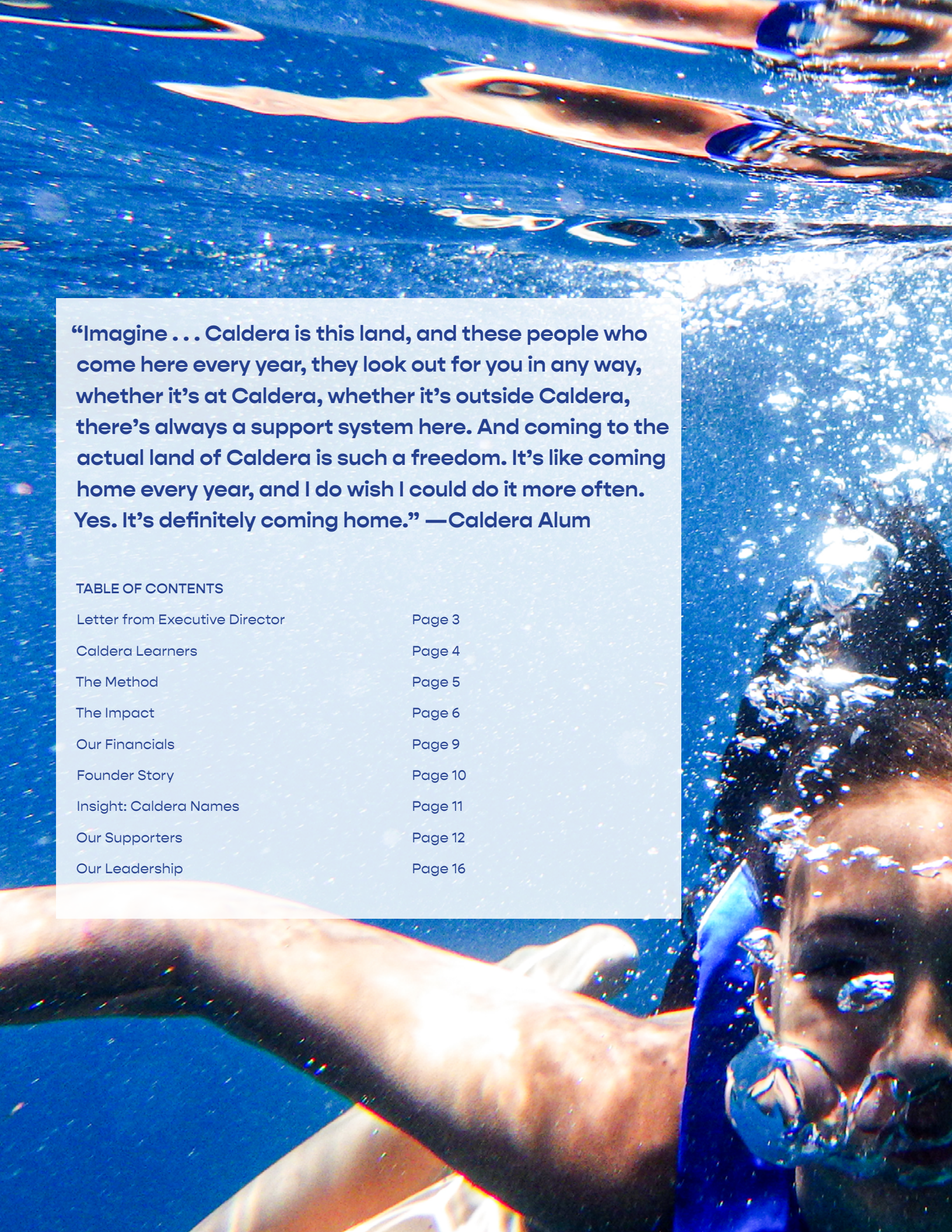




CALDERA

**IMPACT REPORT  
FISCAL YEAR 2023**

Creativity, Nature, and Community



“Imagine . . . Caldera is this land, and these people who come here every year, they look out for you in any way, whether it’s at Caldera, whether it’s outside Caldera, there’s always a support system here. And coming to the actual land of Caldera is such a freedom. It’s like coming home every year, and I do wish I could do it more often. Yes. It’s definitely coming home.” —Caldera Alum

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# CALDERA

## **OUR MISSION:**

Caldera's mission is to inspire and support youth from underserved rural and urban communities by awakening the potential of their creative voice.

## **OUR VISION:**

We believe that when youth are given access to the explosive power of creativity, they can change their world, and even the world at large.

Friends,

This year's theme was Explore, precisely what the board and staff did in late June 2023. We explored our vision for Caldera's future—Caldera NextGen. Together, we designed a three-year strategic road map that became our guide to a 30th anniversary celebration in October 2026.

At this important phase of our organizational life cycle, Caldera's first learners are now adults, some of whose own children are now Caldera learners, and the creative ecosystem has expanded to include a vast network of creatives of all ages. It's crucial to consider our years of impact, including how our work has affected a community of learners, the story we want to tell, and what is essential to learn going forward.

On a warm summer day, walking along the gravel road nestled in the Deschutes National Forest, you can't help but savor the beauty of the crystal clear, cold Blue Lake. While enjoying the scenery, you can hear African drumming from the Ice Rink. The scuff marks on the wooden floor in the Hearth Building tell the story of 27 years of summer Community Circles, dancing and drumming, winter ceremonial gatherings, and spring private retreats.

### **But Caldera is more than a summer arts camp.**

For learners of all ages, Caldera is a place to (re)claim your innate creative voice or to catalyze a new idea, project, and/or piece. Caldera is an intentional immersion—in nature, in community, in a safe place to try something new, fail, and try again—to unlock unlimited possibilities.

Over the next three years, Caldera will strengthen, promote, and launch the generation of the thriving ecosystem of mentors, volunteers, professional artists, creative thinkers, makers, and doers who inspire and support Caldera learners through direct service, mentorship, and indirect influence. We believe every young person deserves the opportunity to become a whole-brain thinker. By joining Caldera's giving community, you support creative thinking as a powerful tool that makes the impossible possible.

Continue reading to learn about Caldera's impact between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. We hope you enjoy this small taste of Caldera.

Warmest regards,

Kimberly Howard Wade  
Executive Director  
*Queen Bee*

# CALDERA LEARNERS

We work with schools to engage and mentor underserved youth experiencing systemic opportunity gaps. We typically partner with school counselors to identify youth who would benefit from increased creative learning opportunities in a mentor-led, supportive peer community.



Caldera summer learning

## WHO WE SERVE

# 70%

of the students we serve are eligible for free and reduced lunch.

# 70%

of the youth we serve are from underserved populations, including students from low-income families, rural communities, students of color, and youth in the foster-care system.

# 60%

of learners are from Central Oregon.

# 40%

from the Portland region, on average.

# THE METHOD

**Caldera's youth program** offers a no-cost, year-round positive youth development approach, environmental learning, and a connected arts-learning framework to build meaningful, supportive relationships. Learners experience growth in personal identity and social-emotional development; increased resilience; critical thinking; and whole-brain thinking skills.

**Invite a group of learners** starting in middle school, who have been and currently are excluded and/or under-resourced—to be away from home, in a natural space, for 8 to 10 days.

**Connect learners from different parts of the state**, with different backgrounds. Add caring adults; add a natural environment; Add intentional exploration of identities and place in the community.

**Add regular creative practice**—African drumming, photography, visual art, written and spoken word, and filmmaking. Add eight days of eating and sleeping outdoors, a challenge course, and a 40-foot dream tree-climbing experience.

**Meet learners in their world, year-round.** Follow them through high-school graduation; provide them with a project-based learning project every year; include tangible deliverables that provide creative solutions for a community-based organizations.

**Bring them back to the outdoors each summer**, for a total of seven years, to rinse and repeat. Each summer deepens the experience until it becomes practice that can be called upon in any situation.

**Launch them into young adulthood with internship, incubator, and accelerator opportunities**, and a Community Advisory Board—made up of Caldera alumni and peers from business and industry. (Launching in 2025)

# THE IMPACT

What do we know from 27 years of service?

**15,000+** learners

**6,000+** service hours

**\$120,000** in scholarships issued

Caldera art intensive



## Caldera builds confidence, a key to future readiness

*“I have experienced my confidence increase in and out of school due to Caldera’s supportive culture. With confidence, I know that I can reach my goal and overcome barriers that would otherwise hold me back.”*

—Research shows that youth with high levels of social-emotional skills such as perseverance and self-esteem can have improved health-related outcomes and well-being, as well as reduced antisocial behaviors (OECD 2015).

## Caldera supports both skill and identity development

*“By the time I graduated from the program, I knew who I wanted to be and how I wanted to impact the world around me. I developed leadership, interpersonal, conflict resolution, and film-editing skills over the years.”*

—Research shows that when youth have positive adult relationships, they are more likely to perform better in school and go to college, the latter of which is even more pronounced among lower-income learners (Barshay, 2023).

## Caldera promotes intercultural learning—over the last three years, 74% of learners reported that Caldera challenged them to understand others’ experiences.

—The two most desired intercultural skills reported by businesses in a 2013 study by Ipsos were the ability to understand different viewpoints and respect for others, regardless of background (British Council, 2013).

# THE IMPACT

Caldera is a supportive community that promotes positive risk-taking, resilience, and future readiness.

This year that was:

**323** unique Caldera 6th-12th grade learners.

**987** hours of well-rounded (arts and environmental) education.

That's place-based bridge-building between urban Portland Metro and rural Warm Springs, Madras, Sisters, Redmond, and the growing urban city of Bend.

That's a truly intercultural community of learners—**47% BIPOC, 81% navigating poverty, 40% urban, 60% rural.**

That's a thriving ecosystem of mentors, volunteers, professional artists, creative thinkers, makers, and doers who inspire and support Caldera learners through direct service, mentorship and indirect influence.

This year that was:

**4** middle school and high school mentors

**7** teaching artists

**20** Artists in Residence



Caldera in-school programs

# THE IMPACT: STORIES



**These days, Tristan Irving (TK)** is known for his vibrant illustrative art style, displayed across Portland business fronts, galleries, merchandise, and museums and coveted by art collectors. TK's art evokes and expands customary views of creativity from coast to coast.

But when TK is among friends here at Caldera, he is better known by his Caldera name: Rick James. Tristan was a Caldera learner from ages 12 to 18, one of the earliest generations of Caldera alums.

Though only some Caldera learners go on to become renowned artists, Tristan took the invitation to explore creativity and develop his creative voice very seriously.

“Caldera is one of the only places on earth in which a kid can go to sleep, get three meals a day, rename themselves, paint, photograph, do African drumming, and be uplifted and surrounded by adults who are compassionate, kind, and understanding, all at no cost.”

Tristan believes that Caldera is important because it provides a safe space to explore a different environment.

“These kids who may never have the chance to be in nature get out of the concrete jungle and are able to swim in the lake, play on a ropes course, and not be afraid to fail.”

According to Tristan, Caldera is more than just a place. It becomes a kind of family—providing a social framework long after high school. Tristan shared that his previous junior advocate reached out to him (someone he hadn't heard from in years) to say how excited and proud they were to see one of Tristan's paintings in a public gallery. “Caldera is a family, always there to support one another. No matter where you come from or your background, you show up to camp where you are immediately surrounded by people who already love you and want you to succeed and are there to help young learners find themselves in whatever that entails.”

*artbytk.com*



**When Michael Navarro**, Student Success Specialist at St. Mary's Academy, talks about Caldera, his face lights up with an infectious grin. Since joining Caldera's board of trustees in 2020, Michael has developed a deep appreciation for Caldera's broad impact on the lives of young learners.

“Caldera gives every young learner the support and opportunity to be their authentic self. That's something that I really appreciate, from personal and professional experience.”

Michael has been involved in education in Oregon since 1995. His experiences range from coordinating Step Up at Roosevelt HS, a tutoring and advocacy program, dean of students at Open Meadow Alternative School, teaching at the high-school and middle-school level, and serving as principal at Open School North. He is also the parent of a Caldera learner, which informs his understanding from an even more personal level.

“To me, Caldera is something magical. I've seen my students, and even my own child, find confidence and learn to be their authentic selves through art programming and working with Caldera's mentors. The confidence these young learners get when working with Caldera's mentors impacts all aspects of their lives, including art, school, and within their communities.”

Michael believes that Caldera brings out the artist within every young learner, a testament to the mentors' connection with middle- and high-school-aged learners.

“Caldera mentors and teaching artists have a gift: They can build confidence with a young learner who may not be succeeding in public school, connect with them and help them give stability, or even be an avenue for them to express themselves. And it's such a great opportunity for learners to be exposed to amazing artists who are at the top of their game and who regularly return to Caldera to help support and teach these kids.”

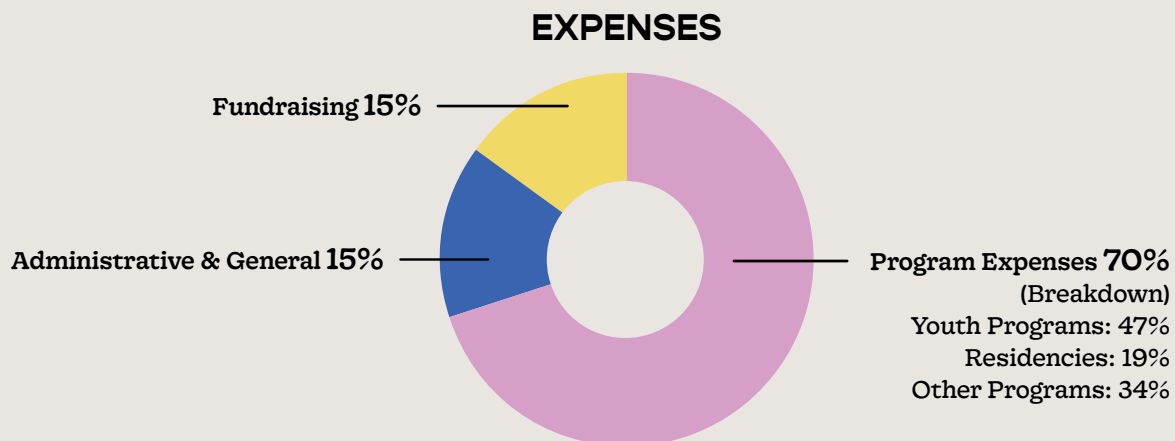
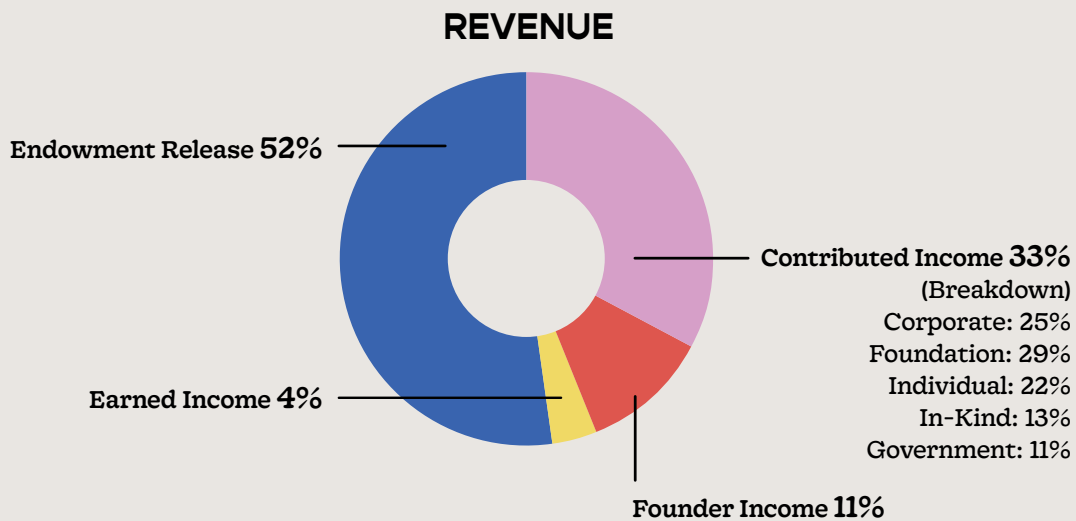


# OUR FINANCIALS

July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023

Caldera's financial statements have been audited by independent certified public accountants and are available on GuideStar.com.

Your gift of support to Caldera is an investment in the future of learners and artists from throughout Oregon. We take your generosity seriously and work to ensure our financial integrity as an organization. Take a look at the ways your contribution becomes part of our operating budget.



**Note:** Caldera's Arts Center (land and facilities) are operated under a previously established endowment, which was created by our founders to ensure that no significant costs associated with the stewardship of the land should detract from funds contributed for purposes of program delivery.

# FOUNDER STORY

## Dan Wieden, March 6, 1945–September 30, 2022

Dan was a visionary, a community-builder, and a man who understood the value of creating shared space. His vitality and creativity impacted every member at Caldera and in ways that will continue to unfold for generations.

A caldera is the impression left where a volcanic eruption has occurred. Dan was truly an eruption of creative chaos and wonder.

Dan believed when youth are given access to the explosive power of creativity, they can change their world, and even the world at large.

Thank you, Dan, for the eruption of artistic chaos and wonder that you sparked into reality.



Rudy Adler  
Nadia Ahmad  
Joe Alexander  
Daniela Asaro  
Aggie Asch  
Jon Barco  
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Ali Berk  
Allison Bick  
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Catherine Wolpe

# INSIGHT: CALDERA NAMES

At Caldera, we all go by another name. Many longtime friends in our community will only refer to each other by these special names we use when we are together. This is the name that everyone calls you at Caldera.

All of our learners, every artist in residence, and each member of our board and staff have the opportunity to choose a name for themselves. This means that as a member of this Caldera community, we are all encouraged to be the person or idea that we may not always feel able to be in our day-to-day lives.

When we encourage learners to think aspirationally about how they want the world to see them, their Caldera name emerges. At Caldera we have the opportunity to be our best selves, and our Caldera name should reflect that.



# JARED PASTEGA MEMORIAL FUND

Caldera gratefully acknowledges gifts to the  
Jared Pastega Memorial Fund.

Thank you to the family and friends of Jared Pastega,  
who shared his unique sense of joy and wonder with the  
Caldera community. Your ongoing support provides vital  
resources for the learners and artists that we serve.



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Mario & Alma Pastega Family Foundation  
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# OUR LEADERSHIP

Caldera celebrates the identities of all involved in Caldera, past and present. Caldera is an inclusive creative community that welcomes marginalized voices and historically excluded people and groups. We are an organization that strives to respect the race, ethnicity, ancestry, color, size, disability, national origin, age, sexual orientation, sex, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, criminal background, religious background, marital status, military status, strengths, and differences of all people.

## Our board of directors: fiscal year 2023

**Bill Davenport, Board Chair** · Retired, Senior Director of Global Integrated Production at Marcom in Apple

**Priscilla Bernard Wieden, Board Co-Chair** · Arts, Education, and Environmental Advocate

**Dave Luhr, Treasurer** · Retired President, Wieden+Kennedy

**Mary Normand, Secretary** · Executive Assistant, Wieden+Kennedy

**Joy Fowler, Immediate Past Board Chair** · Chief Diversity and Equity Office Multnomah County

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**Jason White** · President, Wieden+Kennedy

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**Myrlie Evers-Williams, Emeritus Board Member Founder** · Medgar & Myrlie Evers Institute

**Dan Wieden, Founding Director, 1945-2022** · Chairman, Global Mgmt. Team, Wieden+Kennedy

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224 NW 13th Avenue, Suite 304, Portland, OR 97209

Arts Center:

31500 Blue Lake Drive, Sisters, OR 97759

EIN: 94-3235649

Caldera.org

Caldera@CalderaArts.org





CALDERA