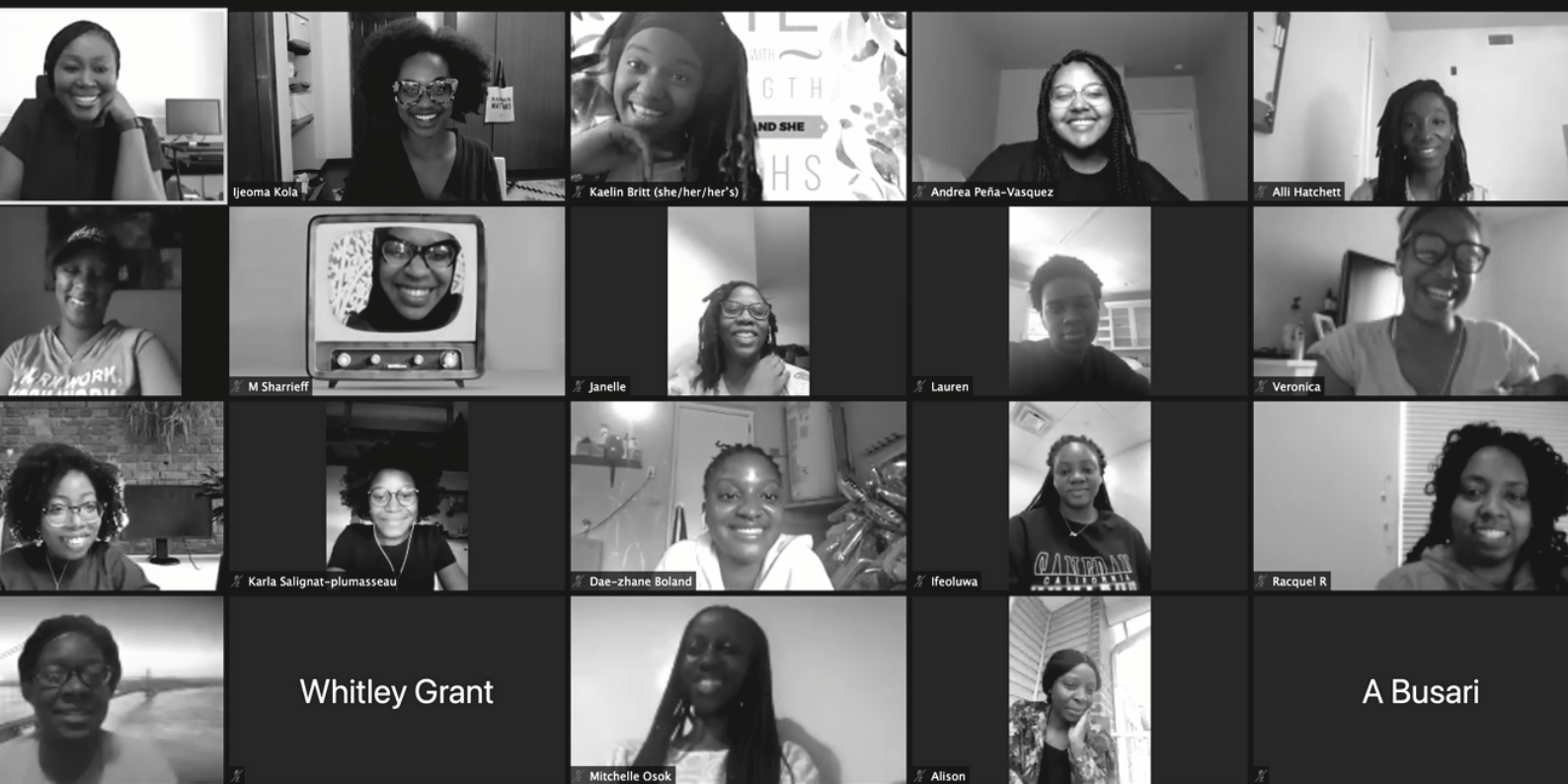




ANNUAL REPORT



2020-2021



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When I began whispering to my friends and family early last year about an idea I had for an online community where Black women in doctoral degree programs could find, learn from, and support one another, I had no clue that higher education would shift to virtual learning or that Black collective healing spaces would become even more necessary. All I knew was that I wanted Black women who were interested in doctoral degrees to have a strong sense of belonging and community – things I desperately needed during my own doctoral journey.

Since July 2020, Cohort Sistas has become much more than a digital network. It has become a safe and affirming space where current and future Black doctors can be seen, understood, and appreciated. While I am incredibly proud of how far along Cohort Sistas has come in just a year, I am even more proud of how our members have grown personally and professionally. I am more than excited for this next year and honored to be serving this community.

Dr. Ijeoma Kola
Executive Director

Cohort Sistas is a digital network that supports Black women and non-binary people pursuing doctoral studies by providing resources, mentorship, and community to improve academic, professional, financial, and emotional outcomes.





OUR IMPACT

From July 2020 to June 2021.

1,647

SCHOLARS

11,772

PODCAST DOWNLOADS

21

SISTA CIRCLE MENTEES

15

VIRTUAL EVENTS

37

**WRITING GROUP
PARTICIPANTS**

40

SCHOLARSHIPS SHARED



"Cohort Sistas has provided me the opportunity to meet amazing Black women in my discipline I likely would have never been able to meet otherwise."

Amara Galileo

Political Science PhD Student



"I received my first Ph.D. admission phone call with full funding for 5 years! This would not have been possible without the help of this community."

Oluwafisayo Ogundoro

Incoming Doctoral Student



Our work is guided by three pillars – resources, mentorship, and community.



Resources: We held 7 professional development events last year with 8 invited guests and partners on topics such as how to secure fellowships for your doctoral degree, how to choose the right doctoral program, and how a doctoral degree can prepare you for any career. We also shared 50 different funding opportunities for scholars at all stages (applicants, current students, and doctors) and interviewed 26 Black women doctors for the Cohort Sistas Podcast.

Mentorship: We supported 24 students with mentorship through our 8-week doctoral application course and 5-month Sista Circle Mentorship Program. 100% of Sista Circle mentees said their mentor provided them with feedback on their academic & professional goals and 89% said their mentor made them feel less anxious and more confident about their doctoral journey.

Community: Over 6,000 messages were sent on the free Cohort Sistas membership platform, connecting scholars around the world (47 countries represented!). Our weekly writing group attendees have also made considerable progress on their respective writing assignments.

3.1% Campaign: Our first fundraising & advocacy campaign highlighted 31 notable Black women with doctoral degrees. Our generous supporters raised \$6,440 to help provide resources, mentorship, and community for Black women pursuing doctoral degrees!

2020-2021 HIGHLIGHTS



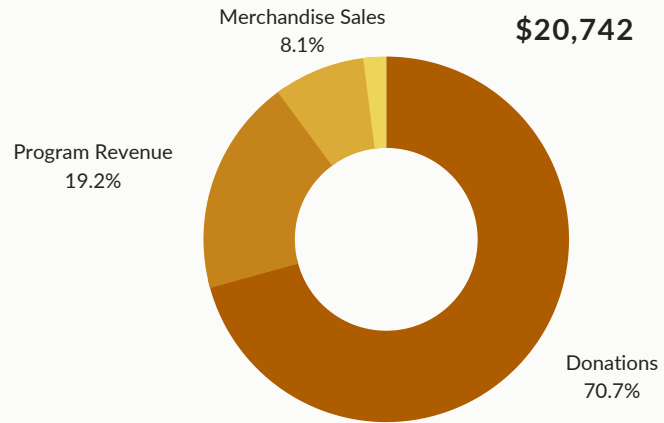


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

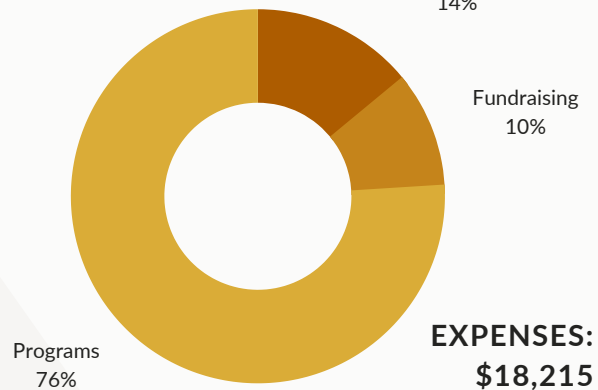
THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS!

- | | |
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REVENUE:
\$20,742



Management/General
14%

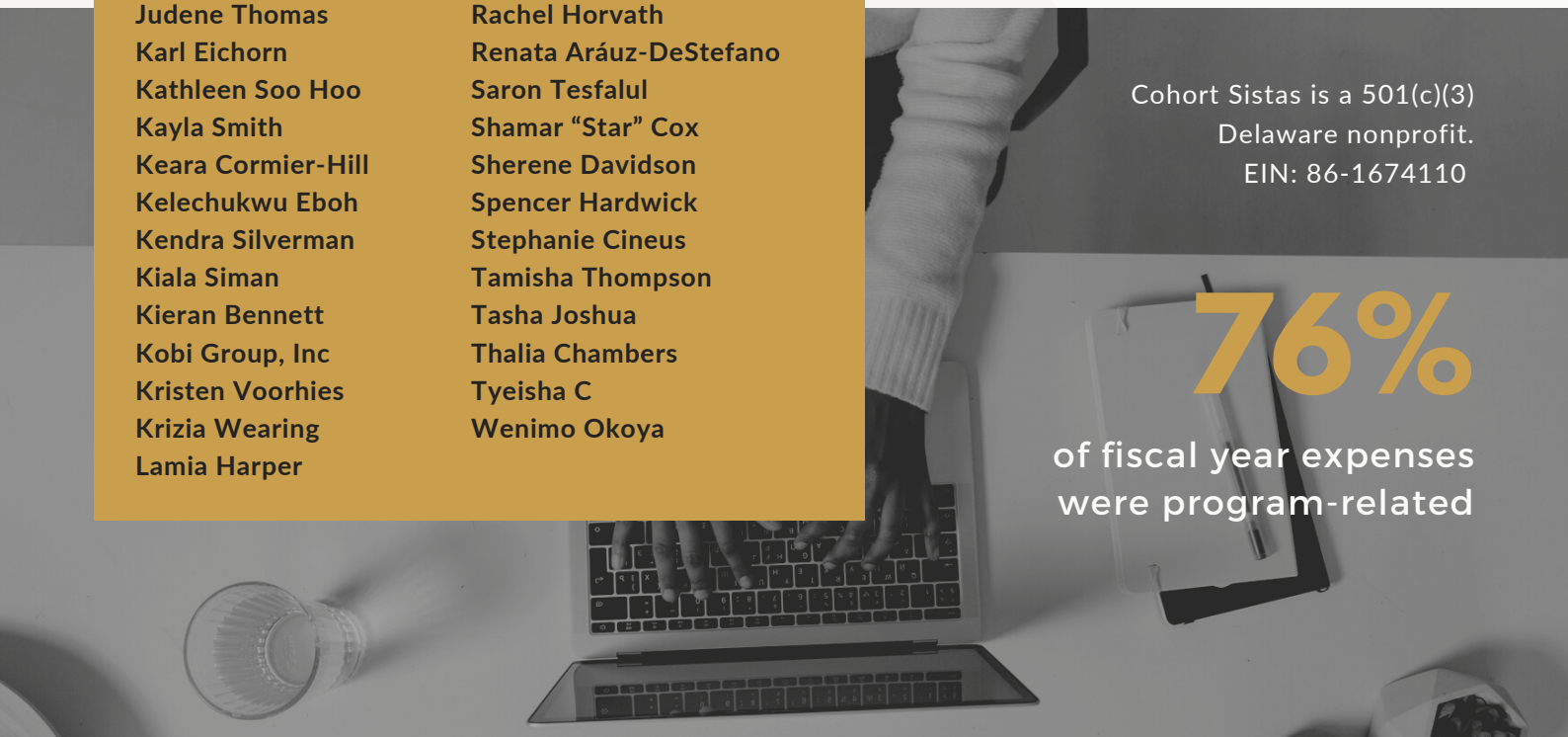


EXPENSES:
\$18,215

Cohort Sistas is a 501(c)(3)
Delaware nonprofit.
EIN: 86-1674110

76%

of fiscal year expenses
were program-related





2021-2022 OUTLOOK

5,000
BLACK WOMXN
SCHOLARS

We want to increase the breadth of our impact by partnering with like-minded institutions, companies, and organizations that believe in prioritizing the academic, professional, and mental health wellness of Black women doctoral students, applicants, and degree holders.

50+
SCHOLARS
MENTORED

We are expanding the Sista Circle Mentorship Program to have separate cohorts for current students and prospective applicants. We are actively seeking Black women & non-binary mentors from all academic disciplines to support us with our mentorship program.

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COMMUNITY

cohortsistas.com/join

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DONATION

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BECOME
A PARTNER

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GET IN TOUCH

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