

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

2025 was a year of deepening.

Across performances, classrooms, and community spaces, we focused on intentional growth—strengthening the relationships, structures, and artist-led practices that make Montavilla Jazz impactful and sustainable.

This year's festival reflected that care. Our village-style model expanded across Montavilla and Mt. Tabor while remaining grounded in artist leadership and community experience. Panel-led curation broadened the musical and cultural range of festival programming, while audience feedback helped shape spaces where people didn't just listen to music—they moved, connected, and felt a sense of belonging. Beyond the festival, Montavilla Jazz continued to invest in the next generation of artists and listeners. Through artist-led education programs spanning elementary classrooms, middle schools, and emerging musician pathways, students learned directly from working jazz artists—building skills, confidence, and a relationship to jazz as a living, evolving art form.

Behind the scenes, 2025 also marked important organizational milestones. We completed a multi-year strategic plan, entered our second full year with paid executive leadership, and strengthened our financial footing in ways that support fair artist compensation and long-term sustainability. These steps were guided by discipline, transparency, and a belief that artist-led work requires strong infrastructure to thrive.

None of this happens in isolation. Montavilla Jazz is sustained by artists, educators, volunteers, board members, funders, sponsors, and community partners who believe in the power of jazz to bring people together—and who understand that meaningful cultural work is built over time, through trust and care.

Thank you for being part of this community. I'm deeply grateful for your support and excited for what lies ahead.

With appreciation,

Neil Mattson
Executive Director
Montavilla Jazz



2025 AT A GLANCE

2025 was a year of intentional growth—expanding our reach while strengthening the systems, partnerships, and values that sustain Montavilla Jazz.



"The highlight was seeing community together, especially on the dance floor, experiencing great music." — Festival attendee

mj

146K

Donor support raised—more than double the previous year!

VILLAGE STYLE FESTIVAL

Multi-venue, community-centered format redesigned in year-two of scale-up

230 ARTISTS

Presented across increasingly diverse lineups

542 STUDENTS

Served through in-school and after-school jazz education

FESTIVAL IMPACT: GROWING WITH INTENTION

In 2025, Montavilla Jazz refined its village-style festival model, expanding across Montavilla and Mt. Tabor while remaining grounded in artist leadership and community experience. Panel-led curation supported more diverse lineups across gender and background, and audience feedback informed programming decisions that prioritized connection, movement, and shared joy.

Multi-venue, village-style format

Activated spaces across Montavilla and Mt. Tabor to create a walkable, community-centered festival experience.

Broad and inclusive artistic vision

Lineups reflected a wide range of musical voices, traditions, and creative approaches within and beyond jazz.

Over-capacity audiences

Multiple venues reached capacity, including Mt. Tabor Amphitheater, reflecting strong demand and engagement.

Dance floor–centered programming

Shaped by audience feedback and designed to encourage participation, movement, and connection.

"As someone who has played a lot of festivals, I don't know that I've ever seen a festival so well organized."

— Festival artist

The 2025 festival demonstrated that growth, when guided by listening and intention, can deepen impact without compromising values.



ARTIST-LED CURATION & COMMUNITY TRUST

Montavilla Jazz's programming is guided by artists, educators, and community members who are deeply embedded in Portland's jazz ecosystem. Panel-led curation ensures that artistic decisions reflect lived experience, creative leadership, and a commitment to representation. This approach prioritizes originality, supports emerging voices, and creates space for artists to take risks—while remaining accountable to the community the festival serves.

Artist-panel-led selection

Programming decisions are informed by rotating panels of lead artists from past festivals, ensuring diverse perspectives across genre, background, and career stage.

Community-rooted partnerships

Collaborations with local venues, schools, and cultural organizations ground the festival in neighborhood relationships that deepen community connection and shared investment.

Space for discovery and experimentation

Through original work and cross-genre collaboration, the festival brings unlikely combinations to life—sparking discovery, artistic risk-taking, and transformational moments for audiences.

"Everyone helped me feel like I belonged. The staff and volunteers were kind, attentive, the entire experience felt thoughtful and supportive."

— Festival artist

Artist-led curation strengthens the festival's artistic quality while building the trust that sustains Montavilla Jazz year after year.



BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF JAZZ

In 2025, Montavilla Jazz served 542 students through artist-led education programs spanning elementary, middle school, and emerging musician pathways. Across classrooms, after-school programs, and professional performance spaces, students learned directly from working jazz artists—building musical skills, creative confidence, and a sense of belonging within Portland’s jazz community.

Vestal Elementary Artist Residency

Artist-led Latin jazz instruction supporting musicianship, cultural learning, and a culminating community performance.

Mt. Tabor Middle School Jazz

Artist residencies and after-school jazz programming supporting ensemble skills, listening, and creative confidence.

Behind the Scene

An educational concert and lecture series led by the Christopher Brown Quartet, connecting students and emerging musicians with professional jazz artists.

542

Students served
through artist-led
jazz education

By investing in learning at every stage, Montavilla Jazz is strengthening the future of local music—one student, one artist, and one shared experience at a time.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



In 2025, Montavilla Jazz strengthened its financial foundation to support expanded programming, fair artist compensation, and long-term sustainability—scaling responsibly while remaining artist-led and mission-driven.

Program Delivery & Artists — 86%

Direct support for festival programming, artist fees, education initiatives, production, and community engagement—including artists, teaching staff, and program personnel embedded directly within Montavilla Jazz programs.

Administration — 9%

Core organizational infrastructure, including financial management, compliance, insurance, and essential operational support.

Fundraising & Development — 5%

Donor engagement, fundraising events, and development activities that sustain and grow Montavilla Jazz's programs and partnerships.

\$451,971

Total Revenue

\$369,377

Total expenses

\$82,594*

Year-end operating
surplus.

*Designated for 2026
programming and projects.

Montavilla Jazz prioritizes direct investment in artists, education, and community-centered programming through an artist-led operating model.



WHO IS MONTAVILLA JAZZ?

Montavilla Jazz is a Portland-based nonprofit dedicated to strengthening local music culture by empowering artists, fostering education, and building community connection. Rooted in the Montavilla neighborhood, our work centers living jazz as a creative, evolving art form—one that belongs to the community it serves.

We believe artists are leaders, neighborhoods are cultural anchors, and meaningful growth happens through listening, care, and long-term relationships.

At our core, Montavilla Jazz is:

Artist-led

Programs are shaped by working artists whose lived experience guides creative direction, education, and curation.

Community-rooted

We partner with neighborhood venues, schools, and organizations to build accessible, walkable, and welcoming cultural spaces.

Education-centered

From elementary classrooms to professional stages, we support learning pathways that connect students, emerging musicians, and seasoned artists.

Values-driven

Our work is grounded in integrity, transparency, and a commitment to equity, originality, and shared joy.

Montavilla Jazz exists to support artists, invite participation, and create spaces where music brings people together—on stage, on the dance floor, and across generations.



PEOPLE BEHIND THE WORK

Montavilla Jazz is supported by a small, dedicated team, an engaged Board of Directors, and a network of advisors who provide leadership, stewardship, and accountability in support of our programs and long-term vision.

Staff & Key Personnel

- Neil Mattson – Executive Director, Festival Director
- Jesi Robison – Assistant Festival Director
- Lori Trepibio – Production Manager
- Dawndae Hamilton – Festival Development Manager
- Bentley Worthy – Volunteer Coordinator
- Kim Gumbel – Marketing Consultant
- Amy Theberge – Fundraising Event Coordinator

Board of Directors

- Neil Mattson – President
- Marcia K. Hocker – Vice President
- Nancy Mitchell – Secretary
- Steve Mitchell – Treasurer
- Kim Harrison – Director
- Leontyne Morrell-Wilson – Director
- Pancho Savery – Director
- Katherine Sharp – Director

Resource Council

- Douglas Detrick—Substrate Arts Consulting
- Christina Fuller—Fuller Events
- Darrell Grant—Portland State University
- Samantha Swaim—Swaim Strategies
- James Taylor—Vanport Jazz Festival
- George Thorn—Arts Action Research

The Resource Council brings additional expertise, perspective, and community insight to support Montavilla Jazz's programs and long-term vision.



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



Montavilla Jazz is sustained by public funders, foundations, sponsors, and community partners who believe in artist-led culture, music education, and neighborhood connection.

Public & Government Support

- Multnomah County Cultural Coalition
- Prosper Portland
- Oregon Arts Commission
- Oregon Cultural Trust

Foundation Support

- Autzen Foundation
- Chamber Music America
- Malarkey Family Foundation
- Marie Lamfrom Charitable Foundation
- James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation
- New Music USA
- Robert D. & Marcia H. Randall Charitable Trust
- Truman Heartland Community Foundation

Sponsors & Community Partners

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Cedar House Media
City Beautiful Design
Ear Trumpet Labs
East Glisan Pizza Lounge
Gigantic Brewing
GMS Media and Advertising
Grand Amari
Hanna Realty
Hotel Grand Stark
KBOO Community Radio
KMHD Jazz Radio

Leikam Brewing
Little Bitter Bar
MESO
Montavilla Brew Works
Montavilla Station
Mr. Plywood
Mt Hood Community College
Mt. Tabor Middle School
Music Millennium
North Pole Studio
Olympia Provisions
Portland Cider Company
Portland Eye Care
Portland Jazz Composers Ensemble
Portland Metro Arts
Portland Parks & Recreation
Portland Piano Company
Portland Public Schools

Redwood
Replicant
Revival Drum Shop
She Rocks Sound
Sokol Blosser
SoundsTruck NW
Stages Northwest
Swingin' Sounds
The 1905
Threshold Brewing & Blending
Tinker Tavern
TPK Brewing
Travel Portland
TriMet
Vestal Elementary School
Vinje & Son Sheet Metal
Vino Veritas
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THANK YOU DONORS!



We are deeply grateful to the individuals whose generosity made our 2025 programs possible.

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Tiffany Youmans

Donors listed contributed \$50 or more during the 2025 fiscal year.

We regret any errors or omissions and are grateful to all who supported Montavilla Jazz in 2025.

LOOKING AHEAD



In 2026, Montavilla Jazz will continue to deepen its investment in artists, expand artist-led education programs, and strengthen the village-style festival model that brings music into neighborhood spaces. Guided by a clear strategic direction and sustained by growing community support, we move forward with intention, care, and excitement for what's next.

Thank you for being part of a community that believes in artists, connection, and the power of music to bring people together.

