

ANNUAL REPORT



2024-2025

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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear NYC-Parents in Action Community,

As we reflect on the year, we know parenting feels more complex than ever. Yet, through it all, we at NYC-Parents in Action are proud of the progress we have made in strengthening parent-to-parent and parent-to-child communication across our community. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this possible—our donors, volunteers, parents, schools, speakers, and participants. Your generosity and involvement have made 2024/2025 an impactful year for parents across the schools and groups we serve.

As a volunteer-led nonprofit, every dollar donated supports our mission to strengthen parent communities and provide meaningful content that supports families at every stage. Our volunteer-led model continues to power meaningful conversations in schools, and our trained facilitators bring depth and empathy to discussions around parenting challenges—from mental health to technology, from learning differences to peer relationships.

Here's what your support made possible this year:

- **Expanded Training:** We recruited new professionally-trained volunteer Parent Talk Facilitators, ready to guide thoughtful conversations in our schools.
- **Sustained Connection:** We delivered 196 Parent Talks sessions across 22 schools, serving 2,252 parents—maintaining our strong presence and enabling parents to connect and learn.
- **Responsive Programming:** We introduced new topics (digital wellbeing, emotional resilience) in response to evolving needs, ensuring our content remains relevant and timely.
- **Strengthened Partnerships:** We deepened our relationships with school parent communities and stakeholders, creating more robust support networks.

We also faced challenges this year—in particular, the complex landscape of adolescent mental health, ongoing shifts in family dynamics post-COVID, and the persistent need for accessible parent education. Thanks to your support and commitment, we navigated these challenges with creativity, collaboration, and compassion.

Our signature events, Teen Scene and the inaugural Parenting Scene, brought together hundreds of families, creating spaces for authentic dialogue about the realities of raising children in today's world. At NYC-Parents in Action, we are here to support you along the way. Looking ahead, we will deepen our reach, refine our content, and ensure that every parent who wants to connect, learn, and engage finds a welcoming space with us. You've got this, and we are here to help. We look forward to learning with you this year.

On behalf of our Board, staff, and volunteers, thank you for believing in this work. Together, we are building stronger parent communities in New York City, one conversation at a time.

Warmly,



Charles Harkless

President of the Board, NYC-Parents in Action

OUR LEADERSHIP

BOARD LEADERSHIP

Charles Harkless, *Co-President*
Linda Kelly, *Co-President*
Maria Underwood, *Vice President*
Christine Schloder, *Treasurer*
Abby Rothschild, Secretary
Amrita Pendharkar
Carolyn Wise
Cory Nangle
Eliana Jacobs
Evelyn Kaminsky
Himani Dixit
James Gomez

Julie Turaj
Megan del Valle
Michaela Clary
Oscar Bleetstein
Shannon Friedrichs Higdon
Stuart Sproule
Tara Johnson
Tolaison Hooks
Tracy Stelk
Jennifer Rubell
Nicole Speier Cyrilin
Victoria Graham

ADVISORY BOARD

José De Jesús, Head of School, The Dalton School

Dr. Laura Erickson-Schroth, Chief Medical Officer, JED Foundation

Jane Foley Fried, Head of School, The Brearley School

Dr. Kelly Fradin, Director of Pediatrics, The Atria Institute

Dr. Laurie Freeman, PhD, Licensed Psychologist; Director of Training, NYC-Parents in Action

Geoffrey Golia, LCSW, PLLC

Mary Beth Harvey, Board member, JED Foundation; Founder, Friended

Ramon Javier, Head of School, George Jackson Academy

Lucy Martin-Gianino, Teen Scene Moderator, Former Chair, NYC-Parents in Action

Dr. Mica McGriggs, PhD, Director of Student Support & Wellness, Ethical Culture Fieldston School

Robbie Pennoyer, Head of School, Grace Church School

Dr. Alan Schlechter, Professor, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, NYU Langone; Director, Child and Adolescent Outpatient Clinic, Bellevue Hospital

Charlotte Weber, Co-Founder, NYC-Parents in Action

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We are grateful for our ongoing partnerships with:

- Independent school parent associations across New York City
- Licensed mental health professionals who support our programs
- Experts who contribute to our programming
- Community organizations that help us reach diverse families

MISSION and MOTTO OVERVIEW

Overview

NYC-Parents in Action is a non-profit organization founded over 40 years ago on the belief that effective communication, both parent to parent and parent to child, is vital to the healthy development of children.

NYC-Parents in Action recognizes that effective parenting in early childhood is a first step toward learning to make sound choices in all areas of life. Our diverse programming helps parents prepare their children to cope with societal pressures and mature into healthy young adults with sound judgement.

Our Mission

We provide education, information, and a communication network to inform parents about social and developmental issues. With these tools, we strive to help parents communicate openly, effectively, and consistently with their children.

Our Motto

"Be Involved, Be Informed, Be Connected"

Our motto is key to our mission. Powerful in its simplicity, it reminds parents of three essential principles: Be Involved in our children's lives, Be Informed with good information and resources, and Be Connected with a supported community of fellow parents.



OUR GOALS

OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS CENTERS ON THREE CORE OBJECTIVES THAT GUIDE OUR PROGRAMMING AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PARTNERSHIPS

Deepening and Expanding School Relationships

We reach our constituents broadly, deepening and expanding school partnerships while becoming better known among schools and constituents. Our goal is to be the trusted resource that school communities turn to for parent education and support.

ENGAGEMENT

Staying Relevant and Current

We remain relevant and current in our content approach, addressing the evolving challenges facing today's families. In the spring of 2025 we concluded a listening tour aimed at gaining a better understanding of how best to serve our growing community. The exercise unveiled valuable insights that are influencing our strategic planning efforts for the coming year.

INCLUSION

Building Diverse Community

We cultivate our volunteer base so that it represents the diversity of our current and future constituents. Through initiatives like our Affinity Parent Talks and targeted outreach, we ensure all families find their place in our community.

OUR PROGRAMS

Our programs are designed to offer our constituents awareness, information, understanding, and community connection. Each program serves our mission of strengthening parent-to-parent and parent-to-child communication.

Parent Talks

A facilitated discussion for parents and guardians within a grade (or grade grouping), providing opportunities to connect, build community, and share various parenting perspectives, concerns, and strategies in a safe, non-judgmental environment. Led by trained peer facilitators, these discussion groups are available to parents of kindergartners through 12th graders at our member schools.



Signature Events

Teen Scene

Our annual signature event presents a panel of teenagers (9th-12th grades) from NYC independent schools, offering unique insights into what teens think, where they go, what they do, and what they worry about.



Parenting Scene

An annual event featuring educational leaders and developmental experts discussing the many issues parents face today.

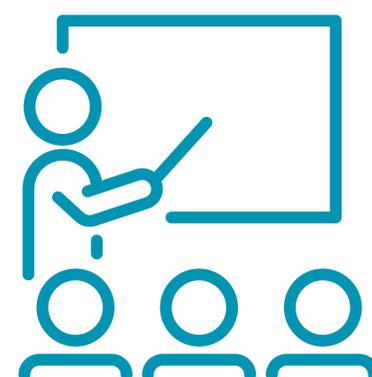


Educational Webinars (Online Parent Lifelines)

Our expert-led learning opportunities, Parent Lifelines, is a web-based series, moderated by some of our advisory board members, advancing our mission by providing educational events with relevant, up-to-date, and timely information. Expert speakers offer insights in parenting, child psychology, pediatric and adolescent health, learning differences, social media, and public safety.

Facilitator Training

Building our volunteer community led by licensed psychologists and supported by experienced facilitators, our training consists of 15 hours of instruction over two weeks, offered free with the commitment to facilitate at least six meetings within the school year.



Parent Association Forums

Supporting school leadership we foster connectivity and engagement with Parent Association Leaders via dedicated forums, providing valuable opportunities for collaboration and support within the community.



PARTICIPATING PARENT TALK SCHOOLS

We serve a diverse array of schools and educational institutions across New York City.

Alexander Robertson School
Avenues The World School
The Birch Wathen Lenox School
The Brearley School
The Buckley School
The Chapin School
City and Country School
Collegiate School
The Dalton School
De La Salle Academy
Dwight School New York
Ethical Culture Fieldston School

Friends Seminary
George Jackson Academy
Grace Church School
Horace Mann School
The Nightingale-Bamford School
The Packer Collegiate Institute
Prep for Prep
Riverdale Country School
Saint David's School
The Spence School
St. Bernard's School
Trinity School



OUR IMPACT

PARENT TALKS

Our Parent Talks program continues to be the cornerstone of our community-building efforts, creating meaningful connections across NYC's independent school landscape.



22 SCHOOLS



2,252 PARENTS



196 MEETINGS



AVERAGE ATTENDANCE
11.4

SCHEDULED PARENT TALKS

2023-24



2024-25



PARENTS REACHED



2,252

AFFINITY PARENT TALKS

Parent Talks expanded this year, adding two new offerings executed as a pilot program. The new platforms were launched under the banner "Affinity Talks", catering to fathers and expanding to school adjacent organizations such as Prep for Prep.



“
The Parent Talk allowed me to share experiences that my child and I had gone through... It felt great to see the experiences of others and to feel that our family was not alone.
”

OUR IMPACT

EDUCATIONAL WEBINARS

Expert Guidance When It Matters



Helping Kids Make Good Choices... and How to Respond When They Don't

Dr. Cara Natterson and Vanessa Kroll Bennett helped parents understand the science behind adolescent mood swings and decision-making. The speakers shared transformative principles: "listen more, lecture less" and "take the do-over."

Healing Together: Navigating Grief and Loss

Dr. Alan Schlechter and grief expert Brie Overton offered compassionate guidance, emphasizing that grief is love mixed with complex emotions. Parents learned the importance of showing their own emotions and discovered that more than 50% of people experience post-grief growth after trauma.

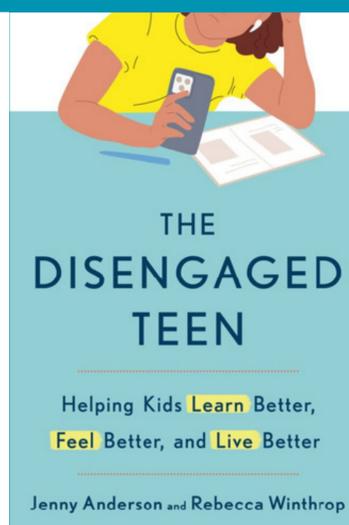


Talking to Your Adolescent Daughter about Her Body and Reproductive Health

Three medical professionals joined Dr. Laurie Freeman to discuss establishing open communication about reproductive health, emphasizing early, casual conversations and comprehensive education about birth control and consent.

The Disengaged Teen

Authors Jenny Anderson and Rebecca Winthrop shared findings revealing that fewer than 4% of teens operate in the ideal "Explorer Mode," which is one of the four identified engagement categories where kids are proactive and initiate learning. The book provides strategies and resources for parents to engage teenagers in their learning experiences.



OUR IMPACT

SIGNATURE EVENTS

PARENTING SCENE

Parenting Scene attracted 556 registrants, making it the largest event we have hosted. The evening featured Heads of School Tom Kelly and Robbie Penoyer with journalist Jennifer Wallace. The conversation focused on raising resilient children and helping students cultivate a sense of mattering—being "not better THAN others, but better FOR others."



Tom Kelly
Head of School, Horace Mann



Jennifer B. Wallace
Award winning Author and Journalist



Robbie Penoyer
Head of School, Grace Church School

TEEN SCENE

Teen Scene featured 16 high school students offering candid insights into contemporary adolescent life, demonstrating remarkable sophistication and optimism about their generation's acceptance and growth.



Here are some quotes from the teen panel on phone usage and addicted.

“ I leave my phone out of my bedroom when I’m studying. It can be a distraction, but my phone also gives me a sense of independence. ”

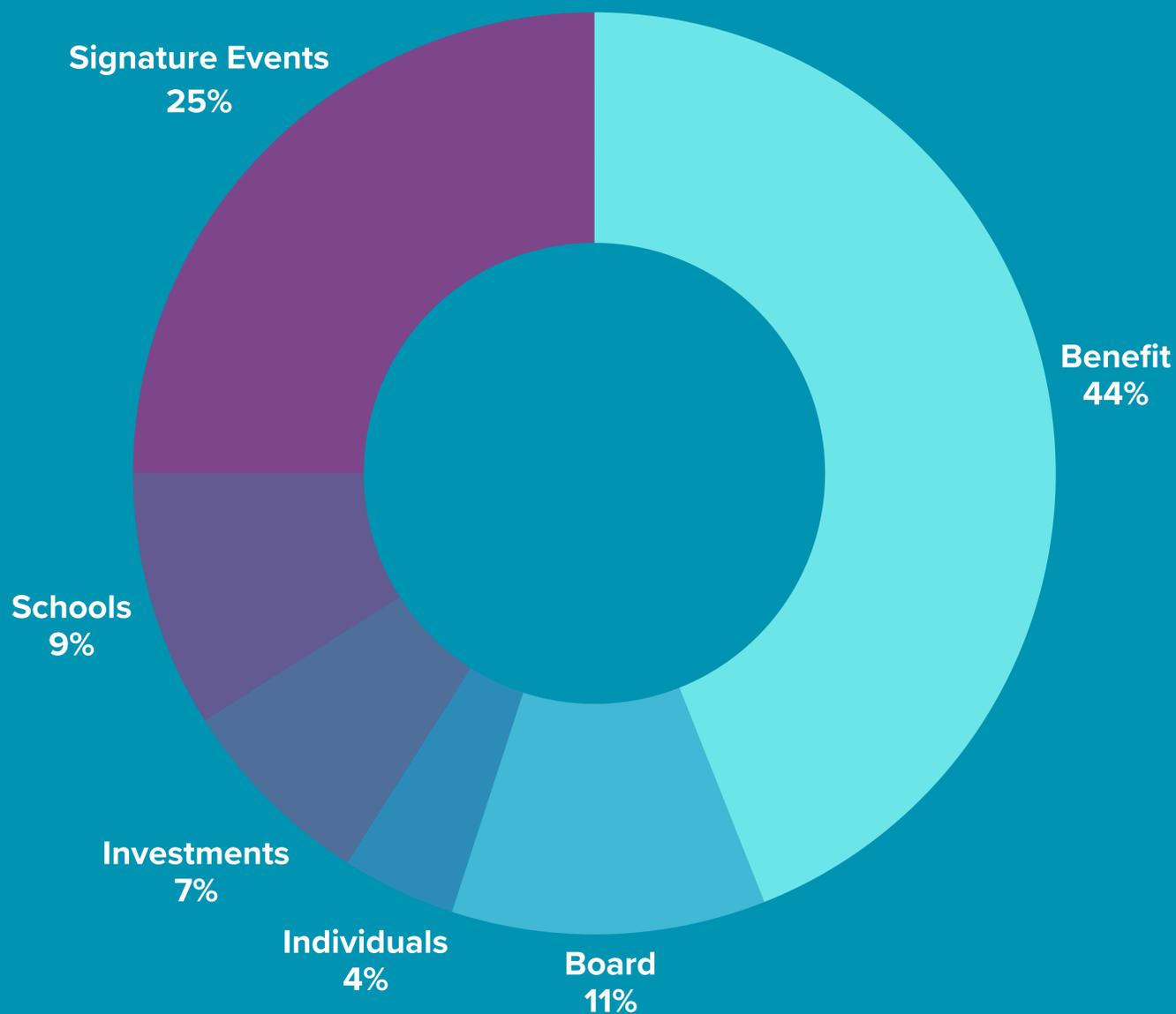
“ I would tell parents not to restrict too much. It will make kids rebel more. Kids should learn balance themselves. ”

“ Freshman year, I was on my phone 4 hours a day. Now, I’ve cut back to 2 hours a day – I was definitely addicted. ”

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our financial stewardship reflects our commitment to transparency and responsible resource management. Every dollar donated directly supports our mission to strengthen parent communities and provide meaningful content that supports families at every stage.

FUNDING SOURCES



Our diversified funding model ensures sustainable operations while maintaining our volunteer-led, community-focused approach:

Benefit Event (44% - \$94,100): Our signature fundraising event continue to be our largest revenue source, demonstrating strong community support and engagement. This represents a slight decrease from last year's \$96,000 but remains a robust foundation for our operations, reflecting the ongoing commitment of our community even amid economic uncertainties.

Signature Events and Programming (25% - \$53,800): Revenue from our educational programming increased significantly from \$43,500 last year, reflecting growing demand for our expert-led content and the value families place on our educational offerings. This 24% increase demonstrates the relevance and impact of our programming.

Board Contributions (11% - \$23,800): Board giving increased from \$21,900, demonstrating strong leadership commitment and setting an example for community support.

This 8.7% increase reflects our board's deepened investment in our mission.

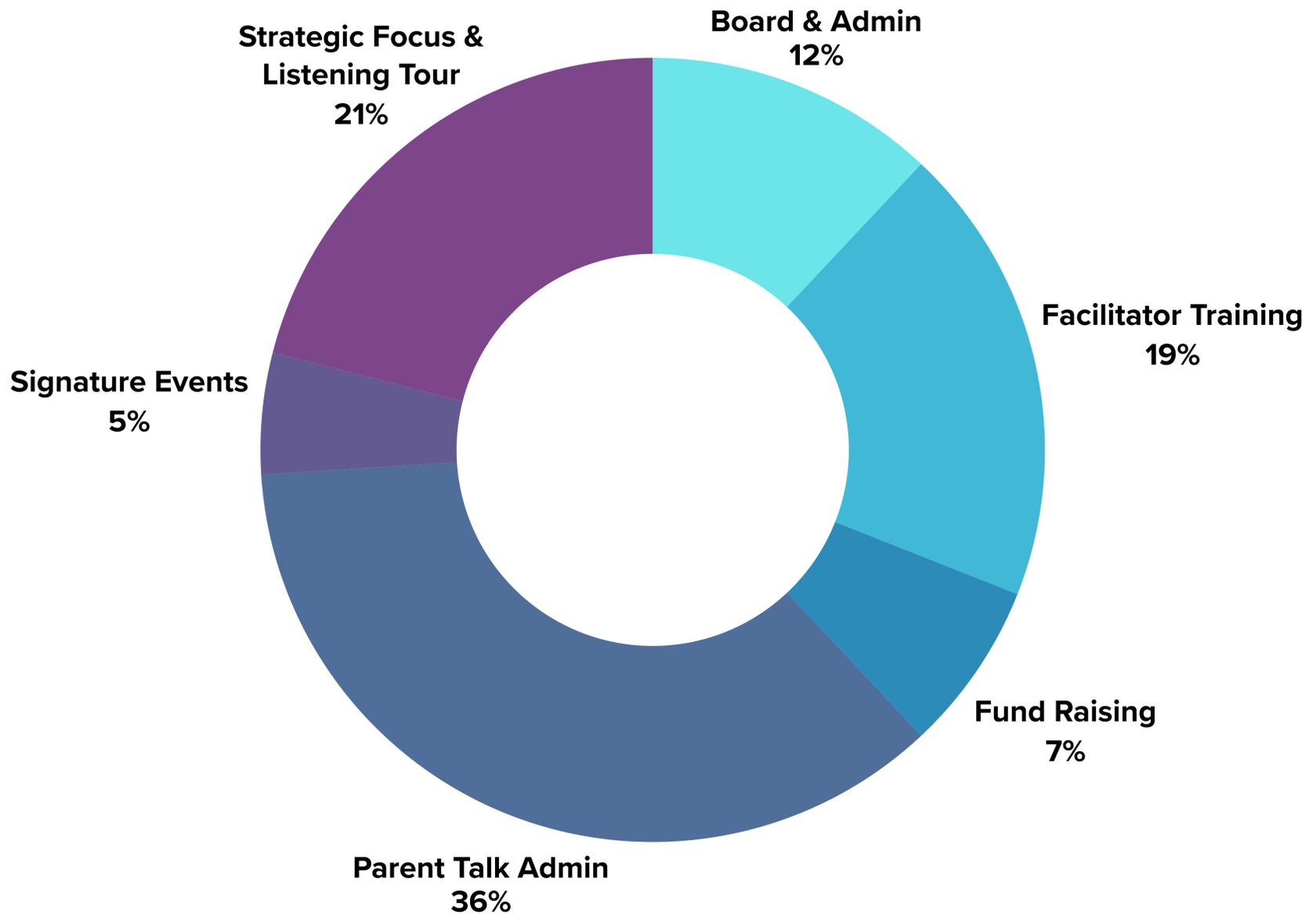
Schools (9% - \$20,300): School-based support decreased slightly from \$24,100 last year but remains an important component of our funding mix, reflecting ongoing institutional partnerships despite budget pressures facing schools.

Investment Income (7% - \$15,600): Our prudent financial management generated \$15,600 in investment returns, up from \$12,900 last year, providing additional stability for our operations and demonstrating responsible stewardship of our reserves.

Individual Donations (4% - \$9,100): Direct individual support, while representing a smaller percentage, provides crucial unrestricted funding that enables program flexibility and innovation.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

EXPENSES



Our expense allocation reflects our commitment to program delivery and community impact.

Parent Talk Admin (36%): The largest portion of our budget directly supports our core Parent Talks program, including facilitator coordination, materials, and school partnership management. This represents a decrease from 46% last year, reflecting operational efficiencies.

Strategic Focus & Listening Tour (21%): This new initiative represents our significant investment in understanding and responding to evolving community needs, ensuring our programming remains relevant and impactful. This strategic investment positions us for continued growth and relevance.

Facilitator Training (19%): This investment in volunteer development ensures high-quality facilitation across all our programming while achieving greater efficiency in our training delivery.

Fundraising (7%): Our efficient fundraising operations maintain low overhead while generating significant community support, decreased from 9% last year.

Signature Events (5%): Direct program costs for our expert-led educational offerings, demonstrating efficient delivery of high-value content.

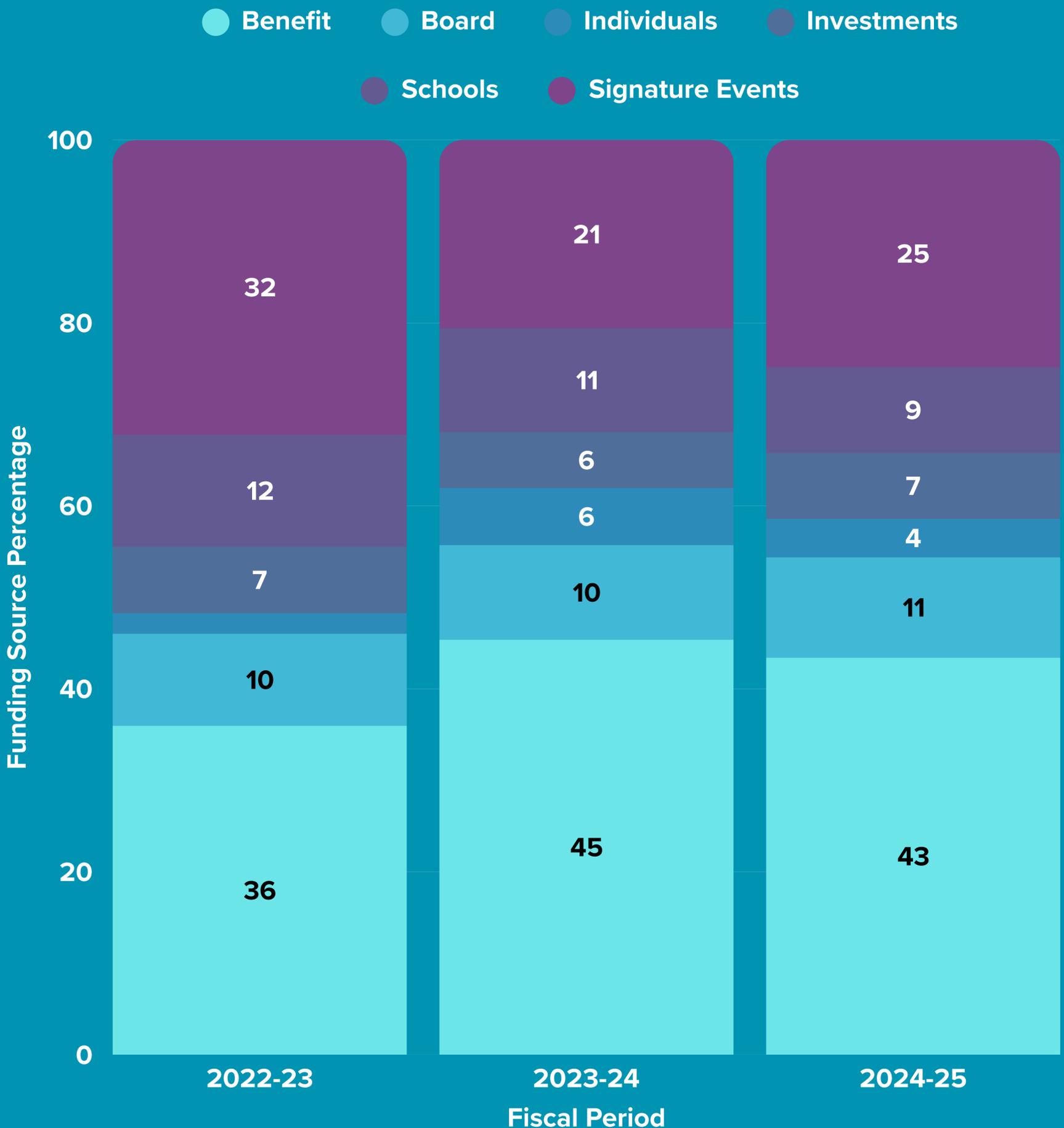
Board & Admin (12%): Our lean administrative structure ensures maximum resources flow directly to program delivery.

FINANCIAL TRENDS

FUNDING SOURCES

Our funding has grown from \$186,800 to \$216,700 over three years, representing a healthy 16% increase that enables expanded community programming and outreach.

88% of every dollar donated goes directly to program delivery and community impact, with only 12% allocated to essential administrative functions.

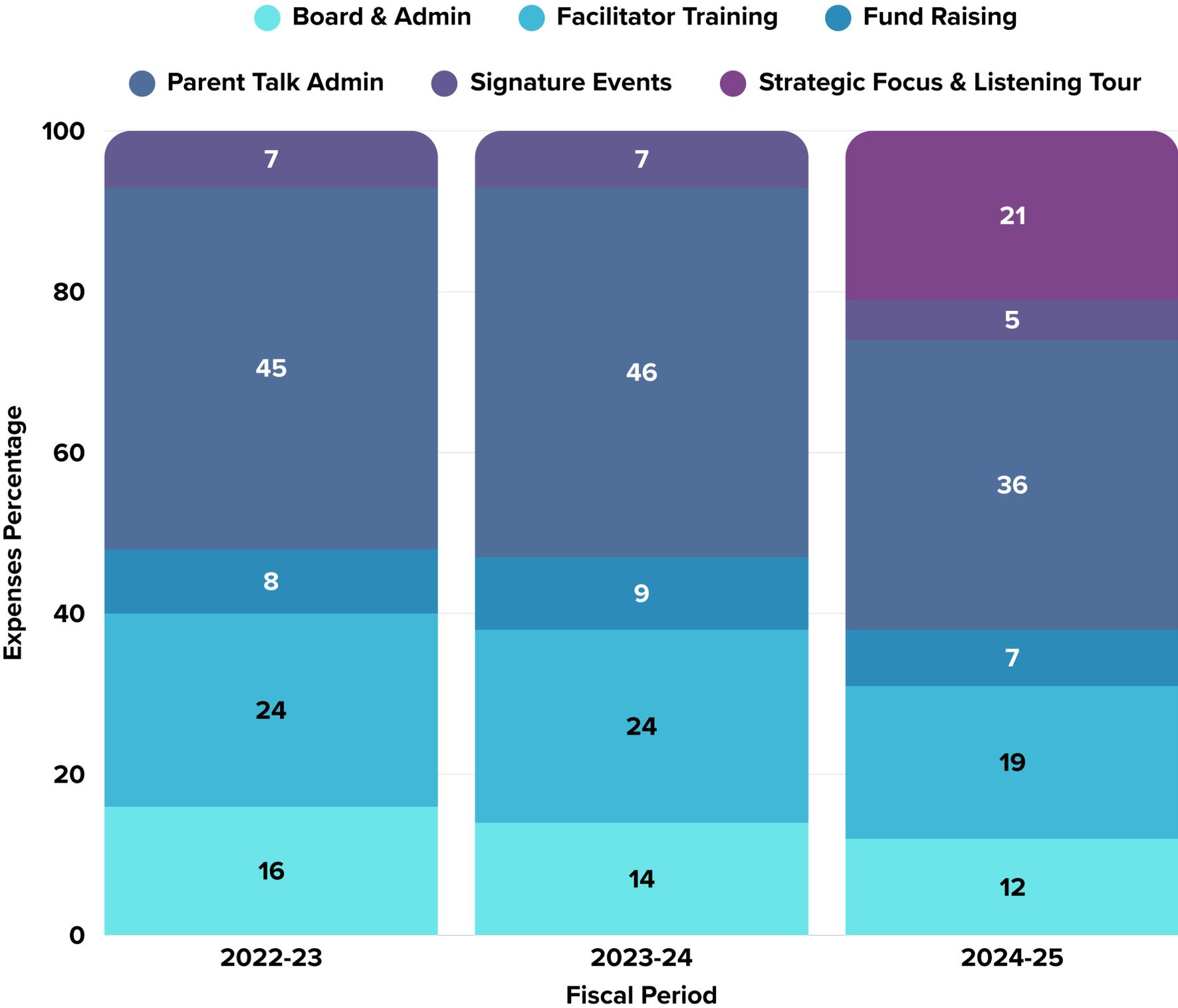


FINANCIAL TRENDS

EXPENSES TREND

Our three-year expense evolution reflects a maturing organization that has achieved operational efficiencies while making strategic investments in community engagement. The introduction of our Strategic Focus & Listening Tour represents a significant commitment to understanding and responding to evolving community needs, positioning us for continued relevance and impact.

Meanwhile, our ability to reduce administrative costs from 16% to 12% while maintaining program quality demonstrates our commitment to maximizing donor impact.



FRIENDS OF NYC-PIA

OUR GRATITUDE

The strength of NYC-Parents in Action lies in our extraordinary community of donors and volunteers who make our mission possible. Every contribution—whether financial support, volunteer hours, or community engagement—directly impacts families across New York City's independent school landscape.

RECOGNITION

As a volunteer-led nonprofit, every dollar donated and every hour volunteered supports our mission to strengthen parent communities and provide meaningful content that supports families at every stage.

Trained Facilitators

Our volunteer facilitators are the heart of our Parent Talks program, leading 197 sessions across 22 schools and directly engaging with 2,252 parents. These dedicated volunteers undergo 15 hours of professional training and commit to facilitating at least six meetings per year.

Program Volunteers

From event planning to administrative support, our volunteers contribute countless hours to ensure smooth operations and meaningful programming.

Board and Committee Members

Our dedicated board and committee volunteers provide strategic guidance, operational oversight, and community leadership.

Marjorie Adams
Zoraya Aguilar de Huré
Tashmin Ali
Lina Aljuburi
Chanté Allen
Ingrid Alvarez
Pati Amoroso
Aprajita Anand
Jennifer Anderson
Ana Appignani
Louise Armstrong
Tamar Avnet
Bibb Bailey
Talene Baroyan
Elena Baskina
Laurie Beard
Ashley Beberus
Edward Benkert
Veronica Bennett
Jessica Berens
Felicia Bersh
Emily Blavatnik
Oscar Bleetstein
Carol Blondel
Alexandra Bonetti
Laura Bradbury
Marie Brill
Sarah Brown
Genevieve Brown
Eliza Browning
Danielle Burakovsky
Andrea Burns
David Caluori
Tamara Carmichael
Natasha Caronna
Susannah Carrier
Marie Carroll
Anna Caspersen
Mary Elizabeth Catala
Audrey Chan
Dipa Chandra
Victoria Chen
Xiumin Chen
Tenley Chepiga
Rebecca Chia
Lis Chirinos
Amanda Chiu
Ting-Ting Chiu
Michelle Chung
Adriana Clancy
Michaela Clary
Diana Clement
Gul Coskun
Chrissi Crampton
Kristin Crescenzo
Cecilia Crowhurst
Austen Cruz
Nicole Cyrlin
Sabina Daley Deaton
Sarah Daly
Tatyana Danilov
Elizabeth Darst
Hiba Darwish
Cara Davidson
Joanna de Neufville
Denise DeBono
Aimee Del Pizzo
Megan del Valle
Erica Dewan
Seema Dhar
Himani Dixit
Rebecca Dorrian
Wilhelmina Eaken
Elizabeth Fascitelli
Cinthia Fernholz
Elaine Finkeltaub
Franco Finstad
Catherine Fraise
Laurie Freeman
Ollie Friedman
Shannon Friedrichs Higdon
Steven Fuchs
Barbara Garjian Hiscoe
Medora Geary
Analia Giorgio
Chantal Glancy
Courtney Goldsmith
Adrienne Goldthorpe
James Gomez
Rosemarie Gooden
Stephanie Gorman
Jody Gorton
Margaret Gould Korn
Emily Grace
Virginia Graham
Catherine Greenman
Joni Grossman
Meredith Grossman
Melodia Eloise Gurevich
Chau Haber
Maddie Hamilton
Karee Hanifan
Charles Harkless
Kristen Harper

FRIENDS OF NYC-PIA

Catherine Hawthorn
Courtney Herlihy
Ann Hickey
Samantha Hicks
Tolaison Hooks
Lillie Howard
Alison Hunter
Maria Hyde
Laura Israel Sinrod
Eliana Jacobs
Britta Jacobson
Elyssa Jaffe
Jahanaz Jaffer
Lauren Janian
Rachna Jethwani
Tara Johnson
Evelyn Kaminsky
Nicole Katcher
Stacy Katz
Jeff Kauffman
Katherine Kaufman
Linda Kelly
Salma Khan
Anne Khuong
Sevda Kleinman
Abigail Klem Spector
Michelle Koepfel
Tameka Koney
Kelli Konop
Olivia Koppell
Gillian Larson
Lisa Lascher
Yvonne Lau
Teresa Lazar
Maggie Lear
Sabrina Leblanc
Georgette Ledgister
Sophia Lee
Lauren Levine
Sidney Li
Jesse Lipson
Amy Lloyd
Caroline P. Los Arcos
Maggie Lu
Karina Lubowitz
Kevin Ludwig
Margo Macnabb Nederlander
Veronica Maginnis
Katlego Mahleka
Fraser Maloney
Elizabeth Mandy

Lucy Martin Gianino
Devra Martinez
Cinthia Martinez
Amory McAndrew
Sarah McCauley
Eby McKay
Caroline Meade
Sophie Moura
Roswitha Mueller
Nadia Mullin
Ann-Marie Myers
Melonie Nance
Dina Nancy
Cory Nangle
Erin O'connor
Laura O'Boyle
Gemma O'Brien
Megan Olden
Liza Oneglia
Nanette Ooi
Orlando Osorio
Meagan Ouder Kirk
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Fairy Pardiwalla
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Betsy Pepe
Anita Philip
Caroline Phillips
Vanessa Pojarliev
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Leslie Saliba Nasr
Leigh Savar
Theodore Schiffman
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Halsey Schroeder
Amanda Schumacher
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Wendy Shar
Ellen Sherman
Helen Shin
Anya Shiva
Kasia Silverton
Manita Singh
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Liana Sterling
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Pat Stone
Gigi Stone Woods
Sara Strang
Chris Straw
Robin Swid
Ashba Syed
Taslim Tagore
Margot Takian
Crystal Tandon
Tanya Taylor
Anna Tcherepnine
Sayoko Teitelbaum
Nicole Tekkora
Nithya Thadani
Julie Thibault
Virginia Tomenson
Karen Tomita
Elizabeth Tooter
Kimbrough Towles
Jed Traphagen
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Jacqueline Tsu
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Ellen Turchyn
Hallie Ulman
Maria Underwood
Deborah Van Eck

Tatiana Vasilyev
Marlies Verhoeven
Alexandra Voris
Anne Wall
Jiayi Wang
Catherine Wang
Caroline Waxler
Katherine Weber
Liza Weiner
Noel Weinstein
Mariana Weiss
Casey Weiss
Melanie Wells
Richard Wells
Anna Wesley
Melanie Weston
Rebecca Williams
Rachel Winokur
Carolyn Wise
Rachel Wish
Jessie Wixon
Aya Woods
Catherine Workman
Wai Yim
Sue Xu Zhang
Ivy Zhang
Kim Zinn
Carolyn Zweben

CONTACT INFORMATION

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 @NYC-Parents In Action

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Address:

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New York, NY 10128

Ways to Get Involved

Become a Facilitator: Join our team of trained volunteers who guide thoughtful conversations across NYC schools. Training provided twice yearly.

Support Our Programs: Attend our events, participate in Parent Talks, and engage with our educational programming.

Make a Donation: Your financial support directly enables program delivery and community impact.

Spread the Word: Help us reach more families by sharing information about our programs within your school and parent communities.