End of Year Statement

I’m Tired.

That is it, that is the statement.

But seriously, while I am exhausted, I am in absolute amazement of what our organization has been able to accomplish with the support of our community and beyond.

This year was devastating.

There are more people than I can count that have told me “I’m not sure how you’ve done it.”

Our organization’s budget and capacity nearly doubled this year after nearly quadrupling two years prior, but it has done so as my wife (Nika Price) transitioned after a four-year battle with cancer, and as we were most recently egregiously targeted by county commissioners and singled out for “who we are, what we believe in, and how we move.”

We have grown and expanded despite so many life/organization-altering roadblocks. Through all of this, the fact that I have found a way to still be “here” is truly a testament to our team, but the fact that WE are still here is a testament to all of YOU.

Our individual gifts have nearly doubled thanks to all of you! Every $5 donation or $500 donation truly makes an impact, so regardless of the size we adore you!

This year we received our first $1,000,000 contribution (thank you Wege Family).

This year, we received nearly $1.4 million towards Emory Arts and Culture center before even launching the capital campaign (many thanks to The Ellis Foundation and The Poetry Foundation).

But again, although capital helps to make it possible, nothing would be possible without our people.

The way I watched them rally when I wasn’t spiritually/physically able to show up, the way I watched them shoulder my load and give me the capability to not only be a full-time executive director (now Chief Inspiration Architect) but also a full-time caretaker was humbling, because I know none of their lives are easy.

This year, we brought on way more contractors, did even more programs, more public art events, more murals, and even hired new staff.

In the coming years, we will be doing even more hiring. Some of our team will be transitioning out, others into different positions, and, thanks to our new strategic plan and mission (Thank you Bre, Robin, and our Incredible board), we will be wildly more intentional about what we do -- but also how it gets done!

This year, we look forward to becoming a more concentric organization, and I want to double down on supporting all of these amazing people, creatives, contractors, students, educators, funders, and community -- the way they deserve to be supported.

We look forward to bringing even more power to people, more art to people, and continuing to do it in a way that is unapologetic, honest, and intentional -- so that others can see that it is possible HERE.

This year with your support we will:
- Break ground on The Emory Arts and Culture Center
- Publicly launch our new mission, vision, and values
- Publicly launch our new organizational structure
- Publicly launch all of our new titles/positions
- Publicly launch our new website,

and so much more!

And if the universe deems us worthy, we will continue to defy all the odds in the process.

Thank you for rallying with us.

Please, if you can, donate via the QR code, or on the support page (while checking out our new website) and help us close this year out with a BANG!

Marcel “Fable” Price
Chief Inspiration Architect
The Diatribe
JANUARY

- Started Architectural Process for *The Emory*
- Meeting building owners for The 49507 Project 2022
- Mapping out the canvassing lift for The 49507 Project 2022
- Started *Writing To Right Wrongs* programs at Ottawa Hills High School, CA Frost High School, Southwest Middle High School, and Public Museum High School
- Began Kent County Health Department Youth Committee Work Group
Brought on new Communication Assistant (Luis)
Artists Meet + Greet for The 49507 Project
Planning began for GR Festival of The Arts
Design of The Diatribe HQ began
The 49507 Project 2021 Coffee Table books were released
Received the 2022 Anthem Award for The 49507 Project
Created *Liberated Lit* with Foster & Friends
M A R C H

- Brought on new Accountant (LaTasha Black of Hawkins CPA)
- The 49507 Project Student Listening Sessions were held (Ottawa Hills, SWCC, and Grand Rapids Museum School)
- Began Feasibility study for The Emory
- Began “Poetry in Grand Rapids Documentary” interviews.
APRIL

- Began offering The 49507 Project Mural Tours
- The 49507 Project Business Owner + Artist Meet & Greets
- The 49507 Project Community Listening Sessions
- Completed *Poetry Empowered* programs in four fifth grade classrooms at Discovery Elementary in Kentwood
- The 49507 Project is awarded an Our Town grant from the *National Endowment for the Arts* for the second year.
- The Diatribe hosts Poetry Month fundraising event and livestream featuring Brandon Alexander Williams and our students
MAY

- New Board Member orientation (Welcome Diana, Evette, and Debra!).
- Monthly building tours began for *The Emory*
- The 49507 Project - all buildings primed, painted, and lead abated.
- Piloted a new water shed focused environmental program at Valleywood Middle School
- Concluded Kent County Health Dept. monthly Youth council
- Started *Disruptive Dialogue*
  Weekly Meetings & Check ins with students
JUNE

The Diatribe acquired The Creative Youth Center

The Diatribe presented The 49507 Final Murals to The City of Grand Rapids.

The Diatribe presented the Keynote at the Michigan Foundation Youth Summit

Finalize and updated The Diatribe's Mission, Vision, Values, and Strategic Plan with the help of our amazing consultants (Breannah Alexander + Robin Grinnell)

Hosted the Love and Peace Jam for the GR Festival of the Arts

Got feedback from students in MOASH on The Diatribe Sex Education Program
July

- Started canvassing + Made The 49507 Project Street Team
- Acquired new signs for The 49507 Project businesses
- Muskegon Summer Programming Year 2 kicks off with a public assembly at Pathfinders
- Grand Rapids Summer Programming Year 6 kicks off with registration for two programs
- Friend-raiser events featuring student performers and The Diatribe Teaching Artists kick off, building community and raising funds
AUGUST

- The 49507 Project Mural Unveilings featuring student performances
- The Diatribe Teaching Artist Trainings began with 12 new potential TAs from across Michigan
- *Mindfulness and Metaphor* - Beginner poet Summer Program in Grand Rapids
- *Write it OUT* - Advanced poet Summer Program in Grand Rapids
- *Poetry Empowered* Summer Program in Muskegon
- *Disruptive Dialogue* Live Poetic Performance and Panel Discussion featuring student performances and raising funds for the Lyoya Family
- *Poetry in the Park* pop-up event featuring GR summer program student performances
- Final Reading for Muskegon Summer Program
Green roof + green-space design process began for *The Emory*
More mural activations are held, 8 in total
Met with County Commissioners about *The Emory* and its potential to positively impact our community
Identified our Capital Campaign Co-Chairs
*WTRW* programs were established at MCEC and Musekgon High School in Muskegon, Godwin High School in Wyoming, and Union High School in Grand Rapids.
October

- The Diatribe was awarded the LINC up Non-Profit Project of The Year Award
- Identified our capital campaign team.
- First monthly Team Morale meeting.
- The 49507 Project concludes for the year with the installation of a total of 15 murals in 2021 and 2022.
November

- Received Anthem award for The 49507 Project (listed earlier)
- Stateside NPR Interview with Fable about The Emory
- Secured robust capital campaign endorsements for The Emory.
- Spoke to students at GVSU’s Educating Future Leaders program
- Started Poetry Empowered programs in two classrooms at MCEC in Muskegon
- Served as speakers for Wege Foundation panel discussion
- Secured contracts with GRPS and KPS for annual program offerings
December

- Announced updated Diatribe Mission + Vision
- Launched new Diatribe Website
- Final readings for WTRW in Muskegon, Godwin, and Union High Schools
- Annual Team celebration
- The Diatribe was organizationally singled out and excluded from receiving Kent County ARPA funds even though we were the 12th ranked project out of 300+ Proposals.
- Received $65,000 from The Poetry Foundation for General Operations (The Emory)
DO YOU SUPPORT THE DIATRIBE?

The Diatribe uses performing arts to empower young people to share their stories, raise awareness of social issues, and create change within their communities.

You can donate directly at www.TheDiatribe.org/Support