



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Fiscal Year July 1, 2021
through June 30, 2022





A NEW FOUNDATION FOR BCSD SCHOOLS

In 2021, the Foundation for Beacon Schools (FBS) was incorporated in the midst of the pandemic to harness additional community support for public education in Beacon.

FBS was designated a 501c3 tax-exempt nonprofit in late 2021. We are composed of a volunteer board of directors and an advisory board of school and community leaders. We have seven committees and working groups that guide and operate our programs.



Our core commitments:

- Innovate** → Foster innovation through grants for Beacon City School District educators
- Enhance** → Enhance the student learning experience by funding special initiatives
- Bridge** → Strengthen ties between the community and Beacon's public schools
- Partner** → Cultivate partnerships with local and regional organizations



“Improvising, one of the Arts Standards for NYS, can be hard to teach in large ensembles. The three-day music composition workshop funded by the Foundation in early 2022 was enlightening and fun for the 100 band and chorus students who took part!”

-Ms. Wright, BCSD Music Coordinator

2021-2022 School Year Snapshot



During our first year as a nonprofit, we were proud to post achievements in support of all our goals and commitments.

Building Community Support

- Developed communications, IT and financial management systems and **grew our network** to 580 individuals in the first year of operations.
- Initiated relationships with a range of **local and regional businesses**. 25 businesses became **sponsors** of one or more events with monetary or in-kind donations.
- Appeared in BCSD communications, local **press and radio**, and email and social media campaigns.
- Partnered with a local philanthropic group and assisted in organizing the first **Chicken Run 5K** to benefit the Foundation.
- Partnered with the Beacon Historical Society, St. Andrew and St. Luke Church, and local film professionals on a **collaborative grant application** to the **City of Beacon**.
- Hosted our **inaugural gala** sponsored by thirteen local businesses and attended by more than 100 individuals, raising over \$4,500.

"Thank you for a magical, almost nostalgic evening in feeling. It was a big moment of joy for our family. Our kiddo has found a new purpose and is still wearing the film festival shirt and award."

*-Parent of a 2022 student filmmaker
1st annual BCSD Student Film Festival*



2021-2022 School Year Snapshot



First Round of Educator Grants

The Foundation awarded four innovation grants to teachers across the district for projects ranging from STEM to music composition (Spring 2022 grant cycle).



- **Hurricane Shelter STEM Challenge**
6th grade, Rombout Middle School
- **Music Composition Workshop**
9-12th grades, Beacon High School
- **Earth Science Trip to Minnewaska SP**
4th grade, Sargent Elementary
- **Build and Write 3D Project Board**
K-5th grades, JV Forrestal Elementary

"My class partner and I really got to express our creativity and ideas."

"I learned that certain materials work better than others and lighter structures were more susceptible to rain and wind."

*-6th grade students, Rombout Middle School
Hurricane Shelter STEM Challenge*

1st Annual BCSD Student Film Festival!

Our **flagship program** featured 37 short films made by over 75 students in K-11th grades.

The festival was sponsored by 12 businesses, reported in the press, and attended by 300+ for a joyful night of student movie magic.

We secured commitments from our community partners to expand the scope of the 2023 BCSD Student Film Festival and support more budding student filmmakers!



2021-2022 School Year Snapshot



BAM! Supporting BCSD Music Education

The Beacon Advocates for Music (BAM), a booster club for music education in the BCSD, became a part of the Foundation for Beacon Schools. The BAM team operates as one of our subject-specific committee to support BCSD music educators and students.



In 2021-2022, **BAM volunteers:**

- Ran the **Poinsettia Fundraisers** at BCSD winter concerts
- Funded **Tri-M Honor Society** student t-shirts at the High School
- Supported students and faculty marching in the **Spirit of Beacon Day** parade
- Funded **grants** for music faculty

2022 Chicken Run 5K

The Foundation was honored to be a recipient of the proceeds raised from the first ever **Chicken Run 5K**, held at Sharpe Reservation in April 2022.

Organized by local philanthropist Karen Finnegan and race organizer William Elkins, the Chicken Run 5K saw over 100 runners and walkers of all ages participate. This fun event even included a 'yoga with chickens' session at the end! The Foundation thanks Karen, Bill, and all of the volunteers for creating this wonderful race for the community.





2021-2022 by the Numbers



Impacted **550+**
Students

\$31,028 in
contributions

126 donors

\$4,000 in grants
awarded to BCSD
educators (first round
of funding)

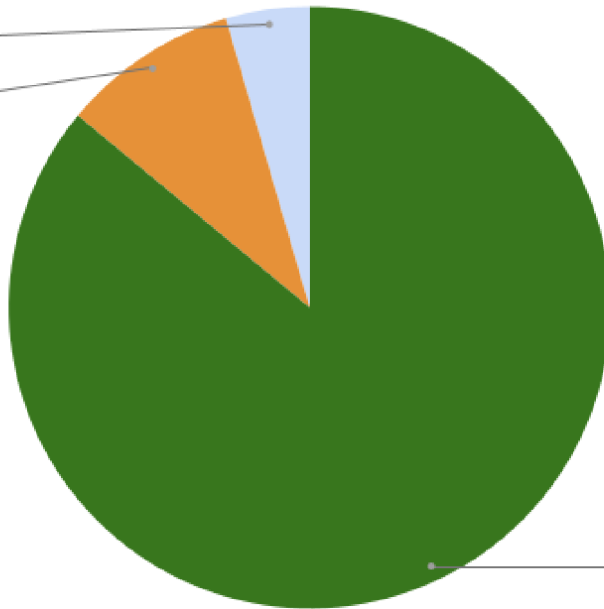
25 business
sponsors

Fundraising

4.5%

Admin

9.5%



Program

86.0%

\$26,455 in net assets
ending FY 22.
Change of \$26,010

“This new tool has created an engaging space for students to work together on collaborative projects that will involve more students at one time.”

-Ms. Coleman, Library and Media teacher, JV Forrestal Elementary
FBS Grantee, Spring 2022





FBS People Power

Thank you to all our volunteers, donors, and supporters!

FY '21-'22 Board of Directors

Anna Sullivan, Chair
Anthony Davis, Vice-Chair
Rebecca Libed, Treasurer
Kelly Ellenwood, Secretary
Kit Burke-Smith, Communications

Debbie Brennen, Director and BAM Co-Chair
Rebecca Correllus, Director and BAM Co-Chair
Barbara Fisher, Director
Maureen Neary, Director, Film Festival Chair
Carole Penner, Director

FY '21-'22 Advisory Board

Elissa Betterbid, Gala Chair
Steven Blumenthal
August Eriksmoen
Meredith Heuer
Dr. Matthew Landahl

Gwen Laster
Wren Longno
Jason McIntyre
Craig Wolf
Susan Wright

FY '21-'22 Committee Volunteers

Melissa Buerkett
Elise Derevjanik
William Elkins
Ryan Havers
Emily Hare

Karen Finnegan
Lori Merhige
Terry Nelson
Timothy Parsaca
Dr. Sagrario Rudecindo-O'Neill

BHS National Honor Society Volunteers
Gala Musicians:
Beacon Rising Choir
Rhythm Rising Latin Jazz Band

FY '21-'22 Sponsors

Atlas Industries
Ballet Arts
Beacon Arts and Education Foundation
Beacon Fine Art Printing
Beacon Music Factory
Beacon Vet
Becoming Mental Health Counseling
Brett's True Value
Bright Smiles of Beacon

Steven Blumenthal
Carters Restaurant
Durants
EZ Flow
Letterio and Haug
Gabby Grace Landscaping
Gergely Pediatrics
Grey Printing
Happy Valley

Healey Auto Group
The Highlands Current
Luxe Optique
Meredith Caraher Health and Fitness
Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union
Mount St Mary's
Smileworks
Seeger Theater at Beacon High School
StoryScreen Beacon
Weber Projects LLC

