

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

***The Free in Color Creative Therapeutic Organization –
Established in 2019***

***We are dedicated to uplifting communities of color,
one vibrant step at a time, by promoting enhanced
mental health.***

Prepared by our
Leadership Team



Free In Color



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Letter from our CEO/Founder



Marlissa Karpeh, Creative Director and Art Therapist.

- A Message from the Creative Director & Founder

Since its inception in 2019, Free in Color has transformed from a summer arts and wellness program for immigrant youth into a comprehensive wellness and mental health service provider. The vision for Free in Color has exceeded my expectations, fueled by hands-on experiences and my development as a Clinical Mental Health Art Therapist and Adlerian Psychotherapist. We have redefined our approach to service with a focus on social interest, evolving from an arts and social-emotional learning initiative into a dedicated organization aimed at helping communities reconnect and heal.

We have had the privilege of collaborating with respected organizations such as Park Nicollet, the City of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA), and many others. Our commitment to facilitating healing through the transformative power of creative expression has deepened significantly. As the leader of this organization, I take immense pride in the milestones we have reached.

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our Clinical Advisor and mentor, Dr. Kotatee Tamba, for his unwavering guidance in our work with immigrant communities, and to our other advisor, Sarah Drake, for her steadfast support of Free in Color throughout the years.

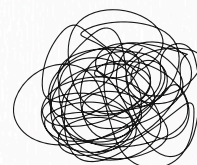
This year, we are excited to launch our out-of-network Art Therapy Program, which further expands our services. With deep appreciation for our supporters and donors, I sincerely thank you all. Together, let us continue to empower communities through strength and creativity.

With love and gratitude,



Marlissa Karpeh, ATR-P

Clinical Mental Health Therapist



Free In Color

Free in Color – A Non-Profit Organization Focused on Creative Mental Health



Mission

Free in Color harnesses creativity to promote healing, belonging, and mental wellness in underserved communities through art therapy and community-focused therapeutic programs.

Vision

- We envision a world where art is a powerful tool for healing social change, providing access to creative spaces that foster resilience and well. By blending mental health with creativity, we support communities in seen and valued. We believe healing thrives in community, so we incorporate evidence-based research into our programming to enhance treatment and engagement.

Financial Highlights

Financial Highlights Summary

This year, Free in Color saw steady revenue growth driven by grants, donations, and partnerships. Key financial highlights include:

- Revenue Growth: Increased funding from grants and donations allowed for the expansion of our programs.
- Program Expenses: Most funds were directed toward therapy services and community outreach.
- Fundraising: Successful campaigns and events helped sustain operations and fund new initiatives.
- Operational Efficiency: We maintained a lean structure to maximize program impact while ensuring transparency in resource management.
- Donor Support: Continued support from individual donors, foundations, and partners enabled us to further our mission.

Revenue	10,000	↙
Expenses	10,000	↙





Performance Overview 04

- 2019-2025 Milestones:
- Summer Arts Program (2019-Present): Developed an arts and SEL-focused summer program for immigrant youth in Brooklyn Center, impacting over 500 youth participants.
- Community Murals & Social Justice (2020): Engaged youth in mural projects centered on social justice and healing after the unrest following George Floyd's death, collaborating with over 100 youth artists.
- Educational Partnerships (2022): Provided a global cultural arts program in the Osseo District Schools, benefiting 200+ students.
- Women's Wellness Initiatives (2021): Hosted Notes to Self, a wellness and art therapy event focused on women's mental health, supporting over 50 women participants.
- Park Nicollet Mural Project (2023): Led a community-driven mural project focused on belonging and wellness.
- Black Healing Events (2024): Organized art therapy sessions in honor of Black History Month, engaging over 150 community members.
- Global Fatherhood Foundation Collaboration (2025): Hosted a World Father's Day pop-up event to promote family well-being.
- International Expansion (2025): Established a partnership with a school in Liberia (Bong County) to provide art resources to 300 students.
- Future Plans (2025 & Beyond):
- Partnering with clinical wellness centers and NGOs focused on autism support.
- Collaborating with corporate communities to offer diversity and inclusion training through art-based wellness initiatives.
- Expanding creative wellness programs for women employees in partnership with organizations such as Better Helping Women (2022).



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Client Success Stories

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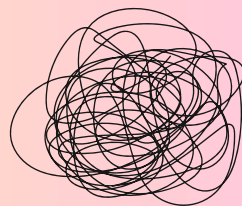
MIA: Family Day

Partnering with Mia for Family Day is always a success. We guide families in creating what we call "Trees of Togetherness," symbolizing the strength of unity, much like trees standing tall. We also explore where we find rest, similar to the leaves on a tree. Families and children come together to craft trees, further expressing their connections.



Immigrant Youth Violence Prevention Program

This year, we completed a grant with the Henphone County Violence Prevention Program. The grant focuses on offering therapy and therapeutic services to youth aged 14-23, emphasizing violence prevention through art, healing, and storytelling. The youth showcased their work in an exhibition and hosted a town hall meeting that attracted over 100 participants.



Free In Color

A warm welcome to the new members of our Free in Color Community!

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Whitney Yann

Wellness Mural Specialist

Please welcome Whitney, the talented artist, educator, and wellness specialist. She is a new addition to our team and has already made a significant impact since 2022 with our mural at Park Nicollet. Whitney will focus on our youth mural program, where young individuals can use murals to explore social justice, emotional freedom, and utilize public art as a tool for community wellness. We are excited to have her on board!



Dr. Kotatee Tamba, PsyD, LICSW

Clinical Advisory / Clinical Evaluation Consultant

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Kotatee Tamba, PsyD, LICSW, as our Clinical Assessment and Evaluations Consultant. Dr. Tamba will offer valuable insights and assessments related to our programs, ensuring they meet the clinical needs of both individuals and the community we serve. Moreover, he is also a board member, responsible for overseeing the supervision and maintaining the ethical integrity of our therapists and wellness specialists.



Social Responsibility: Exploring New Approaches and Actions We Can Take

At Free in Color, our mission is to ensure mental health care is accessible, particularly for underserved communities such as people of color and immigrants. Since 2019, we have prioritized:

- **Accessible Mental Health Care:** Offering affordable therapy services to remove financial obstacles.
- **Cultural Competency:** Delivering culturally responsive care that honors community experiences.
- **Community Engagement:** Hosting workshops and advocacy initiatives to enhance mental health awareness and encourage healing.
- **Ethical Operations:** Upholding transparency and ensuring that donations directly support our programs.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Providing mentorship and education to inspire the next generation of change-makers.
- Our aim is to promote inclusivity and equity through community-centered care and innovative wellness initiatives.



Financial Statements

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Total Funds Secured: \$10,000

Funding Source: Organization of Liberians in Minnesota (Violence Prevention Grant)

Art Supplies & Program Materials – \$2,500

Revenue

Fund Allocation Breakdown

Art Supplies & Program Materials – \$2,500

- Art therapy and creative wellness kits
- Youth mural projects and cultural art resources
- Supplies for Liberia school partnership

Expenses

Outreach & Community Engagement – \$3,000

Revenue

Outreach & Community Engagement – \$3,000

- Community wellness events and healing programs
- Social justice and art activism workshops
- Expanding access to underserved communities

Expenses

Administration & Operational Costs – \$2,000

Revenue

Administration & Operational Costs – \$2,000

- Northrup King Building space for Free in Color
- Staff support and program coordination

Expenses

Website & Marketing – \$2,500

Revenue

Website & Marketing – \$2,500

- Website expansion and maintenance
- Promotional materials and social media outreach
- Community engagement campaigns

Expenses



Future Outlook

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Future Plan

At Free in Color, we are focused on expanding our reach and impact. Over the next year, we plan to increase access to art therapy services for underserved communities. A major initiative will be launching a youth leadership program, providing mentorship and creative opportunities to empower the next generation. We will also enhance our digital offerings by offering virtual therapy sessions, making our services more accessible. In addition, we are excited to create public art projects that highlight social justice issues and promote collective healing within the community.

Accountability Statement

As we continue to grow, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards of accountability and transparency. We ensure that all funds raised go directly toward supporting our community programs. Our board and staff work diligently to align our actions with our mission, regularly reviewing and refining our strategies to meet the needs of those we serve. Free in Color remains dedicated to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment that prioritizes the well-being of the communities we support.

Contact Us

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*We appreciate your support for our
mission of community wellness. It
genuinely takes a village!*

Free in Color (501(c) Nonprofit)

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