



Annual Report

September 2019 –
December 2020

#Soul
Food
For
Migrant
Youth

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A Note on the Context of this Annual Report



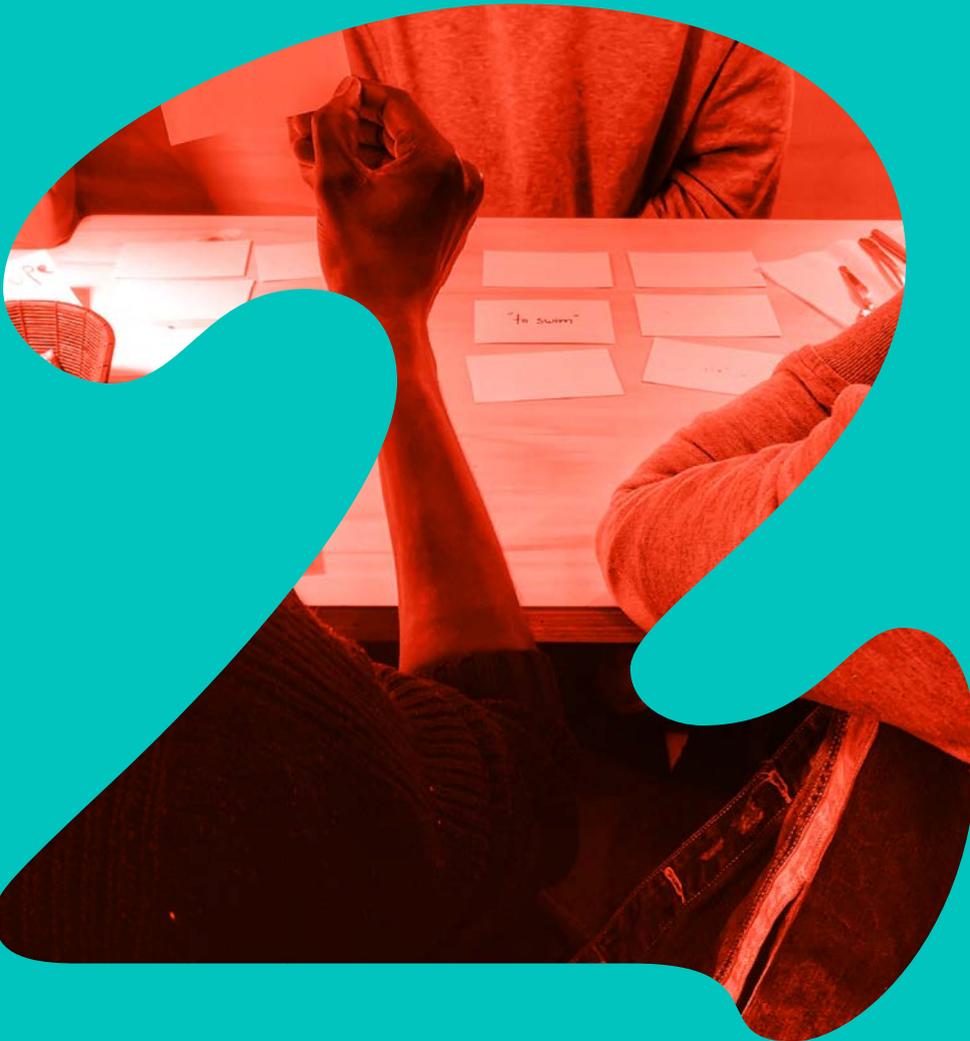
A Note on the Context of this Annual Report

Due to the nature of how Soul Food started, our first two annual reports are unique in that they do not cover exactly 1-year time periods. We chose to make our first annual report cover 18.5 months (mid-February 2018- August 2019) because we did not start fundraising until 1 year after Soul Food was created.¹ This means that of that time, only 6.5 months involved public funds, namely individual donations. Before that, all Soul Food activities were either free or self-funded by the organization's co-founders. As a result, our second annual report also covers more than a year. The following report details our activities from September 2019- December 2020. Moving forward, all Soul Food annual reports will cover a conventional calendar year.

Globally, 2020 has been a tumultuous, strange and difficult year. In Paris we endured two confinement periods, curfews and months of closures within the cultural sector. This not only impacted our regular activities, but it has also had a negative impact on our partners and friends. As is often the case, those who are already experiencing hardship have been hit the hardest. This year saw many losses for young migrants and refugees in Paris, with more than 300 being left on the street to fend for themselves during the first confinement period and violent police attacks against others during the second. While not all of these young people are young Soul Food members, the nature of 2020 meant that we had to adapt and as we believe in community, we gladly increased our advocacy activities, and did what we could to help unaccompanied minors and young refugees who needed it. These variations in our activity still embody our mission and values, and are detailed throughout this annual report.

¹ Soul Food did not become a legal entity in France until November 2018.

A Word from the President





Kryssandra Heslop Co-Founder, Creative Director & President

If the first year and a half was full of ups and downs, excitement, great achievements, and numerous obstacles, I must say that this past year and half (year and four months to be precise) has been a rollercoaster ride that started in the clouds, went through several dark tunnels, and seems to be ending with a brighter future within reach. 2019 ended on an optimistic note, with one of our greatest achievements and, while 2020 started with a wonderful celebration of the 2nd anniversary of Soul Food (one of our other greatest achievements), it quickly transformed into an unfathomable situation. I am very proud to say that though our fledgling organizing is small, Soul Food has survived and will continue to do so. We remain driven to help young migrants and refugees reach their full potential, and we are still inspired by these young people, as well as the art we continue to experience with them.

Despite the local and global events that have negatively impacted our community during this period, we managed to form new partnerships, welcome new young members and volunteers into the organization, and organize our first cultural event. Young Soul Food members helped create an original performance, performed on stage, wrote and gave speeches in front of an audience, and provided emergency aid. We created new programs and activities, and went on marvelous cultural excursions. After both confinement periods, we joined other organizations on the ground and volunteered with our young members, to help other young migrants who are experiencing homelessness.

This time around we had a little more help than before. Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, we were able to do things we hadn't done before, provide aid in new ways, and plan for the sustainable future of Soul Food. Thank you for all of your help, encouragement, donations, and support. Most of all, I must thank our young members, whose courage and faith in a future worth living, continues to inspire us every single day.

Looking back on this tumultuous period, I am incredibly grateful for Soul Food. Even during the darkest of hours, this organization's light has shined brightly. We follow our young members' lead, and look forward with optimism and hope. I can't wait to see what we will accomplish next year!



Soul Food: Who Are We?



At Soul Food, we believe in the value of kindness, community and art. We believe that everyone has the equal right to beauty and creativity. Everyone has the right to be inspired.

These beliefs are at the core of our mission to expose young migrants and refugees to art and culture, in an effort to create safe creative spaces conducive to the type of inspiration required to sustain them as they make their way through a world that is often judgmental, cruel and unfair.

We hope that in doing so, they will learn, grow and anchor themselves to something they find inspiring, that will then allow them to bloom into their full potential. We believe that this will also allow them to integrate into their (new) local communities in a natural, productive and positive way.

Mission

Soul Food's mission remains to expose young migrants (and refugees) to cultural events and artistic environments, such as concerts, artist meet-and-greets, and museum visits, in an effort to provide intellectual and cultural stimulation, facilitate positive integration experiences and encourage novel levels of autonomy in their new home country. We work towards these goals with the hope that with each new cultural experience, migrant youth will not only make new friends and forget about their problems, but also feel like a part of French culture and life, instead of like someone who is watching from the outside.

Instead of attempting to force young migrants to forget their past and country of origin, we encourage them to discover French and European culture, and find their own level of balance between these. We show them that culture is not mutually exclusive. This is done partly by embarking on cultural excursions with fellow migrants, and sometimes French youth, creating safe spaces for open dialogue and opportunities to meet locals, and experience art, music and food as locals do.

Vision

Through our work, we help promote sustainable and positive integration within immigrant communities in France. We envision a France with museums, restaurants, theatres, and concert halls full of people from all over the world; not only tourists, but migrants and locals too. We also envision a world where migrants have this type of positive visibility, and not one where we only see them sleeping in tents in crowded cities and refugee camps.

Aims

We aim to help provide access to museums, theatres and other cultural places to migrants from all over the world. We also aim to fill in the excessive time gaps left by the French administration system, when migrant youth are not permitted to attend school, with intellectual and cultural stimulation through our excursions and activities. We use art as a form of informal education and aim to encourage autonomy through these methods.

Child and Youth Protection Policy²

Towards the end of 2020, we completed our Child and Youth Protection Policy, which follows the core principles of the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child. Moving forward, each annual report will contain information on progress, performance and lessons learned, related to child and youth protection.

² The Soul Food Child and Youth Protection Policy can be found on our website.

Soul Food's Principles and Values

1



Protect and maintain the safety of our young members and all children we interact with

2



Promote kindness, tolerance, understanding, and intercultural dialogue

3



Stimulate creativity in ourselves and others

4



Ensure that Soul Food is always a safe space

5



Help others whenever possible

6



Encourage sustainability, mindfulness and eco-responsibility

7



Cultivate youth agency and participation

8



Provide equitable, dignified opportunities to our young members

Note: These are taken directly from our Volunteer and Staff Agreement. We hold ourselves and everyone we work with to these principles and values.

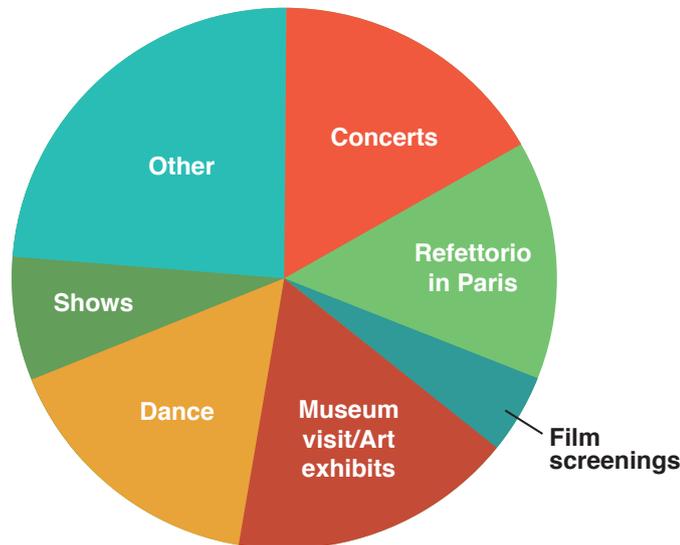
Cultural Excursions & Artistic Activities



Cultural Excursions & Artistic Activities

We have gone on 94 excursions to date! 42 of these occurred during the period covered in this report and will therefore be detailed below.

Excursions

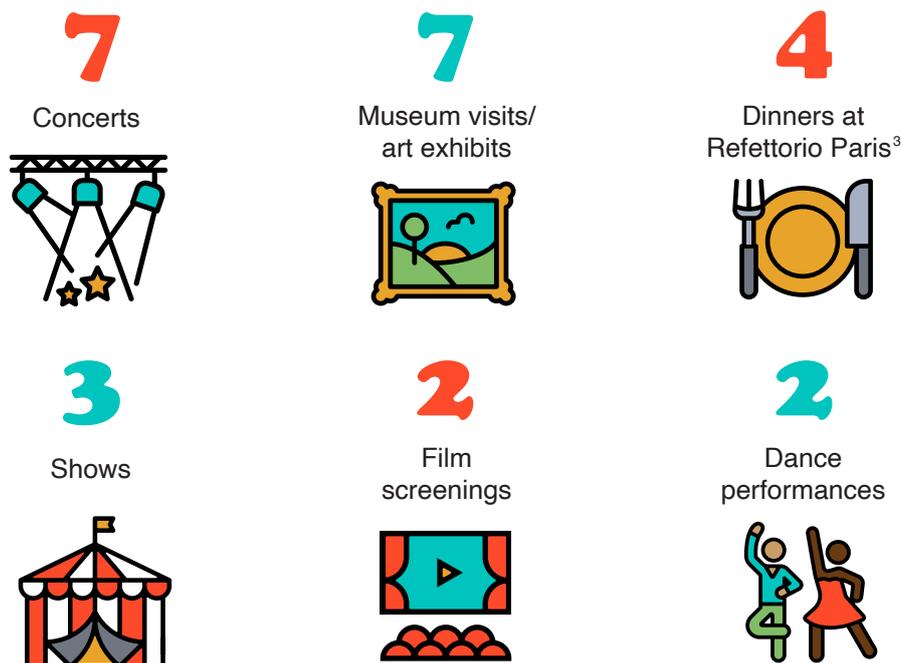


Our core actions are still artistic activities and cultural excursions. Through these we continue to facilitate innovative non-traditional education, discovery, creation, and self-expression. Some activities, such as dance workshops are participatory, while others, such as film screenings are observational in nature.

Soul Food currently has 96 young members. Some are young leaders within the organization, and they participate regularly in activities and planning, while others attend cultural excursions more sporadically.

Observational Activities

Between September 2019 and December 2020, Soul Food went to:



³ Sometimes we use dinners at Refettorio Paris as a time to organize participatory initiatives, namely English Club activities. "Regular dinners" refers to occasions when we went there and simply enjoyed a meal together.

Participatory Activities

Of the 42 excursions, 20 were participatory in nature. These include:

- 2** English Club dinners at Refettorio Paris⁴
- 5** private piano lessons
- 5** active dance experiences, including workshops and one performance
- 2** English game nights
- 2** volunteer experiences⁵
- 1** event organized by Soul Food

Local Youth

Sometimes we invite young people from local high schools to attend Soul Food excursions and activities. This helps promote positive integration and gives our young members the opportunity to socialize with locals who are their age, in a safe environment, which is something they are not always able to do.

Tutoring and Informal Language Lessons

Before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Soul Food joined existing English classes taught by volunteers at the American Graduate School in Paris, to refugees associated with SINGA France. Once the pandemic started, this was no longer possible so we adapted by working with Soul Food volunteers who give informal English and French lessons over the phone and via Zoom. This has also provided an opportunity for our young members to benefit from human contact during the prolonged confinement periods, when we've all been forced to stay home. To meet the needs of some young members, math tutoring has also been offered. While the tutors and language instructors are in constant contact with Soul Food, they instruct independently from the organization. The frequency varies, but typically each lesson or call lasts 1- 2 hours. Currently 13 young Soul Food members benefit from these services. Some work with multiple volunteers, meaning that they benefit from several hours of tutoring a week.

English Club

We have continued our English Club activities, including gastronomic solidarity meals at Refettorio Paris and guided tours of contemporary art exhibits in English. We also organized English game nights with American Soul Food interns, who created simple games based on requests from young members, to help them learn and improve their English vocabulary in fun and creative ways.

Book Exchange

We've continued exchanging books with our young members when possible, as a method to productively occupy their down time and to encourage reading and French-language improvement.

⁴ These are two of six English Club activities that are included in this annual report. They are included under participatory activities because we played games in English and worked on English vocabulary and conversational skills.

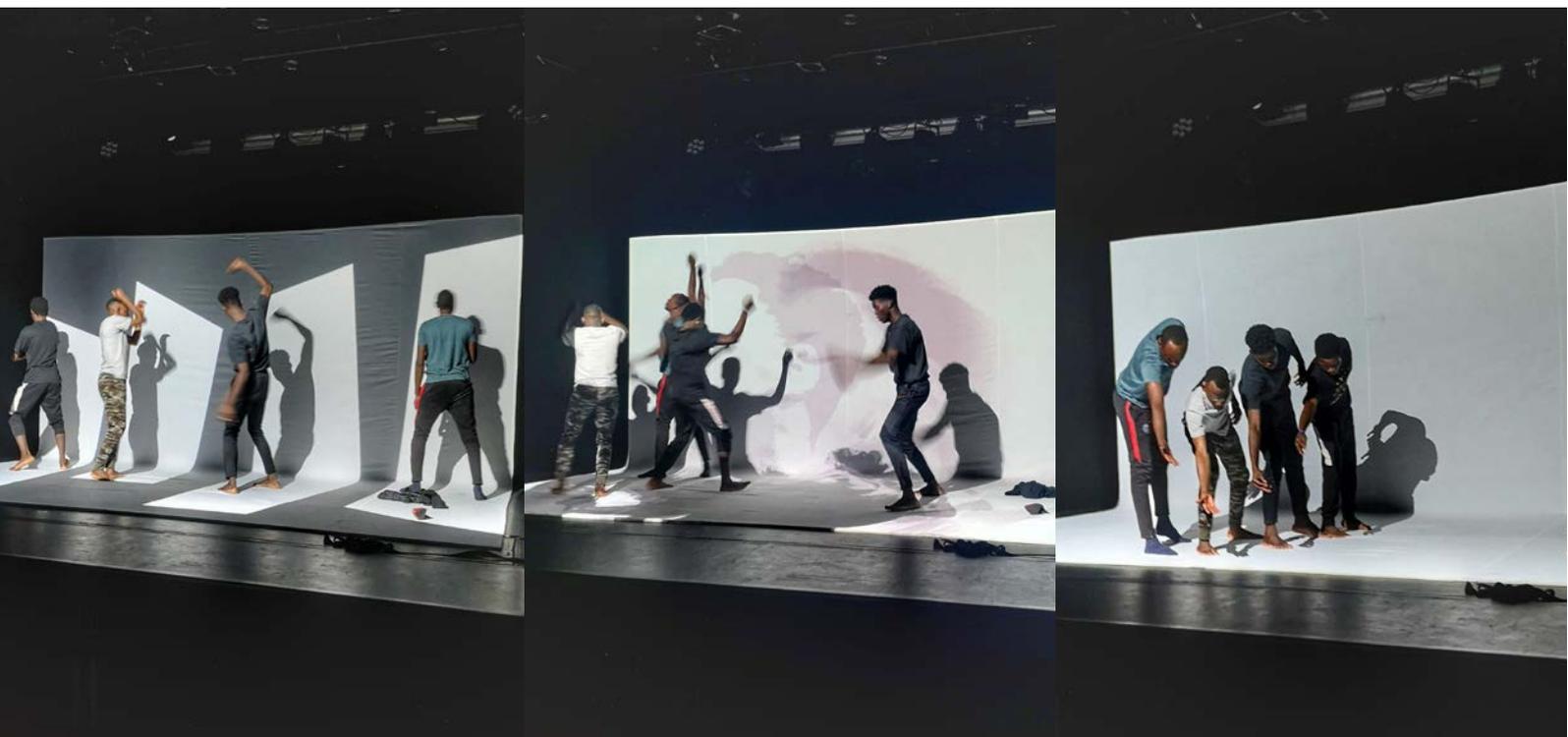
⁵ Our co-founders and a handful of established young members joined other nonprofits to volunteer twice during this period. The first time we went to a temporary camp in central Paris to meet unaccompanied minors experiencing homelessness and living in donated tents. They were supported by several nonprofits who came together to provide them with food and activities, to raise awareness about the issues they face, and to advocate for them. We spoke with the young people there, donated some basic items and conducted an informal drawing workshop. The second volunteer experience refers to a massive, well-organized food distribution mission that we joined, just before Christmas. We served food and gave basic information on resources available in Paris to the migrants and refugees who came.

Activity Highlights

WAYS X Soul Food Dance Project

In October and November 2019, several young Soul Food members participated in a handful of dance workshops, led by the dancer Martina Ricciardi and the videographer Laurène Lepeytre, who are both members of the EN CORPS DES MOTS dance company.

The accumulation of these workshops was an original performance by four of Soul Food's young members, incorporating elements of their migratory journeys and family histories, in front of over one hundred people.



“ The WAYS show will remain engraved in me all my life. I really felt a lot of emotions and it went really fast. I really didn't expect what happened with my friends on stage. The dance we did happened automatically. Martina asked us to have fun and that changed something in me.”

— Ousmane, young Soul Food member, 19 years

Soul Food's 2nd Birthday

In February 2020, Soul Food's birthday was the first event organized by the organization. We collaborated with our partners and with volunteers to create a mini cultural festival that embodied Soul Food's mission and almost every aspect of our activities.

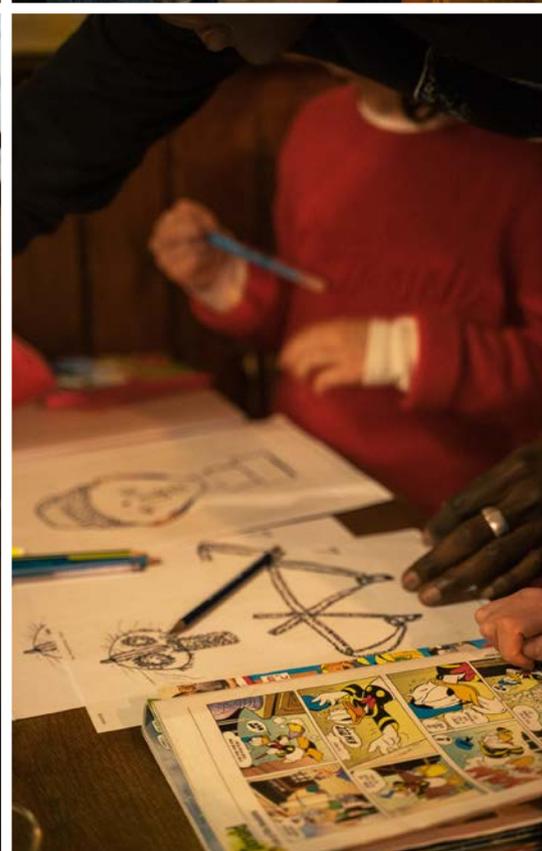
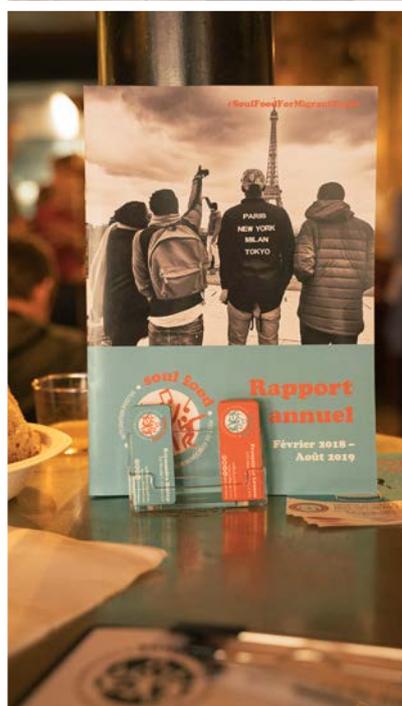
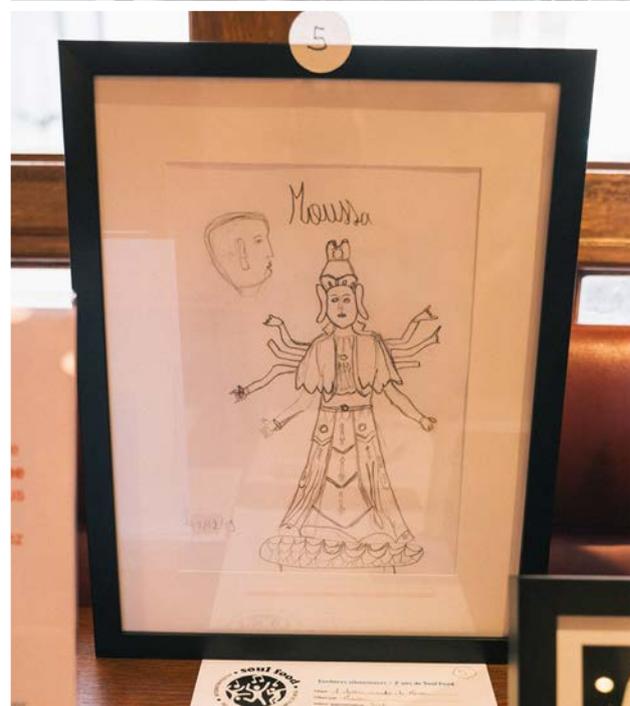
Young Soul Food members were at the center of the event, and helped with the planning and execution. Some from the Professional Development Program made the fresh bread, and created and cooked most of the food served. Our partners from L'Ami Jean, Refettorio Paris and La Pointe du Grouin contributed their time, skills and resources to supporting our young members with this ambitious endeavor. The main dish was prepared at Refettorio Paris a few days before, and while part of it was put aside for the event, a large portion was served to their guests, all of whom are vulnerable members of the local community.

Other highlights from the event included a drawing workshop, a silent auction, which allowed donors to bid on original pieces of art, books and concert tickets, generously donated by artists from the Marchutz School in Aix-en-Provence and our partners - the Swiss Cultural Center and FGO Barbara, live music throughout the day, a projection of the WAYS X Soul Food dance performance, and speeches made by young Soul Food members.



Birthday flyer by Marin Zhadok

It was what we hope will be the first of many original Soul Food events, and served to really showcase what Soul Food means and is capable of creating. It was also an ideal fundraising opportunity, because it was a unique way to raise funds in a manner that completely embodies our mission and values. By bringing people into our world for the day, it was possible to demonstrate the full potential of our young members and the importance Soul Food brings to them, as well as the community.





Professional Development Program



Program Breakdown

There are 31 young Soul Food members in the Professional Development Program.⁶ The overall structure of the program is somewhat flexible as we must adapt to the administrative needs of our young members as they arise. However, as part of this program, young members must attend an orientation meeting where rules and important information are discussed. They must also sign a contract between themselves and Soul Food, a copy of which is given to their supervisor(s) or employer(s) when they are placed in a professional opportunity by Soul Food. This contract serves as a way of holding each young member accountable. It states that they must represent Soul Food with dignity and respect at the workplace, arrive on time, and communicate any issues in advance, including scheduling conflicts, with Soul Food and their supervisor(s). It also stipulates that they must have an email account. This is one of the things we help them with, should they need it, along with things like how to use the digital agenda that most of them have in their phones. Whenever possible, we also provide support in other areas that are directly related to their professional lives, such as language learning. During confinement we also sent them online resources and creative links related to their professional preferences, including tips on things like interviewing and examples of diverse creative, professional projects in their fields.

In addition, young members in the Professional Development Program benefit from hours of administrative assistance and mediation by Soul Food, between their employers, education professionals, French Child Services, and the prefectures of the territories concerned (for example, to provide letters of recommendation and advocacy if necessary), to ensure their successful transition into their careers and to safeguard their legal status in France. We also remain in constant contact with our partners, their employers, to ensure that their safety and wellbeing is always prioritized, to help should any type of emergency situation arise, and to assist in ensuring that our young members reach their full potential throughout the professional experience.

Since Soul Food works with artists and promotes positive integration through cultural experiences and artistic activities, we only offer professional opportunities within fields that are also directly related to art and culture. We have partners that offer volunteer, internship and apprenticeship opportunities are available in the following careers:



Partners

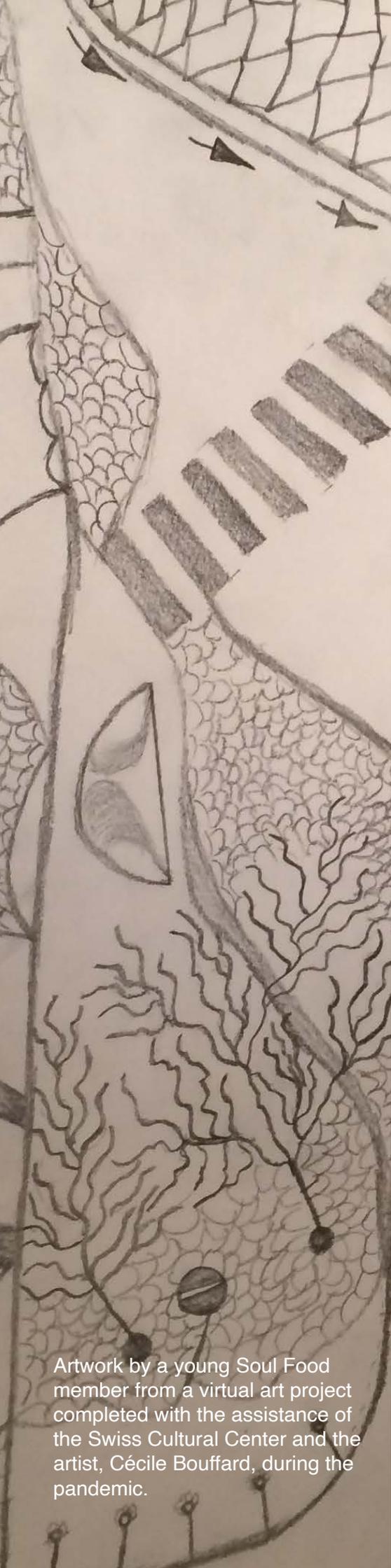
We work with several prominent chefs, bakers, artists, and designers to provide professional opportunities for our young members. Our focus is always on quality, not quantity, so we only look for prestigious opportunities that our young members would not normally have access to, and we only work with professionals and establishments that uphold our values, and therefore treat our young members with fairness, respect and dignity. The following establishments and workshops are places where we look to place young Soul Food members in the Professional Development Program, as volunteers, interns and/or apprentices:

- L'Ami Jean
- A.Noste
- B.O.U.L.O.M
- Refettorio Paris
- La Pointe du Grouin
- Victor Rossi's workshop
- 10 Belles Bread
- Maison Château Rouge
- Ben Lamyne's workshop
- La Dalle

⁶ This is one of our programs that has suffered the most during the COVID-19 pandemic, as cultural sectors have been hit very hard, in terms of closures and resulting financial hardship, making it less possible for our partners to commit to training and employing our young members.

Soul Food During the Pandemic





Soul Food in the Time of Corona

The night President Macron made the first of what would become a series of French government announcements on the health crisis and resulting, necessary safety measures, we were on an excursion that was a bit different than most. We had organized a thank you dinner for the volunteers, including our young members, who had helped make Soul Food's 2nd birthday event such a success. Little did we know that it would be the last time we would see those people for months.

It quickly became obvious that not only would we need to cancel all of our in-person excursions and activities for the foreseeable future, but we would also have to adapt in more ways than one. Initially we went into emergency mode, to ensure the safety of our young members. We sent messages to all of them (and have continued to do so as the pandemic continues to unfold and different rules are established) to check in, provide basic health and safety information, as well as information on things like where food distributions take place, and told them to let us know if they needed anything. Some did need help, so we did what we could to provide it, often coordinating with others to make sure that our young members who were sick, homeless and without food, had the aid they needed. We then learned about the 300+ unaccompanied minors who were left to fend for themselves on the streets of Paris and its surrounding suburbs, so we decided to contribute to advocacy campaigns and start our own. We also used a small portion of our funds for emergency help, such as to pay for phone credit for a lot of these young people, ensuring that they were not completely isolated.⁷

While we understood the importance of these new Soul Food activities, we also wanted to remain true to our original mission and find a way to adapt our cultural and artistic aims to the pandemic situation. This is why we launched our blog earlier than expected. We also started sending emails (Culture from Home!) to encourage our young members to continue their cultural exploration and non-traditional education through such activities.

We were lucky to be contacted by some of our partners, who graciously volunteered their assistance. This is how our informal language lessons started. We paired our young members up with volunteers who called them once a week to practice English or French. This then expanded to math tutoring and Zoom language lessons, sometimes in small groups. These lessons also served as meaningful human interactions, during a time when many were even more marginalized than usual.

⁷ Some of our specific advocacy and volunteer experiences during the pandemic are outlined in blog posts that are on our website.

Artwork by a young Soul Food member from a virtual art project completed with the assistance of the Swiss Cultural Center and the artist, Cécile Bouffard, during the pandemic.



Visit to book fair
at Swiss Cultural
Center

Culture at Home!

One of our ongoing projects since the pandemic started has been a series of emails full of artistic and cultural activities. Since the start, we have sent 22 emails to 40 young Soul Food members. Some examples of the types of content we send include:

- A contemporary production of Romeo and Juliet at the Globe Theatre in London
- Podcast episodes on cultural topics, such as Egyptian mythology, to practice language comprehension skills
- English and French grammar exercises
- Virtual museum tours, including one of the Islamic Cultural Institute and another of the Dalí Theatre-Museum
- Online exhibits on several cities and countries around the world (travel & culture), including one on markets in Lagos, Nigeria and another on street art in Moscow
- A documentary that follows a group of women in a French prison, whose lives are transformed as they dance with a professional choreographer

Communication, Staff & Volunteers



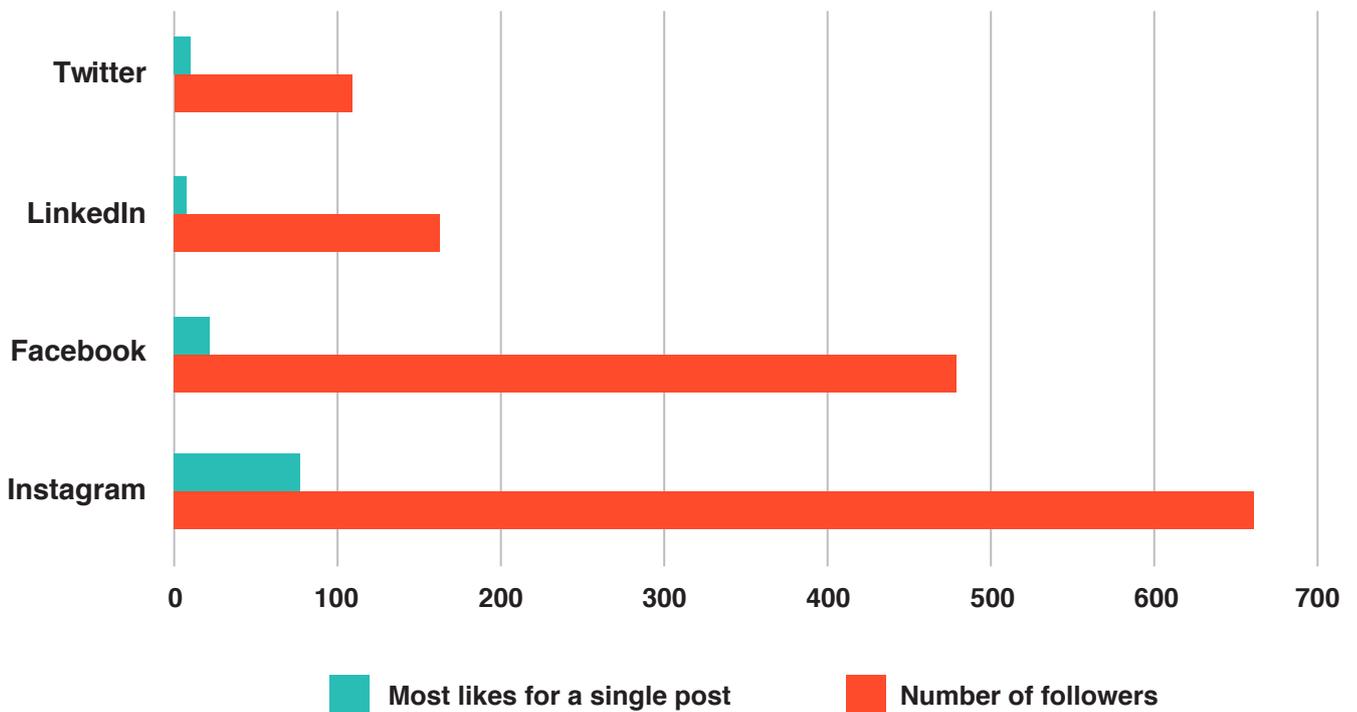
Digital Communication

Social Media

We have remained active on the same social media platforms. Our followers and supporters can still follow us at @soulfoodparis, as well as the hashtag #SoulFoodForMigrantYouth, to see and read about our activities. We continue to use social media as a way to communicate with our community, connect with potential partners, support other organizations that uphold our values, and exhibit as much transparency about our activities and initiatives as possible. Increasingly, we also use these as platforms to advocate for the rights of migrants and refugees.

Instagram remains the platform where we have the most engagement and the most activity. It also surpassed Facebook as the social media platform where we have the most followers. Facebook and Twitter are where we most often post direct links to our new blog posts. We always post photos of our activities on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. In 2020, we posted a job announcement on LinkedIn for the first time.⁸ Our use of Instagram, Facebook and Twitter for advocacy has greatly augmented since the start of the pandemic.

Social Media - Key Figures



Campaigns

For Soul Food’s 2nd birthday, we created a social media campaign around “7 Reasons Why We Do What We Do.” We used it to give more context to our work and explain its impact.

We also joined some of the same global rights-based campaigns, such as World Children’s Day and World Refugee Day, as we have previously. We did this through our social media posts and stories.

Blog

Creating a blog was on our list of future projects, but once the first confinement started and we

8 The hire was for a position that started in 2021, and therefore will be included in next year’s annual report.

understood that in-person activities would be on hold indefinitely, and that our actions would shift more towards advocacy, we felt it was important to launch it early. The three large umbrella themes of the Soul Food blog are art, culture and migration. Well-written posts that are relevant to any of the three, are eligible to be published on our website. Most of the posts are translated and therefore can be read in both English and French.

Along with our social media platforms, we use our newly launched blog as a platform to communicate and advocate for the rights of minorities, and to speak out against and about issues, such as the fact that 300+ unaccompanied minors were left to fend for themselves on the street during the first confinement period, the global Black Lives Matter movement and the violent police attacks against migrants, towards the end of 2020. Whenever possible, we also tried to publish information on ways that people all around the world can both help others and enjoy art and culture, from the safety of their homes, while we were all encouraged to stay home during the pandemic.

Our blog also serves as a great way to expand our community because we've invited guest authors to publish posts as well. This has helped diversify the content, as well as bring in new readers from our guest authors' communities.

So far we have published a total of 17 blog posts, one of which was not translated. Of these, 5 were written by 4 different guest writers. While several detailed experiences of activists and volunteers on the ground as they helped vulnerable young people, others were calls to action and some shared links to cultural activities. A few of the topics covered (in no special order) include:

- the ethics behind teaching colonial languages such as English and French,
- a list of the best virtual museum tours,
- Soul Food's origin story,
- a summary of a mission both co-founders undertook with other volunteers to attempt to get unaccompanied minors safe housing during the first confinement period,
- an open letter to elected French officials about the abysmal treatment of young migrants and refugees during the global health crisis,
- museums' moral obligation to use their resources in times of hardship to adapt and help others,
- how racism manifests in the United States and France,
- and international initiatives to contribute to society in positive and creative ways throughout the pandemic.

At times our blog has also served as a kind of virtual photography exhibit because we always include photos in each post. Sometimes we include several that are taken by photographers and people passionate about the artform.

Press & Interviews

Soul Food has been contacted by journalists and other individuals who are interested in some of our organization's initiatives, and sometimes these interviews have resulted in published articles and online content.⁹ During the period covered in this report, two news articles were published by [InfoMigrants](#) and [France24](#), and [two](#) additional [articles](#) were published on the American Graduate School in Paris' website.

One of the organization's co-founders, Kryssandra Heslop, was also [interviewed](#) for a World Radio Paris podcast called, *C'est la vie*. These five pieces can be found on the Soul Food website.

⁹ Soul Food has been approached by journalists for pieces not mentioned here, mainly because after considerable time was given for interviews and other assistance, such as contacting Soul Food's connections individually, to ask for permission to share their information with journalists, these other pieces either have not yet been published, or they were published without crediting Soul Food.

Staff and Volunteers

Staff

Currently, the two co-founders, Kryssandra Heslop and François Le Louarn, remain the principal staff working for Soul Food. Kryssandra is the President and Creative Director and François is the Secretary, as well as the Legal Expert of the organization. They continue to collaborate on almost all aspects of the organization, while also using their individual specializations to complete individual projects and tasks.

Volunteers

Soul Food has continued to be helped by volunteers in both France and the U.S. This help has been vital to expanding our programs.

Interns

During the period of this report, Soul Food had a total of three interns. Each one was from CEA, an American study abroad program. Two completed their internships simultaneously.

Youth Leaders

A larger focus has been placed on working with young Soul Food members who are established enough in their new lives and interested in contributing to the decision-making processes behind Soul Food's activities. At times they also volunteer, such as during Soul Food's 2nd birthday event. This is something that we strive to continue to grow and advocate for, to ensure that Soul Food remains useful and meaningful to the young people it serves.

Soul Food Staff and Volunteer Agreement

Given the fact that less in-person activities were possible during the pandemic, more time was allocated towards behind-the-scenes work, such as creating the Soul Food Staff and Volunteer Agreement. This is now given to all Soul Food interns, staff and volunteers.



The age of unaccompanied minors is often contested by the French State, preventing them from accessing social protections and leaving them on the streets. This young migrant, seen here in a camp in central Paris, created a banner asking for the presumption of child status.

Financial Resources



Funding

Direct Financial Donations

Donations continue to be the primary financial contribution to the organization and remain extremely important for Soul Food's initiatives, growth and durability. Between September 2019 and December 2020, no staff member was paid, meaning that 100% of donations and other funds raised went to operational costs, or core mission support.

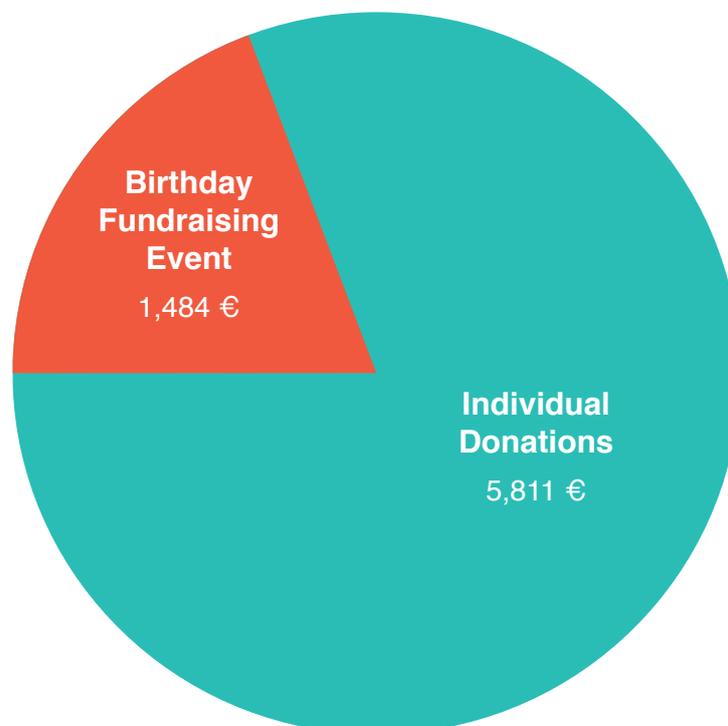
Other Sources of Funding and Donations

In 2020, Soul Food's 2nd birthday event was used not only as a celebration, but also as a fundraising event. We sold tickets to attend the mini festival and attendees had the opportunity to participate in a silent auction, where they could bid on original pieces of artwork and other cultural items, donated by some of Soul Food's partners and artists.

This served as a special and important fundraising opportunity for the organization, as it completely embodied our mission and values to create safe, shared spaces for cultural appreciation and artistic expression, while showcasing the talent of our young members.

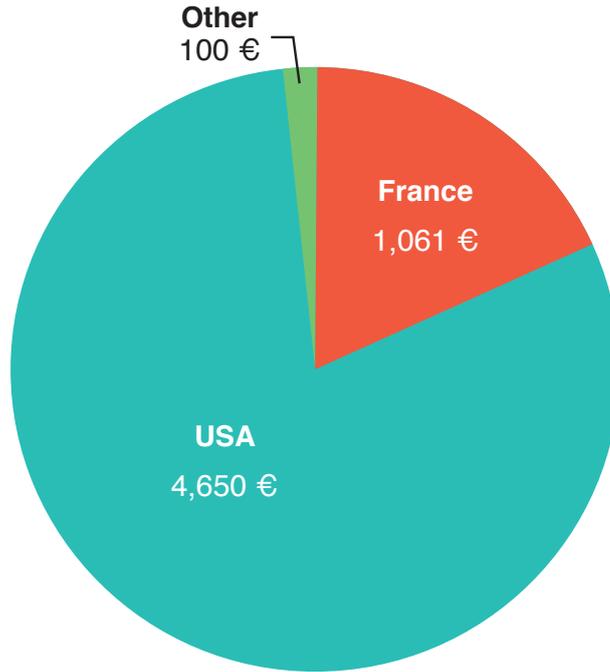
Other sources of funding include donated resources, such as the maintenance of our website. Partners, volunteers and Soul Food supporters have also continued to donate their time and skills to the organization. We have continued to work with talented illustrators, photographers, videographers, nonprofit experts, and graphic designers behind the scenes, to create content used on our website, for social media campaigns, grant applications, and our annual reports.

Sources of income



While Soul Food's 2nd birthday raised funds for the organization by people living in France, Soul Food's community is international. We have supporters, including donors, around the world.

Source of Donations



Breakdown of Expenses



We adhere to the growing understanding that simply dividing expenses into programs and overhead or administrative costs, is not an accurate way to portray a small nonprofit's activities and expenses. It's also not a sustainable or realistic goal to strive for. A more representative portrayal shows how costs are shared between programs and activities, and that expenses traditionally classified as overhead and administrative costs are required components, in order to carry out the organization's mission.

Community Events	863 €
Cultural Excursions & Artistic Activities	266 €
Youth Support and Emergency Aid	238 €

Note: Most costs for cultural excursions and artistic activities are in-kind donations, making this program very inexpensive. These donations include concert tickets, museum tours and workshops.

This chart exemplifies that while some expenses are specific to particular programs, activities or events, such as snacks for a specific excursion (direct expenses – program specific), others like art supplies used for multiple activities are shared (direct expenses – shared by programs). Expenses such as banking fees and insurance are not extras, but rather costs required for us to continue our programs in a legal and practical way, and are therefore core mission support expenses.

Looking Toward the Future



Future Ideas & Projects

While we are proud of our accomplishments over the past couple of years, we are always looking forward, dreaming of how far we can go. We have continued planning, researching and coordinating future excursions and activities. We are also focused on community outreach, in an effort to form new partnerships and expand our reach. We have focused some of our efforts this past year, to developing a strategic development plan.

Our strategic priorities include:

1. Enhance Soul Food's visibility and grow our community
2. Create financial, non-compromising security
3. Expand our reach locally and internationally, to include more young migrants and refugees

Near Future

In 2021, we plan to continue to grow our existing programs and start new projects. The exact nature of our activities will be somewhat dependent on the evolution of the pandemic. At the time of writing this report, cultural institutions and restaurants are still closed, all people who can work from home are required to do so and there are curfews across France. These constraints limit our capabilities, as they make in-person events and meetings virtually impossible. We are also cautious about planning in-person activities because we do not wish to put others, especially our young members, at risk during such a major health crisis.

At the start of 2021, we plan to continue working behind the scenes to fortify Soul Food's foundation, through projects like creating new policies and agreements and updating our existing ones. We also plan to continue organizing online language lessons and tutoring services by phone with our young members and volunteers.

We will focus a great deal of time and resources to applying for grants and fundraising, as well as planning an alternative (likely virtual) celebration of Soul Food's 3rd birthday in February. As soon as cultural institutions safely reopen, we plan to restart our cultural excursions.

Long-term

Our longer-term goals remain the same. We hope to expand our reach in France, but also take our programs and initiatives to the global level and contribute to research, in an effort to improve conditions for young migrants and refugees in Europe and beyond. We continue to believe in the power of art and culture to positively impact lives, and we strive to be a driving force in the positive integration of young migrants and refugees around the world.

A Final Thank You

We are extremely appreciative of each member of the Soul Food community. Every like, follow, share, kind message, hour of volunteering, and donation makes a difference. Thank you all for your help and encouragement.

To all of our partners, thank you for taking the time to collaborate with us. A special thank you goes out to those of you in the cultural sectors who have suffered during the pandemic, but have also continued to work with us. We are eternally grateful for your support, especially during such dire times.

Most of all, thank you to our young members. As we often say, you inspire us every day. We continue to be in awe of your courage, optimism and strength. Thank you for allowing us to continue doing such meaningful work.

Thank You!

#SoulFoodForMigrantYouth





Everyone who contributed to this annual report did so on a strictly volunteer basis.

Photos from Soul Food's 2nd birthday event

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