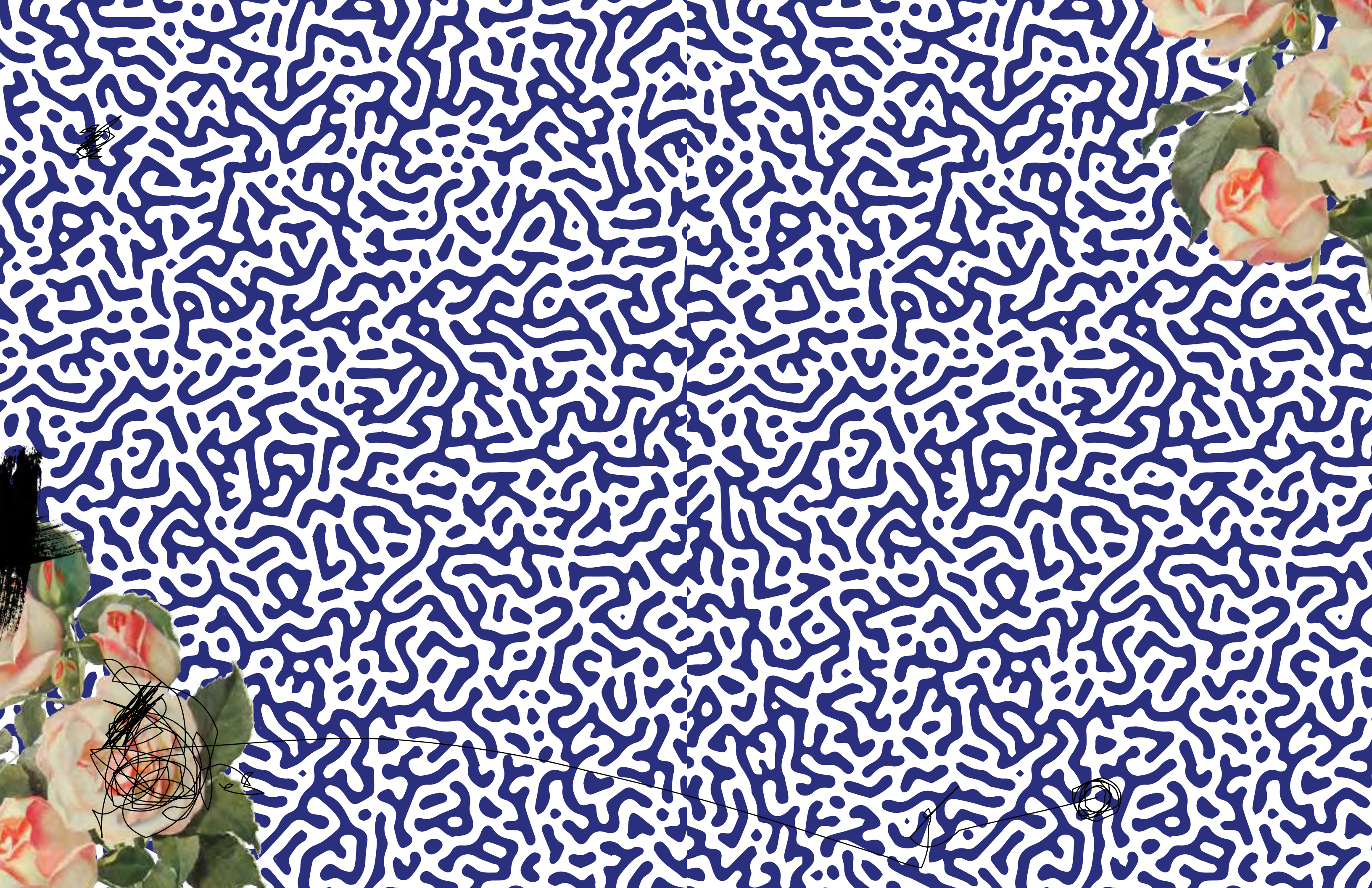
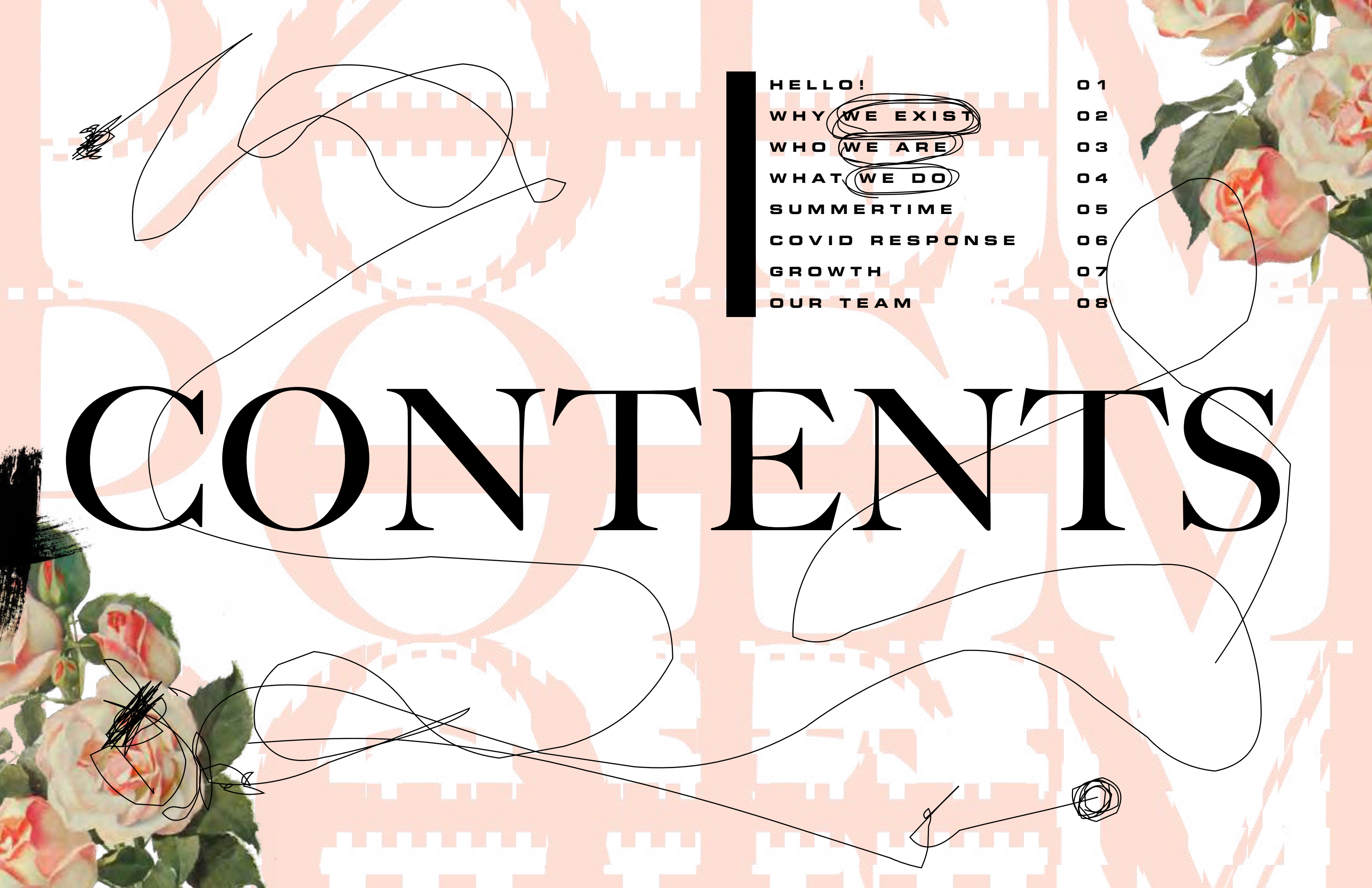




2020

2020





HELLO!

WHY WE EXIST

WHO WE ARE

WHAT WE DO

SUMMERTIME

COVID RESPONSE

GROWTH

OUR TEAM

01

02

03

04

05

06

07

08

CONTENTS

WORDS from the HEART

A NOTE FROM GET LIT'S FOUNDER

“ OLD MONUMENTS FELL,
POWER STRUCTURES
TOPPLED, PRIVILEGE
QUESTIONED, HISTORY
REWRITTEN. ”

Dear Get Lit Community,
WHAT A YEAR IT'S BEEN.
2019 /2020 will be remembered
as the year the world fell
apart, cracked open, and
forever changed. Old monuments
fell, power structures
toppled, privilege questioned,
history rewritten. All while
coronavirus raged on, closing
schools and businesses around
the world.

School closures and the
escalation of the pandemic
in California began one month
before our ninth annual Classic
Slam. Like everyone, we didn't
know what to expect, but one
thing was certain: the Classic
Slam would not be canceled.
Our students and teachers
needed us, and we needed them,
to make language and meaning
during this perilous time.
We pivoted quickly, building
the entire three-day event
online and providing unlimited
mentor visits to participating
schools. The desire to listen,
to commune, and to share was
enormous: The three-day event
was watched by more than 34,000
people. We launched Get Lit's
Scoremetrics so that folks could
score after each performance
from home. This resulted in
over 6,000 votes and comments
from people all over the world,
plus the anointing of our first-
ever People's Choice Champion,

Virginia Villalta, from Venice
High School -- who was also
the judge's top scoring poet.
The winning Team was Larchmont
Charter High School.

In response to the deep current
of isolation, grief, and
boredom we noticed in our young
peoples' lives, we joined forces
with the Los Angeles Department
of Mental Health's We Rise
Campaign to host the Why I Rise
Poetry Contest. 250 Poets from
more than 50 countries around
the world submitted poems about
mental health with winners from
India, Trinidad + Tobago, Iowa,
and Los Angeles.

Then George Floyd was brutally
killed. This, in combination
with the devastatingly frequent
murders of Black people,
elevated the Black Lives Matter
revolution.

For years, Get Lit has been
on the frontlines, fighting
for equity and opportunities
in solidarity with the Black
youth in our communities. We
have offered a new vision of
safety and justice through
poetry, advocating for spaces
that uplift the power and
beauty of young Black people.
We celebrate Black poems, Black
stories and Black art, which
have shaped every facet of
American language and culture.

To emphasize our gratitude for
these contributions, all 150
poems in our curated Poetic
Anthology distributed to
schools this year will be from
Black poets and authors. This
anthology will be shared with
all of our Get Lit schools. Each
of the Poets competing in the
Classic Slam will compete with
a poem from this anthology,
amplifying and celebrating
Black artists, storytellers,
and voices.

Thank you for allowing us
the privilege of doing this
work. Next year is our 15th
anniversary. Our first studio

album 6 FEAT. is streaming on
all platforms, and our movie,
Summertime, which premiered
opening night at Sundance, will
be distributed throughout the
nation in the Spring of 2021.
We will continue to use our
platform to lift every voice,
celebrate love, and bring
education and opportunities to
all children in this country.
In the words of the Poet Sonia
Renee Taylor, "There is a
whisper we keep hearing; it
is saying we must build in us
what we want to see built in
the world." We are grateful and
ready for it all.



Diane Luby Lane

**Founder & Executive Director
Get Lit - Words Ignite**





WHY
WE
EXIST



We have an educational and *emotional* emergency among *youth in America.*

2/3 of children do not meet the standards for reading proficiency set by the National Assessment of Educational Progress

75% of both 12th and 8th graders lack proficiency in writing

Less than 50% of L.A. Unified's Class of 2019 are eligible for the state's public universities

2x the amount of suicides among teens 13-18 in the last 10 years

40,000 students in Los Angeles were not in daily contact with their Teachers during COVID-19

“The only thing that stayed consistent in my life was poetry and the Classic Slam. I feel blessed to have been able to be a part of this when everything else in my life stopped.”

Virginia Villalta

Student,
Venice High School



Get Lit *heals*. In a time of isolation, we bring young people together.



BECAUSE
WE ARE
CHANGING
things

My hood is filled
With children who need more guidance
Every boy trying to be a one man island
But stress just keeps on piling
background music becomes police sirens and
Bullets on the block flying
I could take you to where my
Dead homies are lying
Ask me if I'm sad
I'd be lying if
I didn't say I am
But The streets taught us not to cry here
Shedding tears meant showing fear
So when I was in highschool
My therapy was
bloodied knuckles and silence
I lived on autopilot
My mind full of emotion,
but with no place for it to go,
So I fought
I would raise fists against foes or friends
Arguments would never end
My thoughts
Were trapped in my head
Until the day I grabbed a pen
That was the end
Of my time spent hiding
I began finding myself
By writing
I realized what I should be fighting
I should be fighting against
the systems that keep us oppressed
Fighting till we find success
Till we don't need to fight anymore
Poetry told me I wasn't fighting alone
That I've been a loner Like Edgar Allen poe
Hughes taught me
dreams have been deferred before
Even dr Seuss knew the places I'd go
And oh Do I go places
Now I go state to state for things I wrote
Because in truth rests greatness
I went from Problem child
To working with the United Nations
Published in the library of Congress
Now I'm focused on education
I teach hundreds of students a week
And every day I'm reminded
How many kids don't speak
Because there is no support behind em
I say to them
You are worth more than diamonds
I say to them
You can be more than I am I say to them
The way we fight is by flying
I've seen students that have beaten addiction
While honing diction
I have students who have been published
Before the semesters finished
I see them begin to believe
They were born for winning
All I do is share classics
And words I've written
Let them speak
And just listen
These kids change the world
When they know
Their speech isn't forbidden

QUOTE



Through monumental learning curves, sacrificing sleep, and pure love, the Get Lit organization provided a way for teens and their teachers not only to continue the amazing Aprils of the slam, but to find new avenues for expression. Get Lit mentors worked with each student many, many times; teachers got chances to meet and learn about this new way (which has spilled over into our regular curriculums), and most of all – the poetry! The 2020 slam gave my students and me a way to have a routine, a way to stay sane, and most importantly, a way to express the strange, deep currents that run under our lives now. ”

Laurie Kurnick

Head of English
Cleveland High School



//GET LIT'S POETRY
& FILM CURRICULUM
ENGAGES YOUNG
PEOPLE BY PROVIDING
A CREATIVE OUTLET,
COMMUNITY, AND REAL-
LIFE WORK EXPERIENCE,
TRANSFORMING STUDENTS
INTO ARTISTS, ACTIVISTS,
SCHOLARS, AND STARS.



OUR HISTORY

Based in Los Angeles, Get Lit was founded in 2006 by Diane Luby Lane to increase literacy, empower youth, and inspire communities through poetry. The inspiration for Get Lit began with a solo show Diane toured in, with internationally celebrated poet and advocate Jimmy Santiago Baca. The venues ranged from high schools and universities to prisons. The response from both teachers and students for poetry in their classrooms was so enthusiastic that Diane went on to develop a curriculum through which she saw the most reluctant youth, many on the brink of dropping out, transform into poets, leaders and scholars.

To sustain this transformative work, Lane founded Get Lit - Words Ignite in 2006 as a project of Community Partners. In 2009, the organization incorporated as a 501(c)(3), and has experienced an increased demand for its services every year since.

The rest is history. Today, the curriculum has expanded from serving three schools to over 145 schools annually, representing an extremely broad range of school and community cultures throughout California and our global community. Our Get Lit Media content studio puts the power into the hands of our young filmmakers by giving them the tools needed to tell their stories, shift the narrative, and ultimately, the world.

Our Story
is Ours



WE LEARN FROM THE GREATS.

A GUIDE TO OUR PROGRAMS

Get Lit's model teaches "classic" poems and asks students to respond with original spoken word pieces to classics that resonate most.

IN-SCHOOL PROGRAM

This award-winning, common-core aligned 12-week curriculum focuses on building literacy and social-emotional skills.

WORDS IGNITE CURRICULUM

Words Ignite is a year or semester-long UC approved (a-g) curriculum taught in California middle and high schools. It is a deep-dive into project-based learning, problem-solving, and social-emotional skills to help students become exceptional readers, writers, and performers. Because of its track record of success in engaging students who are at risk of missing on-time graduation, the Los Angeles Unified School District approved our curriculum as a certified intervention course for 9th and 10th-grade students.

GET LIT RESIDENCY

Get Lit's dynamic and highly trained teaching artists lead classes in a 12-week residency to engage and ignite students.

CLASSIC SLAM

The culmination of our in-school program, where hundreds of youth from over 50 schools compete in front of an audience of thousands, in what has become the largest youth classic poetry slam in the world.

POETIC CONVERGENCE

A TED-style summit where teachers, students, and poetic luminaries converge to plot a future for arts education through workshops, seminars, and trainings.

SUMMER INTENSIVES

We host poetry and film intensive camps that include training from our professional in-house artists and guest speakers. Students also attend group outings to theaters and cultural events, with Intensives culminating in final performances and screenings of the work they've created.

POETIC PROGRAMMING

We host open mics as well as long-form theatrical productions, professional development trainings for teachers, and more.



A GUIDE TO OUR PROGRAMS CONT

DROP-IN CLASS

Our free writing & performance workshop for storytellers of all experience levels. This curriculum driven program is led by award winning coaches every Saturday throughout the school year at our headquarters in Koreatown and prepares our poets to become Get Lit Players.

GET LIT PLAYERS

Our professional performance troupe & the most watched poets on the internet. The Get Lit Players can be commissioned for anthems, manifestos, and original works of any kind. They have been featured at The White House, The Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, and more!

LITERATI FELLOWS

Graduated Get Lit Players who are in college or working in their chosen fields, serve as mentors for younger poets as well as performers. The group meets monthly for training in literacy, leadership, life skills, finance, & more, to ease the transition from high school into adulthood.

THE RESULT...IS ELECTRIC

100 percent of teachers see an increase in engagement and achievement in their students after participating in Get Lit.

95% Get Lit Players attend college

70% of them receive college scholarships

74% of our schools hold Title 1 status



OUR CONTENT STUDIO

GET LIT MEDIA

A professional creative collective, educational incubator, and production company with youth ages 16–25 that bends society with ideas and turns social media into social action. Working closely with inventive strategists, Get Lit Media delivers research insights, inspired concepts, and multimedia content to cutting-edge organizations.

PILOT

A Two-Year Independent Filmmaking Program for Youth, ages 13–20, teaches students how to write, produce, direct, and edit their own films and digital content. The students will also receive the opportunity to work with respected visiting filmmakers who share a gift for teaching the art of storytelling, screenwriting, and filmmaking.

POETIC SCREENWRITERS LAB

In partnership with The Writers Guild Foundation and Final Draft, this workshop series gives selected young screenwriters the opportunity to work intensively on their scripts with the support of established writers. Fellows engage in a rigorous process that offers lessons in craft to facilitate the exploration needed to fully realize their material.

GET LIT GLOBE

An interview series hosted by Mason Granger and the Get Lit Poets, where they speak with other regional, national, and international poets, writers, and authors covering diverse topics such as inspiration, the writing process, career strategies, and the things that connect all writers around the globe.

O!

An original series of life, love, and celebration. Shot on location by our youth poets. One camera. One take.

HELP VIDEOS

Our Help Video Series is hosted by spoken word poets Bridgette Yang and Mila Cuda, who share spoken word performance and writing tips in poetic verse – of course!

GET LIT MINUTE

Each week, host Nia Lewis introduces classic poets from our In-School Anthology, sharing brief bios on the poet and a spoken word reading of one of their poems.



SUMMERTIME

in theaters 2021

VARIETY

“.... this inspirational spoken-word ensemble project is a hallelujah to L.A.”

This year, twenty-seven Get Lit poets co-wrote and co-starred in the film **Summertime**, directed by Carlos López Estrada, which premiered opening night at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival. The film has been sold to Good Deed Entertainment and will be in theaters Spring 2021.

//ADAPTATION

In a time of COVID crisis, Get Lit's programs became more urgent than ever before.

The Classic Slam was the most watched online poetry event ever.

In six weeks, Get Lit transitioned this three-day live event to a virtual poetry slam. 240 students competed before an audience of **34,630** via livestream. Get Lit's scoring app, Scoremetrics, allowed audience members to vote from home and select a People's Choice Award Winner.

The event was covered by **KCRW's radio program, "Greater L.A."** and LAUSD's Teachers Gone Virtual podcast.



WHY I RISE

In collaboration with the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Get Lit launched Why I Rise, an online poetry contest to share stories, cultivate community, and destigmatize mental health.

- 105,000 views
- 253 videos submitted
- 33,000 votes cast

Participants came from across the United States as well as Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Canada, Pakistan, India, Philippines, the UK, Qatar, India, Botswana, Malaysia, Belgium, Trinidad and Tobago, Kuwait, and more.

"It was a privilege to share a virtual stage with poets from all over the world. I wanted only the opportunity to share my truth and to be heard by this panel of talented judges. Mental Health is why I started writing. Getting the news that I had won made my whole family dance. Days later I'm still breathless and smiling."

- Alexandra Stewart, *Why I Rise Finalist*, Trinidad + Tobago

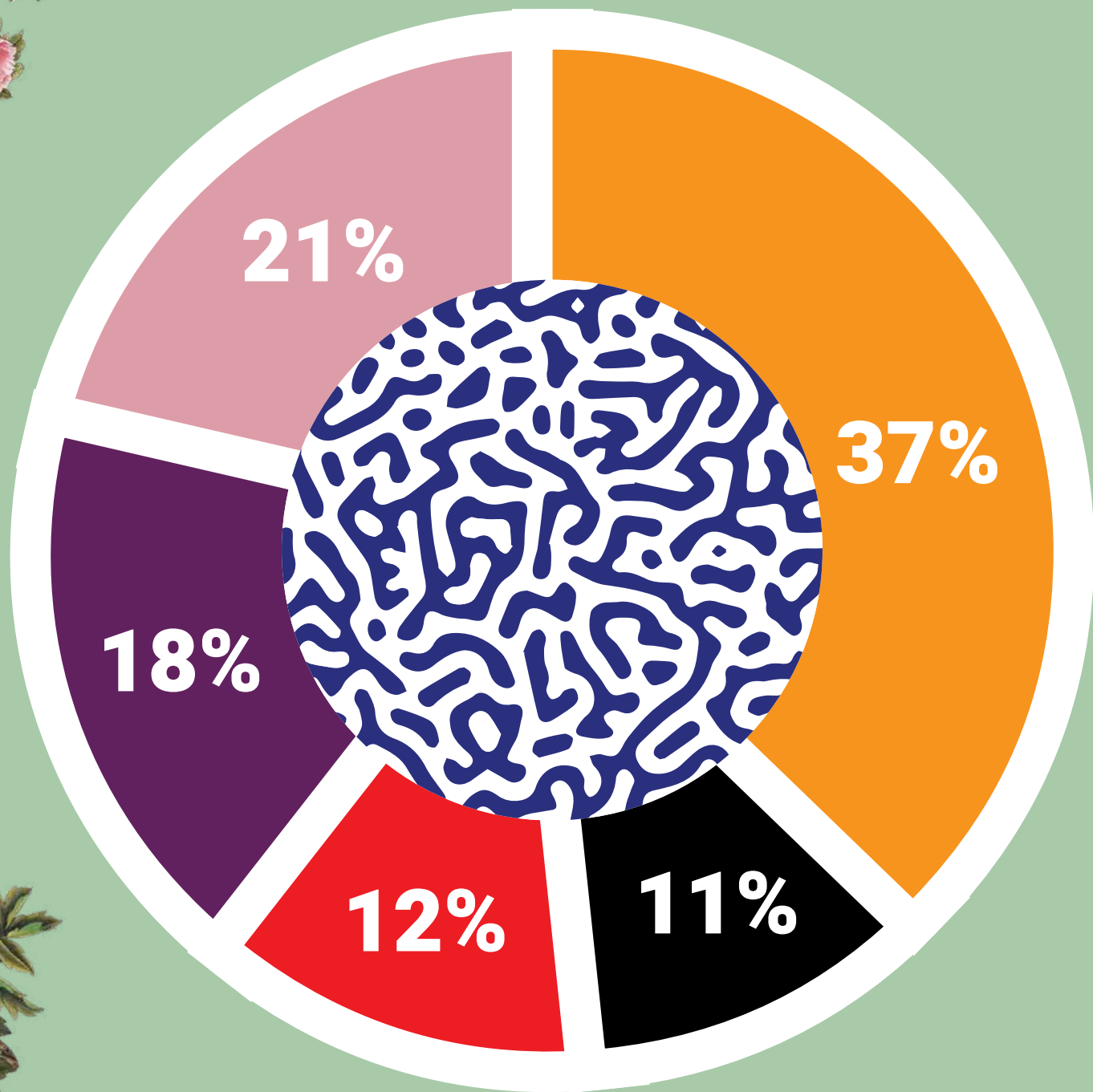
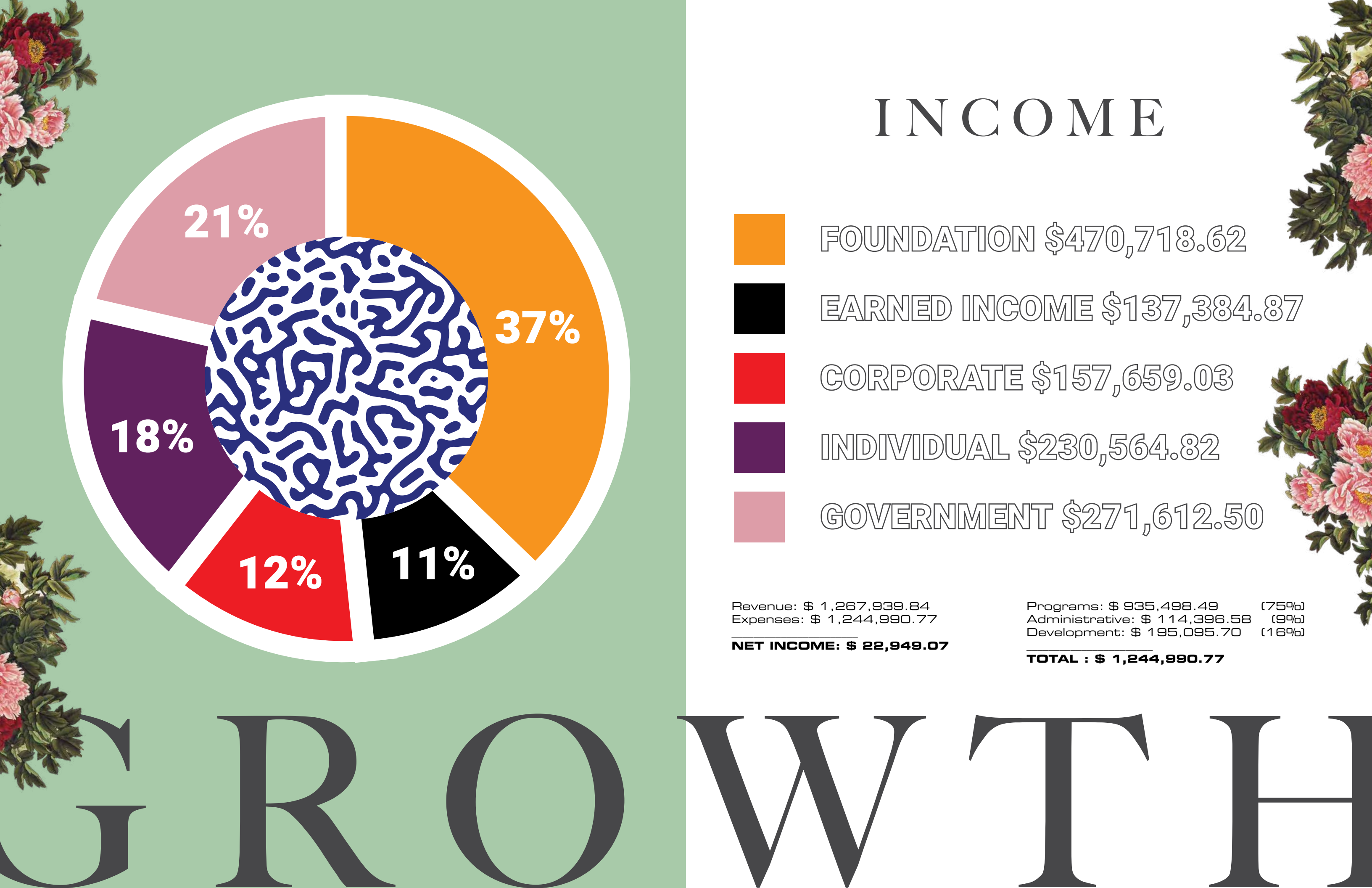
Get Lit awarded more than \$10,000 in cash prizes.

CORONAVIRUS DIARIES

In collaboration with The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Get Lit Media created this eight-part video series, which captured the emotions of young people throughout the pandemic and allowed them to stay inspired as artists and creators.

"Get Lit uses arts to help young people navigate these deeply challenging times. We are proud and honored to be their partner."

- Jonathan E. Sherin, M.D., Ph.D.,
Director, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health



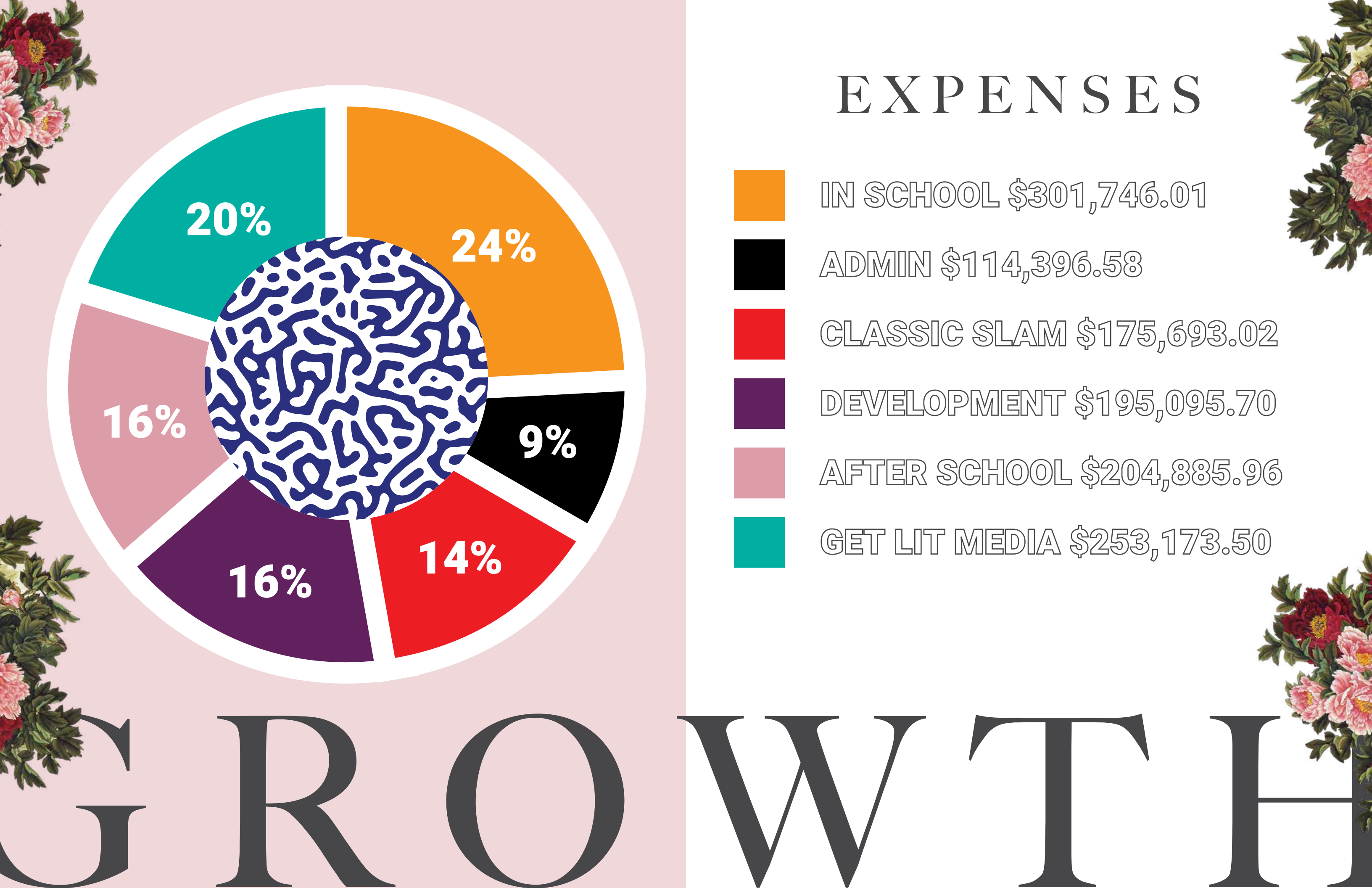
INCOME

- FOUNDATION \$470,718.62
- EARNED INCOME \$137,384.87
- CORPORATE \$157,659.03
- INDIVIDUAL \$230,564.82
- GOVERNMENT \$271,612.50

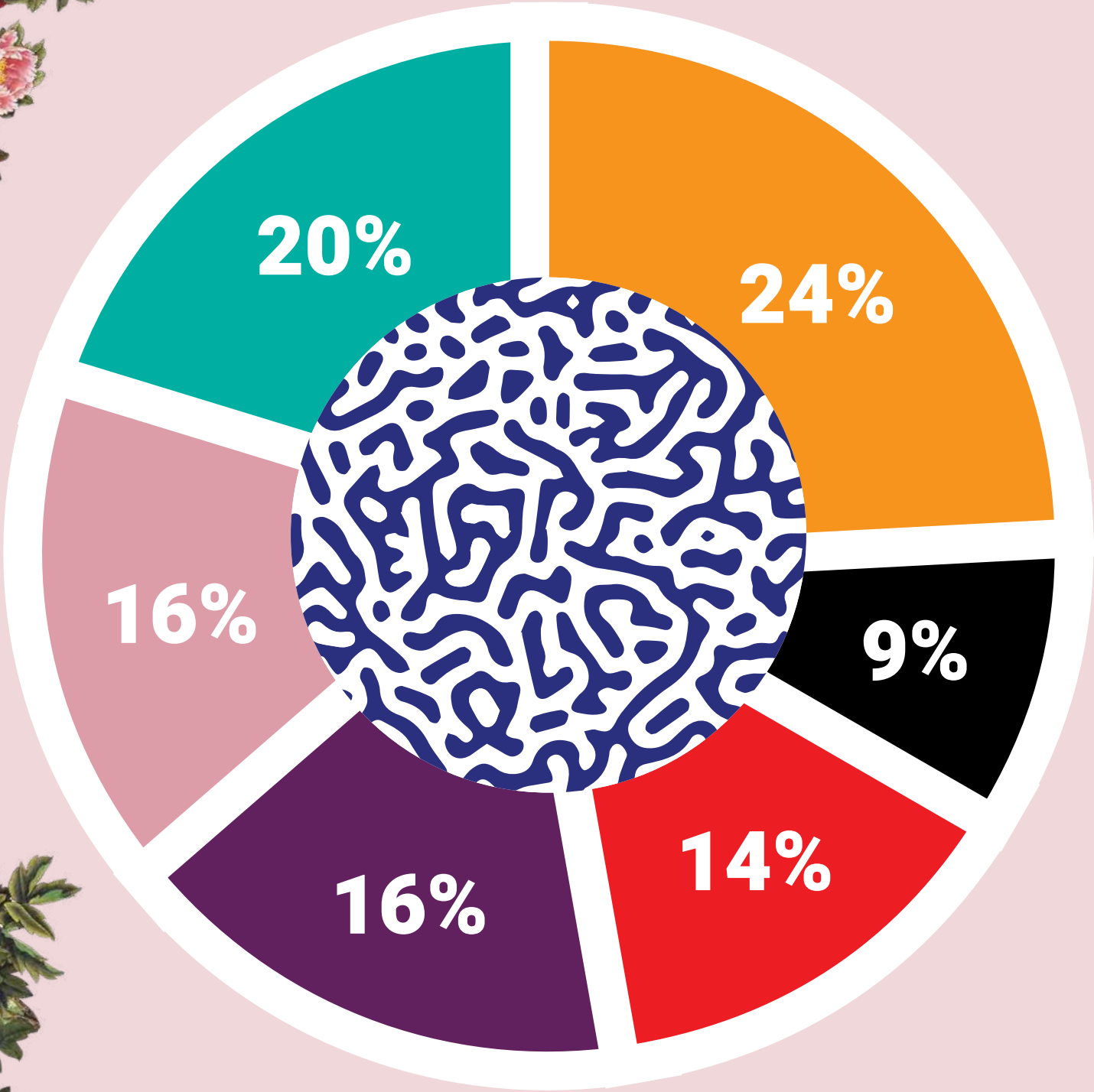
Revenue: \$ 1,267,939.84
Expenses: \$ 1,244,990.77
NET INCOME: \$ 22,949.07

Programs: \$ 935,498.49 (75%)
Administrative: \$ 114,396.58 (9%)
Development: \$ 195,095.70 (16%)
TOTAL : \$ 1,244,990.77

GROW WITH



EXPENSES



- IN SCHOOL \$301,746.01
- ADMIN \$114,396.58
- CLASSIC SLAM \$175,693.02
- DEVELOPMENT \$195,095.70
- AFTER SCHOOL \$204,885.96
- GET LIT MEDIA \$253,173.50

G R O W T H

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MARCH FOR OUR LIVES

POETS AND PROPHETS

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TURNAROUND ARTS

A PLACE CALLED HOME

HEART OF LOS ANGELES

KENSIMUM

TOMMY GOMEZ DESIGN





OUR SUPPORTERS

"Our job, as humans, is to create our own souls. And I think one of the ways we do that is by finding the songs and poems that sustain us and explain us and make us brave enough to live in this world."

- Gregory Orr

SUPERNOVA (\$100,00+)

Cal Mental Health Services Authority
Anonymous

LIGHTNING (\$50,000+)

California State Library
Ralph M. Parsons Foundation

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The California Endowment

ENERGY (\$25,000+)

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LA County Dept of Mental Health
LA County Dept of Arts & Culture

HEAT (\$10,000+)

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LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, 2nd District

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THANK YOU. THANK YOU.
THANK YOU. THANK YOU.



THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU

