we are more than music
Greetings,

I am often asked why we do this work. My first thought is the Amped vision to build generational wealth for families and entrepreneurs creating self-sufficiency, economic mobility, and a more equitable society. I also think about our mission to amplify and accelerate the economic and equity transformation of black and brown communities, but in my heart it is more than that to me.

My reason is actually kind of selfish. Being totally honest I do this work because my children live in this insanely unfair world. The children of my friends and relatives live in this world that is far too often unfair, far too often unjust, and systematically racist. I desperately want to see all of those things end.

The good news is that if we can eliminate systemic racism, injustice, and oppression, we all win. If we can create a world where every woman, man, and child is given the access and the opportunity to thrive, we all win. Economic empowerment and ownership equals independence.

I am not naive enough to believe that a 400+ year wound will be healed in my lifetime but I feel blessed by God that we have been given the opportunity to create something that will contribute to a healing that will someday result in us all being seen and treated as truly equal. Until that day comes we will continue to STAND. We will continue to FIGHT. We will continue to BELIEVE.
Amped uses music and technology as catalysts to empower youth to work as a team, learn to express themselves effectively, and develop into healthy, productive members of our community and world.

In 2022 the Music Academy provided classes to over 270 students in our Music Academy and in our Level Up partnership with JCPS. Classes include piano, guitar, drums, voice, music production, audio engineering. Additionally the music academy provides academic support, mentoring, and mental health services.

Launched in 2021, the Amped Russell Technology Business Incubator (RTBI) is designed as a state-of-the-art Black and Latinx business incubator and technology service center offering business development training, business services, assessments, referrals, and wraparound services to incubating businesses.

65% INCREASE IN GPA
1000+ HOURS OF INSTRUCTION
273 STUDENTS SERVED
2022 RTBI Cohort
Chicago Jerk Chicken
Smooth Hair Trends
Hatchett Enterprise and Consulting
Lori’s Juice Co.
Eyes Like Mine
United Scholars Learning Center
Unique Essentials Hair Care
The Unicorn Yacht Club
Candice Gentry Photography
Potters LLC
CHANEL NICOLE CO.
The Harmony Home and Busy Bus
525 Spots Corporation
Legacy Wine & Spirits
Gimme Some Suga Signature Cotton
Gandy
KimmieLainee Alterations and Fashion Design
Melanated Healthcare, LLC
Ger Miniches, LLC
Wild bird
Mary’s Side Haven
Apprielix
DMCB Productions
Chase Ur Dreams LLC
Complete Mind Body & Soul
Faith Works Performing Arts Centers
The Girl Geek, LLC
Loc N Key
Apparel for Me
Rexy Designs & Designs
Alii Solutions
Kentuckiana Backyard Farms
4Your Kids Entertainment

STUDENTS SERVED 1000+
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE
INCREASE IN GPA
OF AMPED YOUTH ATTEND POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS
2022 RTBI Cohort
Chicago Jerk Chicken
Smooth Hair Trends
Hatchett Enterprise and Consulting
Lori’s Juice Co.
Eyes Like Mine
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Careers in Data Science and Technology have growth rates of 53% and 45%, respectively. Across Kentucky, the field of Data Science and Information Technology accounted for LESS than 1% of the state’s job loss due to COVID-19. However, across the country, only 7.4% of technology-related positions are held by Black people.

The Amped Workforce Development Training program helps train members of our community with technology skills historically only available through college while filling a critical workforce gap for Louisville-based companies. Students learn data analytics programs like Tableau and Power BI, complete a capstone presentation to demonstrate the knowledge gained during the program, and receive mentorship throughout the process to ensure successful engagement and completion.

Through this programming, Amped is removing disparities in the fields of data analytics and data science.

As part of the Healthcare Workforce Innovation Coalition, Amped will be building the Russell Station Technology Center at 17th and Market. This project, funded by the American Rescue Plan, will train over 400 Black and LatinX students in health tech training and support placement in health tech jobs with participating employers.

In alignment with our continuing efforts to enrich the community, Amped will be opening the Amped Innovation Center at 2500 West Broadway. Amped has reimagined the building that once housed Louisville’s first Black-owned and operated car dealership by developing a facility that Amped is committed to restoring to its original historical condition to serve as the hub for West Louisville.

The Amped Innovation Center will be the creative hub in West Louisville, a place where creativity in all its forms permeates in and out of the building. The hub will be an economic engine and a convening space for creativity, innovation, intellectual growth, and entrepreneurship.

Amped’s commitment to the community’s economic, social, and artistic well-being will be embodied in a physical space for the community to gather.

By raising $16 million Amped will be able to complete the Innovation Center, including ownership of the building, renovations, office equipment, furnishings, and key staffing.
2014

Amped is founded as a Music Academy with the goal of providing a safe space to empower youth to work as a team, learn how to express themselves effectively, and develop into healthy, productive members of our community and the world.

2017

Amped partners with the National Center for Families Learning - with the understanding that the families of children in the music academy needed services, the program brought children and families together to learn music, teach basic technology skills, technology job skills, professional development, and life skills.

2018

Family learning program transitions to the Amped Technology Workforce Development Center. To expand the offerings to the greater community, Amped developed the Technology Workforce Development Center. By partnering with Louisville-based companies and corporations, the program not only offers the training needed for a career in technology but employment opportunities in the fields of data analytics and data science.

2021

Amped launches the Russell Tech Business Incubator - Due to historic underinvestment, black businesses ownership accounts for only .8% of all businesses in Louisville, even though they account for 24% of the population.

2022

Amped purchases a building at 2500 W. Broadway and begins renovations for the Amped Innovation Center. The innovation center will be the creative hub in west Louisville and provide opportunities for artists and the community to have a space for creativity, innovation, intellectual growth, and entrepreneurship.

2023

Amped partnered with a coalition to develop the Russell Station Technology Center at 17th and Market. This state-of-the-art tech and learning center in the Russell neighborhood will provide Black and LatinX people in low-income communities employment in health technology jobs that pay at or above a living wage.
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Theresa Hathaway

Mary Louise Gorman

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Kathleen WYNE

Kena Stith

Richard Pickren

Scott L Meyer Jr

Patty Marguet

David Maddox

Nikki Lanier

Angelique Johnson

Katie Giles

Samir Ghadiali

$1,000 - $4,999

Julie LaValle Jones

Cara Baribeau

James A. Gravitt

Brooke Brown Barzun

Eckels Family Fund

Neumann Eckels

Tammy McClure

Dave Christopher, Sr.

Alice Houston

Augusta Holland

$25,000 - $50,000

PNC Foundation

JP Morgan Chase Foundation

James Graham Brown Foundation

Fund for the Arts

Community Foundation of Louisville

Brown Forman Foundation

$100,000+

Angela Bassett

Paige Bassett

Sandra Wren

Rebecca Wren

Shawn Gardner

Daniela Gamez

Ronald Gallo

Mike Ford

Shannon Floyd

Lois Floyd

Sylena Fishback

La Tasha Fields

Jamesetta Ferguson

Emerald Feland

William Farmer

Jason Eiche

Brian Edwards

Joan Dorsey

Erica Denise

Montrey Deal

Karen Rawlings

Lyndon Pryor

Tara Pruitt

Shameka Parrish-Wright

Kacy Noltemeyer

Patrick Moore

Keishanna Moore

Christopher Moore

Ryan Miranda

Allie McClure

Kelly McCants

Judy Malone

Mellone Long

Jevonne Logan

Natosha Loftis

Rose Livingston

Emory Williamson

Andrea Lightsy

Lisa Leet

Tim Lally

Jana Kohorst

Lesia Knudsen

Haley Kirtley

J Richard Jones

Pamela Jolly

Mikayla Johnson

Charles Johnson

Benjamin A Johnson jr

Aimee Jewell

Vicki Jackson

Rosemary Irwin

Theresa Zawacki

Judith Youngblood

Jimmy Xu

Courtney Winstead

Jaelah Wilson

Brunhilda Williams-Curington

Ryan Whitehead

Troy White

Michael Washburn

Wachsman Family

Hannah Truxell

Emily Trager

David Tomes

Karen Thompson

Valerie Terry

Vanessa Taylor

Paula B Wilder

Joshua Swetnam

Mary C. Sullivan

Alicia Stokes

Karly Stinnett

Brandon Stettenbenz

Ronyale Smith

Rachel T Smith

Kevin and Pat Smith

Evon Smith

Pheniece Semien

Hannah Schuster

Jeanette Rowan Jones

Lynn Rippy

Sean Reynolds

Lisa Resnik

Theresa Reno-Weber

AMPED AMPED

Up to $250

James Welch

Bearnice Tate

Kayla Meisner

William Lentini

Ralph Irwin

April Irvin

Joshua Hurt

Sherry Huhmann

Dodie Howlett

Brittany Hill - Whitehead

Melanie Christopher

Tiphanie Grant

Rylee Gordon

Victory Gentry

Candice (Malone) Gentry

Jose Gaztambide

Shawn Gardner

Daniela Gamez

Ronald Gallo

Mike Ford

Shannon Floyd

Lois Floyd

Sylena Fishback

La Tasha Fields

Jamesetta Ferguson

Emerald Feland

William Farmer

Jason Eiche

Brian Edwards

Joan Dorsey

Erica Denise

Montrey Deal

Karen Rawlings

Lyndon Pryor

Tara Pruitt

Shameka Parrish-Wright

Kacy Noltemeyer

Patrick Moore

Keishanna Moore

Christopher Moore

Ryan Miranda

Allie McClure

Kelly McCants

Judy Malone

Mellone Long

Jevonne Logan

Natosha Loftis

Rose Livingston

Emory Williamson

Andrea Lightsy

Lisa Leet

Tim Lally

Jana Kohorst

Lesia Knudsen

Haley Kirtley

J Richard Jones

Pamela Jolly

Mikayla Johnson

Charles Johnson

Benjamin A Johnson jr

Aimee Jewell

Vicki Jackson

Rosemary Irwin

Theresa Zawacki

Judith Youngblood

Jimmy Xu

Courtney Winstead

Jaelah Wilson

Brunhilda Williams-Curington

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Troy White

Michael Washburn

Wachsman Family

Hannah Truxell

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Rachel T Smith

Kevin and Pat Smith

Evon Smith

Pheniece Semien

Hannah Schuster

Jeanette Rowan Jones

Lynn Rippy

Sean Reynolds

Lisa Resnik

Theresa Reno-Weber
The seeds we plant today will bear fruit in the leaders of tomorrow.