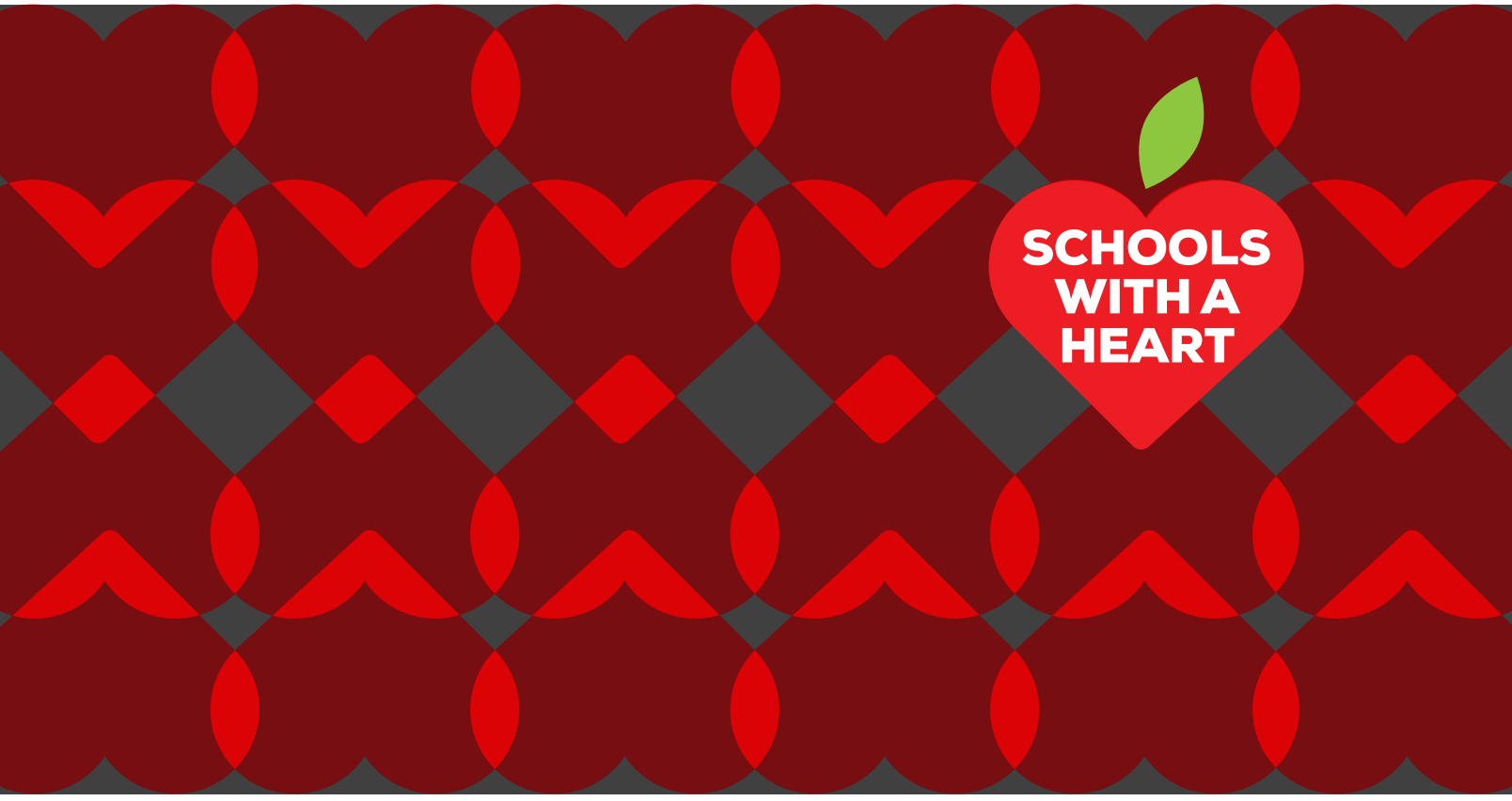
sbef our schools. our community.
san bruno education foundation

# 2021–2022
# annual report



# What We Do

## About the San Bruno Education Foundation

We believe our public schools should be filled with a balance of core academics and enrichment opportunities that fuel our children's desire to learn.

**WHO WE SERVE:** The San Bruno Education Foundation is dedicated to providing enrichment programs for every child in the San Bruno Park School District.

SBEF also funds professional development opportunities for our teachers and educators, as well as organizes Community Pride Projects to beautify our schools. A well-rounded education that meets the needs of our modern world consists of all of these things. The current public education system does not provide funding for the enrichment opportunities needed to inspire our children. It is on us – the parents and the community – to make it happen. Learn more at **sbefkids.org**.

# Dear Friends and Supporters,

As the year draws to a close, the San Bruno Education Foundation is reflecting not just on the continuing challenges presented by the COVID pandemic, but also on how those challenges have, in part, created new opportunities for growth. Early indications suggest that our students may have suffered significant impact from COVID restrictions: in their academic learning, as well as their social and emotional development. SBEF's mission to bring community support to our students, families, and educators is more important now than it has ever been.

Yet despite these headwinds, we draw inspiration from the continued adaptation, innovation, and hard work taking place in our schools and across our community to rise and meet these challenges head on. Some of the new educational tools adopted during remote learning may continue to be a part of teaching strategies moving forward and can strengthen our learning systems.

We are also encouraged by the continued return to in-person learning and activities. We'd like to note in particular the return of key academic enrichment programs that SBEF supports, including music instruction back in the classroom. We are especially excited about the new Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs SBEF launched this year, including a mentoring program to prepare students for the county STEM Fair and an afterschool robotics program. We've also provided over $50,000 in special funding for professional development opportunities for our educators to help make sure they have the tools they need.

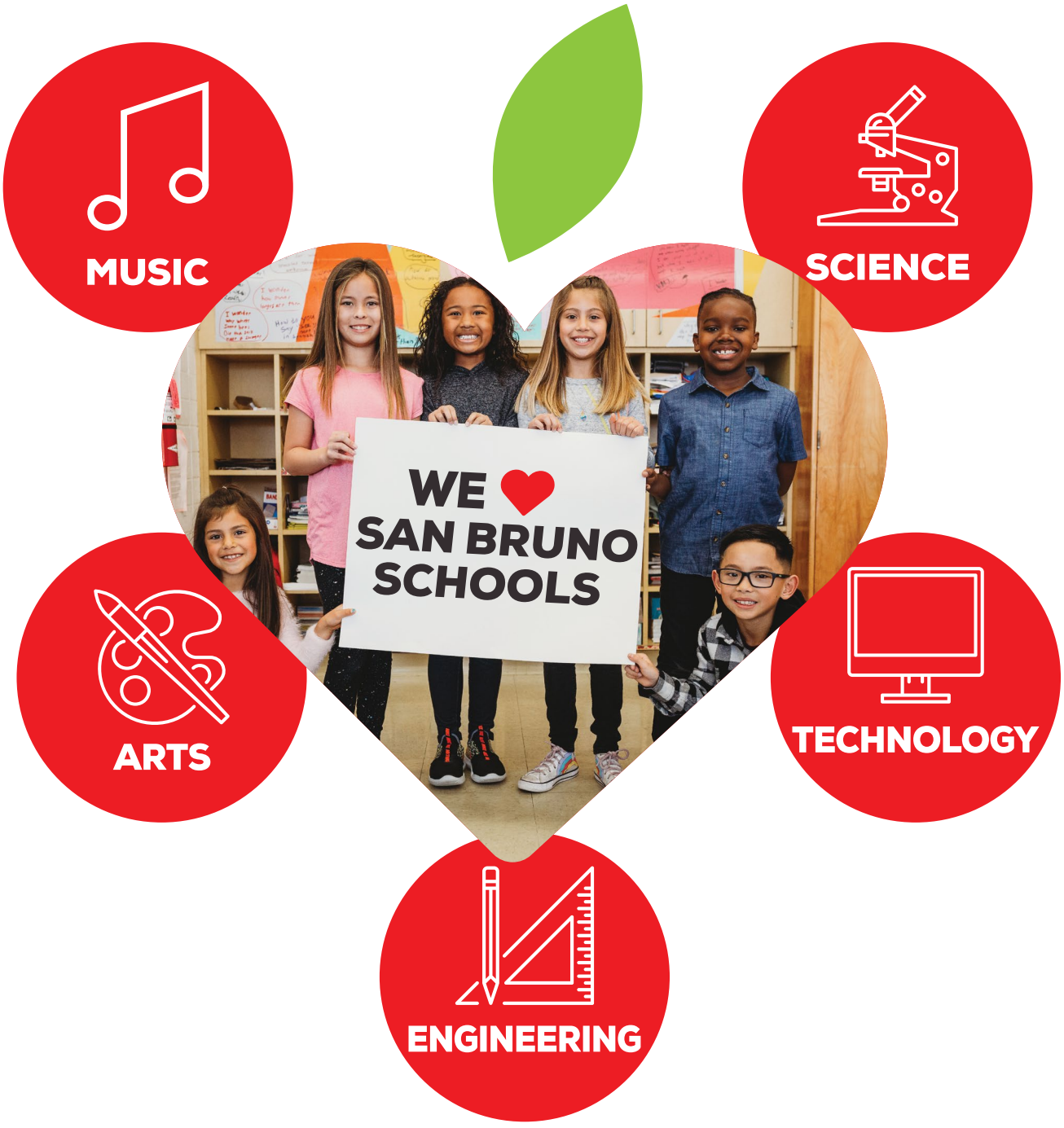
Lastly, we're thrilled with the level of energy and engagement within our community. We had over 100 volunteers participate in our Community Pride Projects to help beautify our school campuses. Our launch of the Schools with a Heart Community to unite our school supporters has been highly successful and laid a strong foundation on which to build for the future. The rollout of this campaign culminated with our first Schools with a Heart Gala held in the gorgeous Farallon Room at Skyline College. It was a fantastic evening with much to celebrate. We feel we have strong momentum and are excited for what's to come next year!

Sincerely,

Bryan Vander Lugt

Bryan Vander Lugt, President

# Our Programs



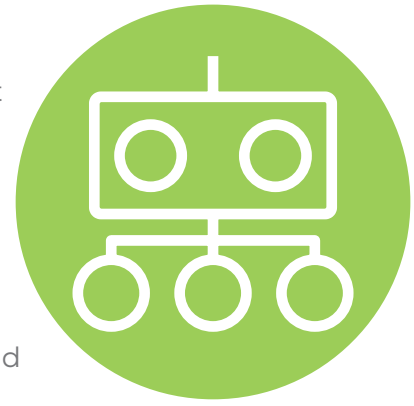
# Science, Technology Engineering, & Math

**Nestled within a thriving hub of technological innovation, our parents, teachers, businesses, and community recognizes the paramount importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education.**

The San Bruno Park School District wholeheartedly prioritizes STEM initiatives, which have also become a central focus of the SBEF's funding endeavors. The goal is to cultivate students' knowledge, skills, and love of learning, to prepare students for success in the rapidly evolving fields of STEM.

**Together, we can equip San Bruno Park School District students with the necessary skills to thrive in advanced education and hopefully one day contribute to scientific achievements and help solve global challenges.**

## Lego Robotics Clubs at Elementary Schools



In spring 2022, SBEF launched afterschool Lego Robotics Clubs at our elementary schools, and we are happy to report the program has been a great success!

John Muir Elementary first started a Lego Robotics Club for its 5th graders in Fall 2021, and SBEF was able to replicate the program at our other four elementary schools with the help of our wonderful school principals and numerous community volunteers. Sixty-one students at Allen, Belle Air, Rollingwood, and Portola participated in the program this spring.

The Lego Robotics program followed the First Lego League curriculum, which is geared towards empowering 4th-8th graders through meaningful, collaborative experiences. Students worked in teams to design, build, and program their robots to complete missions; along the way, they applied the values of discovery, innovation, impact, teamwork, inclusion, and, of course, fun! SBEF could not have carried out this initiative without the resources and support from our generous partners including:

- Michelle Grau, engineering and robotics coach at Hillsborough's Nueva School. Michelle supervised the Lego Robotics Club at John Muir on her own time and also trained the volunteer supervisors for the clubs at our other schools.

- The principals at our elementary schools who worked with us to establish the clubs at their schools. We especially want to thank John Muir Principal Michelle Graham for offering support as we replicated John Muir's program at the other schools.

- The community volunteers who took time out of their busy schedules to serve as supervisors and instructors for the Lego Robotics Clubs two hours each week this spring. The volunteers were Caroline Cannizzaro and Heather Latta (Allen), Marty Medina (Belle Air), Bryan Vander Lugt (Rollingwood), and Kingsley Ma (Portola).

Based on the success of the Lego Robotics Clubs this spring, SBEF is looking forward to continuing the program at all elementary schools in the 2022-23 school year.

## County Science Fair

Congratulations to San Bruno Park student Yuisho Kawane for winning first place in his division at the San Mateo County Office of Education's STEM Fair in March 2022!

SBEF supported San Bruno Park students to experience Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) by helping them participate in the County STEM Fair. To help prepare them for the fair, SBEF recruited local STEM professionals to mentor our students while they independently completed their STEM projects. We'd like to thank these volunteer community members who helped our students understand and apply the scientific method and engineering principles, as well as how to communicate their work to others.

Yuisho, a 6th grader at Parkside Intermediate, placed first in the Engineering division among other 6th graders across the county for his experiment, "Filtering Water for Cheap." In his experiment, Yuisho tested different methods for filtering dirty water to find a cost-effective solution to provide clean drinking water to populations who can't afford it.

Yuisho's project will go on to represent the District and compete at state and national competitions.

## Science Supplies

With the School District transitioning to a new elementary science curriculum, Carolina, this school year, teachers approached SBEF about the need for additional science supplies for this new program. The Carolina curriculum came with many of the supplies needed for its hands-on experiments, but other supplies were to be provided by the schools that may not have had the budget for such supplies. SBEF jumped into action to provide all the supplementary supplies.

To act quickly mid-school year, SBEF ordered these supplies directly and organized an event where volunteers sorted the supplies for each elementary classroom – so our busy teachers would not have to do so. It was a logistical challenge, with different experiments for each grade level, over 70 types of supplies needed for different experiments, and different numbers of students in each class. But, we were able to successfully sort the science supplies with the wonderful energy of SBEF board members and many volunteers, as well as the productive collaboration we received from the schools' principals and teachers.

In the end, we were able to deliver to each teacher the supplies they needed, so that students would be able to perform engaging science experiments like building bird nests and making volcanoes.

The elementary schools were not the only ones to receive science supplies from SBEF. With the generous support of YouTube, we were also able to purchase new tables, specially designed to withstand and support experiments with chemicals, for Parkside's science classrooms, as well as other supplies to further support lots of hands-on experimentation for Parkside students.

# Schools With a Heart

## SBEF is only as strong as our support from the community.

With that sentiment in mind, this year we introduced our "Schools With A Heart" Community, a growing alliance of school families, teachers, school staff, community members, and business leaders who are joining together to lift up our schools.

The program's name comes from San Bruno's nickname as the "City with a Heart" – not just for its heart-shaped neighborhood named "Cupid's Row," but also for its close-knit community where neighbors help each other out. SBEF also sees that strong spirit of unity at our schools, from our dedicated teachers and staff and our hard-working parent volunteers.

Community members were encouraged to join our new "Schools With A Heart" Community in two ways:

**SBEF Advocate: SBEF Advocates pledge to donate $10/month or $100/year.**

**SBEF Champion: SBEF Champions pledge to donate $50/month or $500/year.**

**The Sammut Family Foundation and the Welsh Family Foundation each pledged to match all donations, allowing individual community members' donations to be matched TWICE.**

Like all donations to SBEF, these contributions will sustain high-quality academic enrichment programs, such as music and STEM, at our San Bruno schools, and allow us to build the funding base to develop new programs for our students.

SBEF Advocates and Champions receive such benefits as car decals and recognition in SBEF's newsletters.

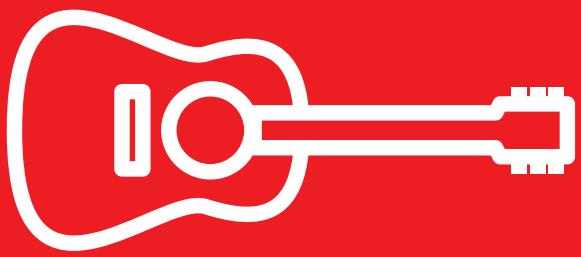
SBEF was excited to welcome 50 new donors as Advocates or Champions into our "Schools With A Heart" Community through this campaign.

Thank you to all our SBEF Advocates and Champions, and we are excited to grow our "Schools With A Heart" Community each year! **Click here** to join our Schools With A Heart Community.

# Music

## Numerous studies have demonstrated the profound positive effects of music education on both academic performance and social-emotional development.

Regardless of learning or language challenges, music education is an inclusive avenue in which all children can participate. Recognizing its transformative potential, we have made substantial investments in our Music Education Strategic Initiative. Our primary objective is to ensure equitable access to a comprehensive range of high-quality music opportunities for students in elementary, middle, and high school.



**Together, let's aim to nurture and empower every child through the power of music.**

During this school year, we focused on bringing back our award-winning music education program to San Bruno schools, as the COVID-19 pandemic receded and in-person instruction returned.

As in pre-pandemic years, SBEF funded the District's contract with nonprofit Music for Minors to provide music education at our elementary schools. Although our initial goal was that every elementary school classroom receive weekly music classes, we found that Music for Minors had difficulty obtaining sufficient staff during the pandemic recovery to cover the whole district all year. As a result, we worked with the District to prioritize music teachers for upper-grade classrooms and to staff music teachers at the lower grades as they were available.

At Parkside Intermediate, we were able to support a fuller program offering. The District was fortunate to hire a music instructor to reinvigorate our band and orchestra programs, which allowed band to be offered as an elective for all our middle school students. The students who participated were able to get back on track with learning and growing their musicianship. Their efforts culminated in bringing back a very well-attended spring music concert performance.

We also worked with the District to plan expansions to the music program for the next school year. In the 2022-23 school year, SBEF plans to provide funding for a full-time elementary school music teacher. We also worked with the San Bruno Community Foundation to secure grant funding for a second Parkside music teacher, so that additional Parkside students can participate in band and orchestra.

# Community

## It takes time to create great things. Optimal learning environments start the moment students step on campus.

This year, our community came together, pooling our knowledge, resources, and a lot of elbow grease to enhance and beautify buildings, landscaping, and playgrounds – giving us all learning environments we could be proud of.

**Together, we can participate in the beautification of our schools, and we hope you consider volunteering for our upcoming projects.**

## Community Pride Projects

Improving our schools' appearance and bringing school communities back together after distance learning – those were two key outcomes from SBEF's Community Pride Project Days at our schools in spring 2021.

SBEF organized Community Pride Project Days at five of our schools (Belle Air, John Muir, Rollingwood, Portola, and Parkside) in April and May, with a generous $15,000 grant from the San Bruno Community Foundation.

SBEF recruited over 100 volunteers to carry out the school improvement projects, including parents, kids, PTA/PTO leaders, and community members. These volunteers rolled up their sleeves and pitched in to beautify their schools: They refreshed the paint on pillars and borders, painted new lines on playgrounds, cleaned windows, weeded, and planted new landscaping.

Parkside Intermediate's Project Day focused on improving its courtyard before its 8th grade promotion ceremony. Volunteers laid out five cubic yards of wood chips, planted many new plants, and painted the courtyard entryway and landscaping structures.

Not only did the Project Days enhance schools' aesthetics, but they also brought people together. Of the school families who helped out, many had students in grades K-2, and this was one of their first opportunities to connect with their school community post-distance-learning.

Many volunteers pledged to get more involved with San Bruno schools, volunteering in the classroom, joining the PTA, and supporting SBEF.

With Allen School about to be demolished before being rebuilt, we partnered with Allen PTA to organize a special farewell to the old school building. The students had a blast painting handprints on the building and other special messages. Furthering the wonderful expression of community, Allen alumni and community members also attended to say goodbye to the school and help paint the students' hands.

These Community Pride Project Days truly increased community pride and involvement at each school, and SBEF hopes to build on this year's successful initiative and continue the Project Days in future school years.

## Spring Gala

Over 120 San Bruno parents, teachers, civic leaders, and community members gathered on Saturday May 14, at Skyline College's Farallon Room for SBEF's first-ever "Schools With A Heart" Gala!

Just like our Community Pride Project Days at the schools, SBEF wanted to bring the San Bruno community back together as we were emerging from the pandemic, to celebrate our schools and shower them with love.

Party-goers enjoyed the beautiful views of the ocean and hills from the Farallon Room, cocktails and food, mingling with their San Bruno community members, and dancing to the music of Pop Fiction, the Bay Area's premiere party band.

SBEF President Bryan Vander Lugt made a presentation about SBEF, our programs, and our new "Schools With A Heart Community." He also introduced and thanked Cody Sammut from the Sammut Family Foundation, a long-time supporter of SBEF and San Bruno schools. SBEF is extremely grateful to both the Sammut Foundation and the Welsh Family Foundation for their pledges to match all donations SBEF received in the spring.

With donations from our Spring Gala, our "Schools With A Heart" Community Advocates and Champions, and matching funds, SBEF was able to raise $150,000 in pledges and current-year donations to support academic enrichment programs in San Bruno schools.

It was an unforgettable evening, and we hope to celebrate our schools again with our community in future years!

# Our Partners

**"It takes a village" is a proverb that highlights the collective responsibility and collaborative effort required to raise and educate a child.**

In education, it emphasizes the idea that a child's development and education are not solely the responsibility of parents or teachers, but rather a shared endeavor involving individuals, businesses, institutions, and the broader community. We want to thank parents, family members, teachers, school staff, mentors, community leaders, and volunteers for their combined support in improving our schools.

**As a community, let's work together to create the educational experience and schools we envision for our kids.**

## Our Partners

SBEF sincerely appreciates our many supporters that enable us to provide high-quality academic enrichment programs to students at San Bruno public schools. But we would like to call attention to several organizations that have been contributing at an extraordinary level.

**YouTube** has once again demonstrated their strong commitment to our schools, with their extremely generous grants to SBEF. This school year, they have provided a total of $300,000 in grants to support SBEF's overall programming, including specific grants to fund science supplies, technology in classrooms, and professional development for teachers.

The **San Bruno Community Foundation** continues to be a significant partner to SBEF through the numerous Strategic and Community Grants they have awarded to SBEF over the years.

This year in particular, SBCF provided a Community Grant to help us launch our Community Pride Projects at our schools. SBCF also worked with us to design a Strategic Grant that will bolster the District's music program next year.

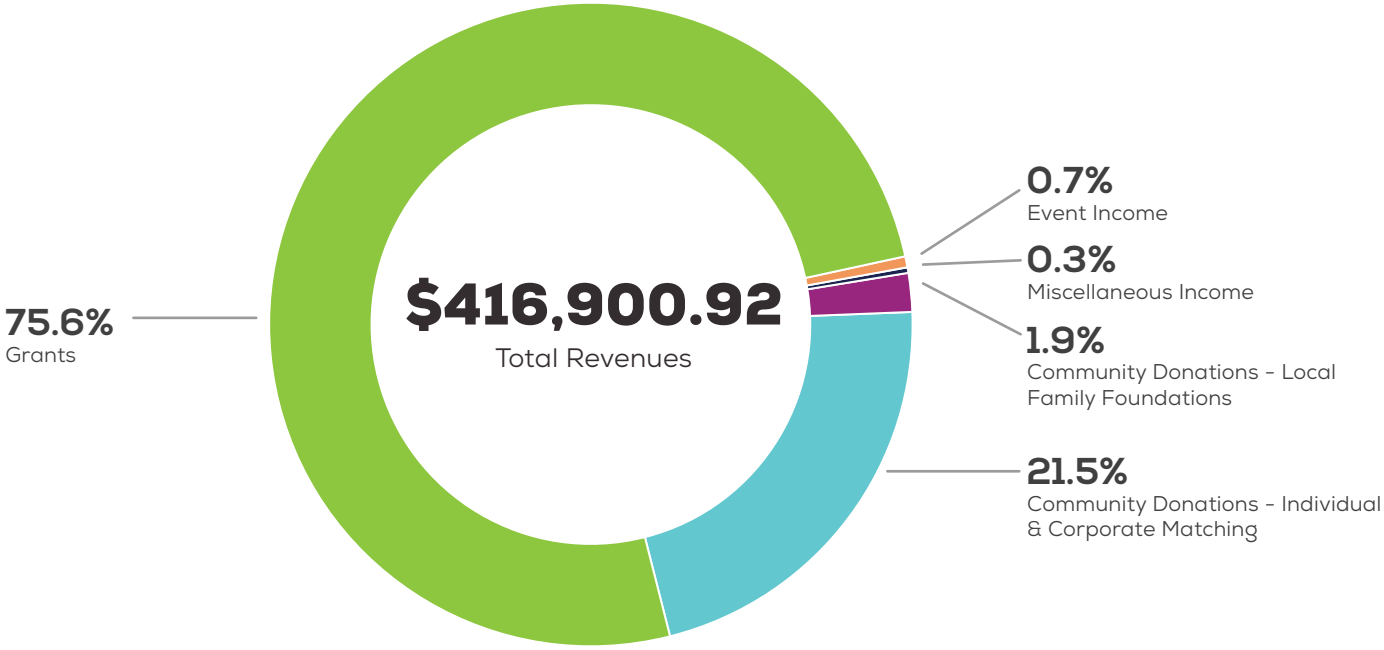
The **Welch Family Foundation** and the **Sammut Family Foundation** have both continued their generous support for San Bruno schools through their pledges to each match donations made through our "Schools with a Heart" spring fundraising campaign. We're deeply grateful for their willingness to commit these funds to help drive more community support for our schools.

We would like to acknowledge the **San Bruno Lions Club** and the **Rotary Club of San Bruno** for the time and energy they dedicate to projects for our students and staff. We are also grateful for the many dedicated parent and family volunteers who contribute so much to our schools. Last but certainly not least, we appreciate the leadership of our schools' **parent-teacher organizations** and their collaboration with SBEF.

We are incredibly grateful to these partners for their deep commitment to public education in our community and recognize the significant impact that these partnerships can have on the students of San Bruno.

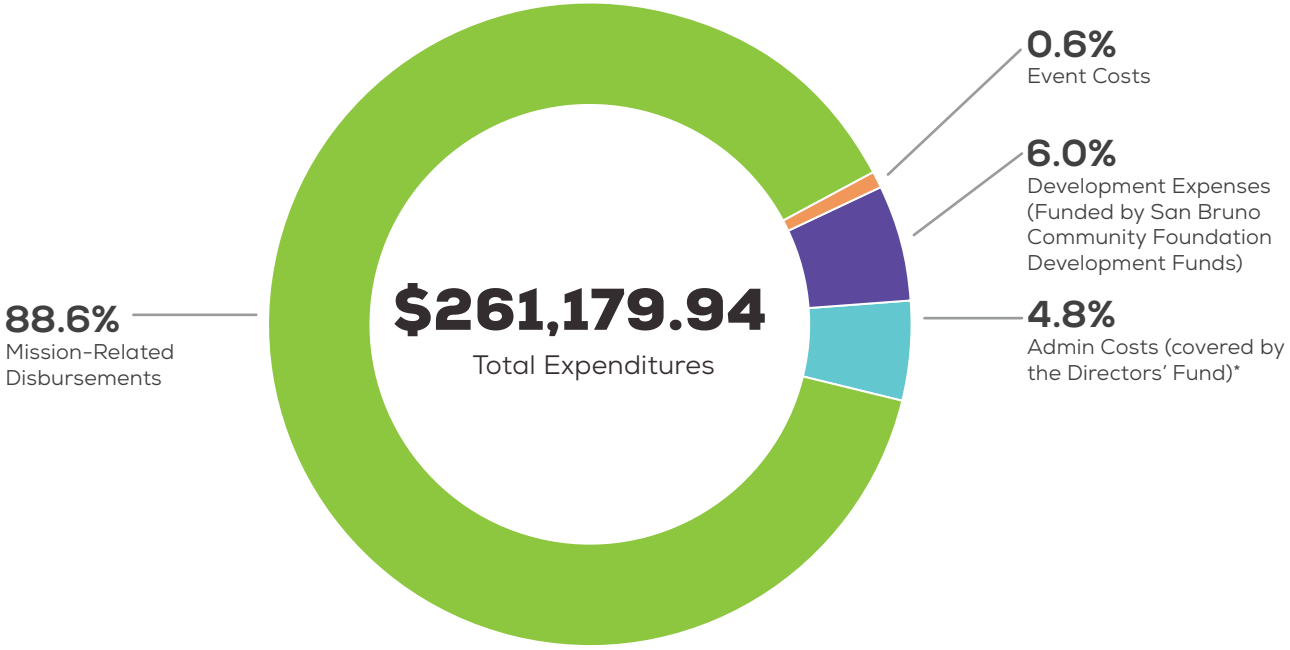
# Revenues

## Breakdown Of Revenues (July 2021 to June 2022)




# Expenditures

## Expenditure Breakdown (July 2021 to June 2022)




*The SBEF Directors' Fund is made up of donations from a few generous donors that specifically requested their donations be used to cover SBEF's administrative expenses.

# Board of Directors: Update

During the 2021-22 school year, SBEF welcomed Heather Latta as a new board member and bid farewell to Brent Pliskow.

After serving as a key volunteer for various SBEF initiatives last school year, Heather Latta joined the SBEF Board of Directors in August 2021. With a second grader at Allen and a preschooler, Heather led SBEF's STEM Task Force during the 2021-22 school year. In this role, she spearheaded our new Lego Robotics program and the initiative to provide science supplies to our elementary teachers. We are thrilled to have Heather join our team!

Portola parent Brent Pliskow stepped down from his position as SBEF board member in August, and we want to thank him for his hard work on our board. During his time on the board in the 2020-21 school year, Brent created and led SBEF's STEM Task Force to drive forward new innovative science initiatives in the San Bruno Park School District. While we will miss having him on our board, we understand Brent's time was needed elsewhere with his growing family. Thank you, Brent, for your contributions to SBEF and our schools!

## SBEF Board of Directors

**President**
Bryan Vander Lugt

**Vice President**
Scott Curtner

**Secretary**
Steven Rose

**CFO/Treasurer**
Makiko Sato

**Board Member**
Renee Callantine

**Board Member**
Alexis Petru

**Board Member**
Heather Latta

# What You Can Do

## Your support IS the difference.

### Together we can:

- **SUPPLEMENT LIMITED FUNDING:** Donations from parents and community members help bridge the funding and educational achievement gap in San Bruno.
- **ENHANCE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:** Your donations have a direct impact on the quality of education provided to our students. These funds are used to support high-quality extracurricular activities in science, engineering, and music that otherwise would not be fully covered by public funding.
- **ENRICH THE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:** Your donations enable us to add vibrance and a more enriching learning environment. They are used to beautify school grounds, upgrade technology, and provide resources to enhance the overall educational experience for our students.
- **PROMOTE EXCELLENCE:** With your support, we can further invest in our teachers and provide them with classroom resources and updated educational practices. This encourages a culture of excellence and helps students AND teachers develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in a rapidly changing world.
- **FOSTER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Your donations demonstrate a shared commitment to all of our children's education. Indeed, it takes a village, and creating a sense of collective responsibility for the success of our students supports a positive community culture that will have long-lasting effects in our City with a Heart.

**Together, let's have a direct impact on the success of our students and community. Support us here.**