



2023

Annual Report



#SoulFoodFor MigrantYouth



Contents

1. A Word from the President	2
2. Who We Are	5
- Mission	
- Vision	
- Aims	
- soul food at a Glance	
- Child and Youth Protection Policy	
- Principles and Values	
3. Cultural Excursions & Events	10
- Breakdown of Excursions & Activities	
- Activity Highlights	
- Events - soul food service	
4. Professional Development Program	25
- Program Breakdown	
- Partners	
- After the Program	
5. Communication, Staff & Volunteers	32
- Digital Communication	
- Staff & Volunteers	
6. Financial Resources	36
- Direct Financial Donations	
- Other Sources of Funding and Donations	
- Breakdown of Expenses	
7. Looking Toward the Future	43
- Future Ideas & Projects	
- A Final Thank You	

A Word from the President



Kryssandra Heslop

Co-Founder, Creative Director & President



2023 has been another magical year with Soul Food! It's also been uniquely different, and full of firsts. We started the year by celebrating Soul Food's 5th birthday and organizing our first art exhibition. Then we ended the year with our second one! We discovered a lot of great art and artists. Soul Food Festival was bigger than ever before, bringing together many people from our amazing community. We achieved several of our goals. We continued to learn and grow.

Of course, not everything has been positive. The immigration context we're working within is becoming more difficult as our young members face longer waiting periods to hear back regarding their visa and administrative situations. In 2023 we continued to partner with nonprofits through our one-off initiative in an effort to respond to the lessening resources available to young migrants and refugees. Unfortunately, we ended the year with the distressing news that the French immigration law will likely be passed in 2024, inevitably putting these young people in even more precarious situations. Legislative changes like this show us why our work is needed now more than ever.

In addition to legal changes, we're worried about larger global issues that have an impact on migration – wars, genocide, climate change, these are all issues that are on our minds. Although we've always maintained that it's important to continue focusing on what we can contribute, however small, to helping overcome these issues, obstacles such as these can often feel insurmountable.

Yet, in the face of such despair, optimism and persistence are key. We remain true to our mission as we continue to support young Soul Food members and fight for the rights of migrants and refugees everywhere. We know that the young people we serve have so much to give and we believe that our society is better when they are offered the tools and the space to do so.

We're proud of how far we've come, moved by our young members' courage, inspired by the art we surround ourselves with, and hopeful about the future. We're also incredibly grateful to our community of volunteers, donors, creatives, artists, event attendees, and partners for helping us along the way. Even in the face of so many obstacles, we believe that the future is bright and full of soul.



BENJAMIN ...
L. ...



soul food: Who We Are



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 **form 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.

Rather than 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 **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, refugees and locals too. We also envision a world where migrants and refugees have this type of **positive visibility**, and not one where we only see them sleeping in tents in crowded cities and refugee camps. We are **changing the narrative** as we actively promote **positive, authentic representations** of them.

Aims

We aim to help **provide access** to museums, theatres and other cultural spaces, as well as prestigious professional opportunities in cultural fields, to young migrants and refugees from all over the world. We also strive 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.

Main Goals

1. Promote positive integration for migrant and refugee youth
2. Provide equitable opportunities to young Soul Food members
3. Change the narrative surrounding migrants and refugees

Principal Activities

1. Cultural excursions & artistic activities
2. Professional Development Program
3. Cultural community events

“I got my high school diploma this year. After my trade school certificate I continued studying [through high school]. I [also] just got my driver’s license. I really thank you very much for everything you have done for me.”

- Hassan, young soul food member

Young Members at a Glance

- 1.** Young migrants, refugees and unaccompanied minors, aged 14-22
- 2.** The majority are from French-speaking West Africa, namely Mali, Ivory Coast and Guinea, but also from Afghanistan, The Gambia and other countries
- 3.** Most learn to read and write in French when they arrive in France, some don’t speak French and some speak English
- 4.** They have to go to trade school if they wish to stay in France¹
- 5.** The majority experience museums, haute cuisine and other forms of art for the first time via Soul Food

2023 Highlights

- 1.** Soul Food’s 5th birthday: 6-week takeover of La Montgolfière, one art exhibition, 3 events, including Soul Food Festival
- 2.** IN/VISIBLE photography project: months of photo-based cultural excursions, 3 events, our first zine, one photography exhibition at Sheriff Gallery
- 3.** Soul Food not in Paris projects: Conakry, Calais, NYC

Child and Youth Protection Policy²

Our Child and Youth Protection Policy follows the core principles of the United Nations Convention on the Right of the Child and helps us ensure safeguarding within the organization. We continue to review this policy and ways that we can further adapt to ensure that the rights of our young members are respected and their safety is prioritized.³

¹ We mostly work with young people who arrive in France as unaccompanied minors. Once here, their goal is to benefit from their rights as minors in France. Part of this process is getting an education, but they must choose a trade, go to trade school, get an internship, then an apprenticeship, and eventually permanent work contracts. If they would like to earn higher qualifications, such as university degrees, they have to figure out a way to do this on their own. In this way, the current system makes it virtually impossible for these young people to achieve more.

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

³ This policy is an integral part of our volunteer training program, which also includes background checks, a course on safeguarding, relevant reading materials on migration, our Staff and Volunteer Agreement, and a training session on cultural awareness and trauma sensitivity. Before working directly with young Soul Food members, all Soul Food staff, volunteers and interns are required to complete this training program.

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.



chaillot
théâtre national
de la danse

feeding
souls
one
cultural
experience

Cultural Excursions & Events



Breakdown of Excursions & Activities

2023 saw us complete multiple longer-term projects, namely two artistic residencies that incorporated exhibitions. Our programming included **35** cultural excursions and activities. Since our first cultural excursion in February 2018, we've gone on **215** in total!

Each year tends to naturally take on a different creative focus. In previous years we focused more on dance, Soul Tech and music. This year, photography took center stage in our programming, but we still experienced many different forms of art.

There is often some overlap between our activities. Sometimes when we go to exhibitions, the visit is followed by a workshop inspired by the art we've just seen. We count all cultural excursions once, even when we do multiple activities⁴. Our total number of cultural excursions reflects this. However, in the breakdown of participatory and observatory activities, we sometimes count them multiple times to demonstrate the different types of activities we've done.

Cultural Excursions⁵



4 The exception to this is when excursions last multiple days, in which case we count each day separately, as typically there are different young members and volunteers present, as well as different activities.

5 We completed Soul Tech at the start of 2023.



“Are we going to do an excursion soon? I like excursions because they distract me. It takes my mind off of things, so I like excursions.”

- Mariam, young soul food member

One-offs

We continued this initiative in 2023, partnering with nonprofit organizations that serve the same population as us, but don't have enough resources to ensure regular activities for the youth they work with. It's a great way for us to form partnerships and meet potential new young Soul Food members.

We completed **6** one-off cultural excursions this year, partnering with **3** different nonprofits and working with a total of **62** young migrants and refugees, as part of this initiative.

Observational Activities

This year, we went to:

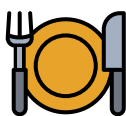
9

Museum visits/
art exhibits



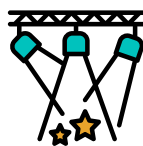
3

Dinners at
Refettorio Paris



1

contemporary art
installation and
musical performance

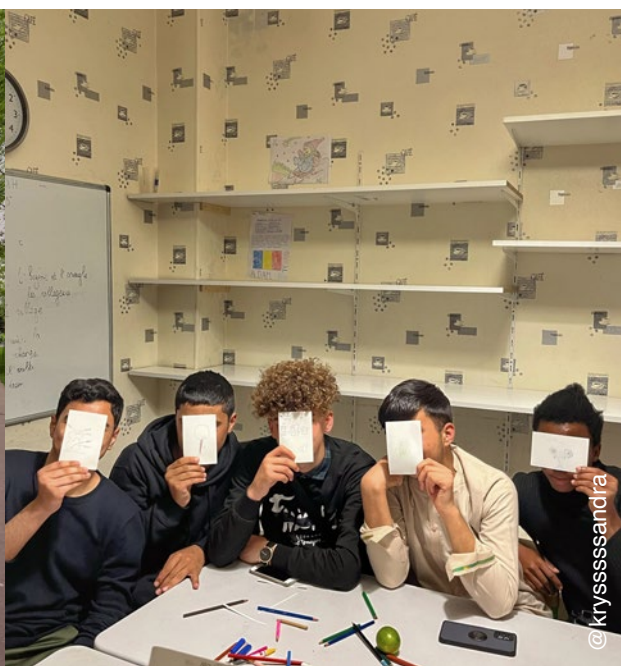


4

Dance
performances



@kryssssandra



@kryssssandra



@kryssssandra

Several of the guided exhibition tours we organized were of our exhibitions, *Welcome home* and *IN/VISIBLE*. Some of these included young members whose work was being exhibited, while others were with young members who were unfamiliar with the projects.

Participatory Activities

In addition to observing art, we also created. Our participatory cultural excursions and activities this year included:

9 creative and artistic workshops



3 Soul Tech sessions

5 events organized by and/or in partnership with Soul Food





MITTELDEUTSCHEN
GEOGRAPHIE

feeding
souls 
one
cultural
exper-
ience
 at a time.



Activity Highlights

soul food's 5th Birthday

We celebrated Soul Food's 5th birthday with a 6-week takeover of La Montgolfière, an art exhibition entitled *Welcome home* and 3 events, including Soul Food Festival! It's our biggest project to date! It allowed us to collaborate with chefs, musicians and painters, as well as other creatives, and provide several enriching cultural experiences for young Soul Food members. These included a painting workshop with artists Madiakham and Jakman, during which they created a collaborative piece for *Welcome home*, opportunities to cook with chefs, attendance at our events, where they enjoyed music, food and artistic workshops, and several cultural excursions (with different young members) to view *Welcome home*. During Soul Food Festival, we also organized our first panel discussion called, Changing the Narrative: The Power of Art, Culture and Migration.





@benoit.dhenin



@amancarougier_photos





IN/VISIBLE Photography Project

Throughout 2023, we went on several photo-based cultural excursions, all leading up to *IN/VISIBLE*, a collective group show that included photographs taken by young Soul Food members as well as those of the professional photographers who participated. The exhibition was on for one month at Sheriff Gallery in the Marais. Then the life of the project continued at the end of the year, when some of the photographs were used to decorate Cheval d'Or for one of the three Soul Food events we organized around this project: the launch of our first zine!







@benoit.dhennin



@benoit.dhennin



@benoit.dhennin



@florencaowen

soul food not in Paris

This year Soul Food started to grow outside of Paris! We've been saying that's a goal of ours for the past few years, so we're proud to say that we're well on our way!⁶

As part of our one-off initiative, we did our first cultural excursion with children living in another city: Calais, in Northern France. We brought the artist Madiakham with us to animate a large-scale painting workshop for children who are in limbo there as they wait to attempt crossing the English Channel to seek safety in the UK. The workshop was in partnership with Project Play, a UK nonprofit based in the area.



We collaborated with the artist Cindy Bannani, by contributing one of our blog posts, read by our co-founders, to an exhibition in Grenoble, France. The sound installation was played during several live performances.

Kryssandra represented Soul Food in Conakry, Guinea, where she was invited by the U.S. Department of State to work with the U.S. Embassy. She animated a human rights forum and spoke with students and journalists about several topics, including inclusive human rights, the importance of volunteering, how we use storytelling to advocate for migrants' and refugees' rights, and Soul Food.

6 We've included more updates about our activities outside of Paris in the last chapter of this report.



soul food service

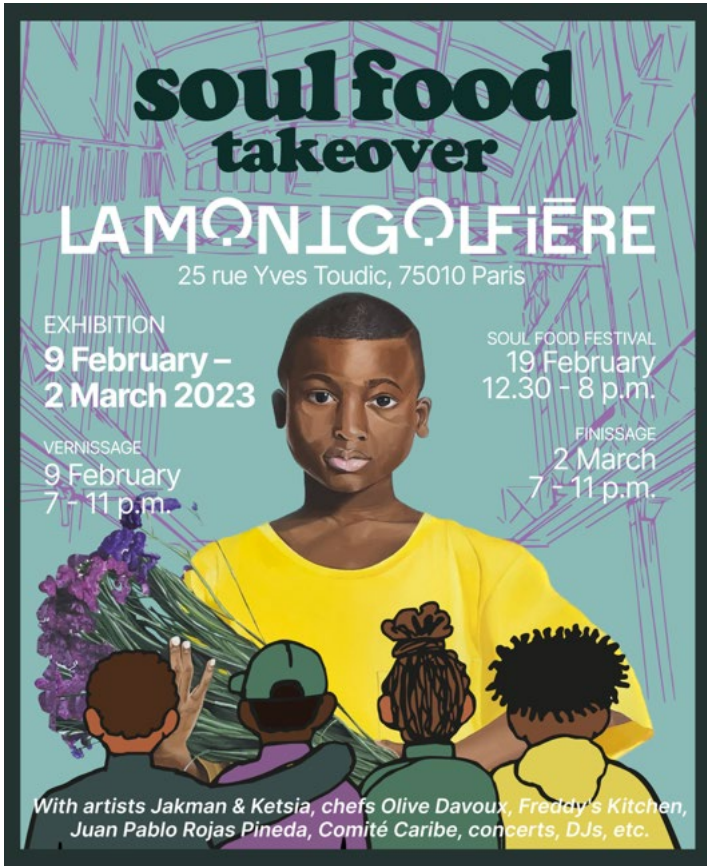
We organize and participate in events to raise funds, showcase the creative talents of young Soul Food members, collaborate with partners, add a dynamic element to our programming, and grow our community. This year we organized and participated in **11** events total. Young Soul Food members attended **7** of these as cultural excursions (marked with *).

- 1** *Welcome home vernissage* *
- 2** Soul Food Festival *
- 3** *Welcome home finissage* *
- 4** The Sum of Many panel & screening
- 5** Conversations from Calais panel & book launch
- 6** Les Traversées du Marais Festival *
- 7** La Montgolfière Creators' Market
- 8** *INVISIBLE* opening event *
- 9** *INVISIBLE* closing event *
- 10** La Montgolfière Creators' Holiday Market
- 11** *INVISIBLE* zine launch *



soul food takeovers

We organized several creative community events this year at various Parisian establishments that we “took over.” These events embody Soul Food through the different forms of art present, including menus created in collaboration with young Soul Food members and guest chefs, creative workshops, art exhibitions, and music. Our young members come to Soul Food events to enjoy the food and cultural offerings with other attendees, creating wonderful moments of exchange.



Visual art: @fanchlouarn, @madiakham and @jakman_

@fanchlouarn (illustration), young Soul Food member (photo)



Additional Events

Several partners invited us to collaborate on events in 2023. This has been a great way for us to create new partnerships, gain visibility and grow our community! They often add to our general programming as well, since we’re usually able to invite young Soul Food members to attend.

Sometimes events serve more as fundraising and networking opportunities, such as when we’ve been invited to speak on panels or sell our merch and art at creative markets. These events have also helped us grow our community and spread the word about our work.

Professional Development Program



Program Breakdown

Through our professional development program, we are able to help young Soul Food members launch fulfilling careers, maintain legal immigration status and integrate in positive ways. Once initial interest and motivation is identified, young members attend an orientation meeting and sign a contract between the organization and themselves, which serves as a way of holding each young member accountable. They also 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, with the goal of ensuring their successful transition into their careers and to protect their legal status in France.

This program is difficult to quantify, as finding and securing each professional opportunity and then working on every young member's administrative situation, requires countless hours of work. Every time a young Soul Food member signs a new professional contract or receives good news regarding their immigration status, we count that as a win because each young member's individual successes are triumphs for Soul Food.

Since everything at Soul Food revolves around art and culture, we only offer professional opportunities within creative fields. This year we formed our first florist partnership when we placed a young member in a floral design internship! We have partners that offer volunteer, internship and apprenticeship opportunities, as well as permanent work contracts in the following careers:

Culinary Arts



Chef



Baker



Pastry Chef

Fashion and Design



Carpenter/
Designer



Fashion
Professional
(various positions)



Florist

Partners

We are committed to working with like-minded partners who are understanding of the administrative obstacles that young Soul Food members face, while also being passionate about what they do and prominent professionals in their fields. Ensuring safe, non-violent work environments is also one of our priorities, especially in fields where these types of issues are commonplace, such as in the restaurant industry. These elements are important to us because we are committed to providing opportunities that are not typically available to the young people we work with. Considering the personal and administrative/legal obstacles that they have to overcome, it's also important that they receive the maximum support possible, thereby giving them more room to learn and grow in their chosen field.

Thanks to these partnerships, the following workshops, businesses and other cultural establishments are places where young Soul Food members in our professional development program worked in 2023:

- Nosso
- Victor de Rossi's workshop
- Tempero
- Refettorio Paris
- Atelier Floral
- Sur Mer
- Bara
- Arboré (restaurant of the Hôtel & Spa
Royal Madeleine)
- La Pointe du Grouin

Placements can be as volunteers, interns or apprentices.



“You know, I watched Yusuf’s integration with us, how he feels comfortable with his work and how happy he is. I can’t imagine everything he went through to be here today, but knowing that we can contribute to his happiness, integration and success gives me a little pride deep down. Yusuf is very courageous, hardworking, always in a good mood. I am absolutely certain that he will be a great cook because above all he is humble, curious and kind. Thank you for allowing us to help you with such a great cause and please continue! The world needs you. Your nonprofit is necessary.”

– Alessandra Montagne, chef & soul food partner



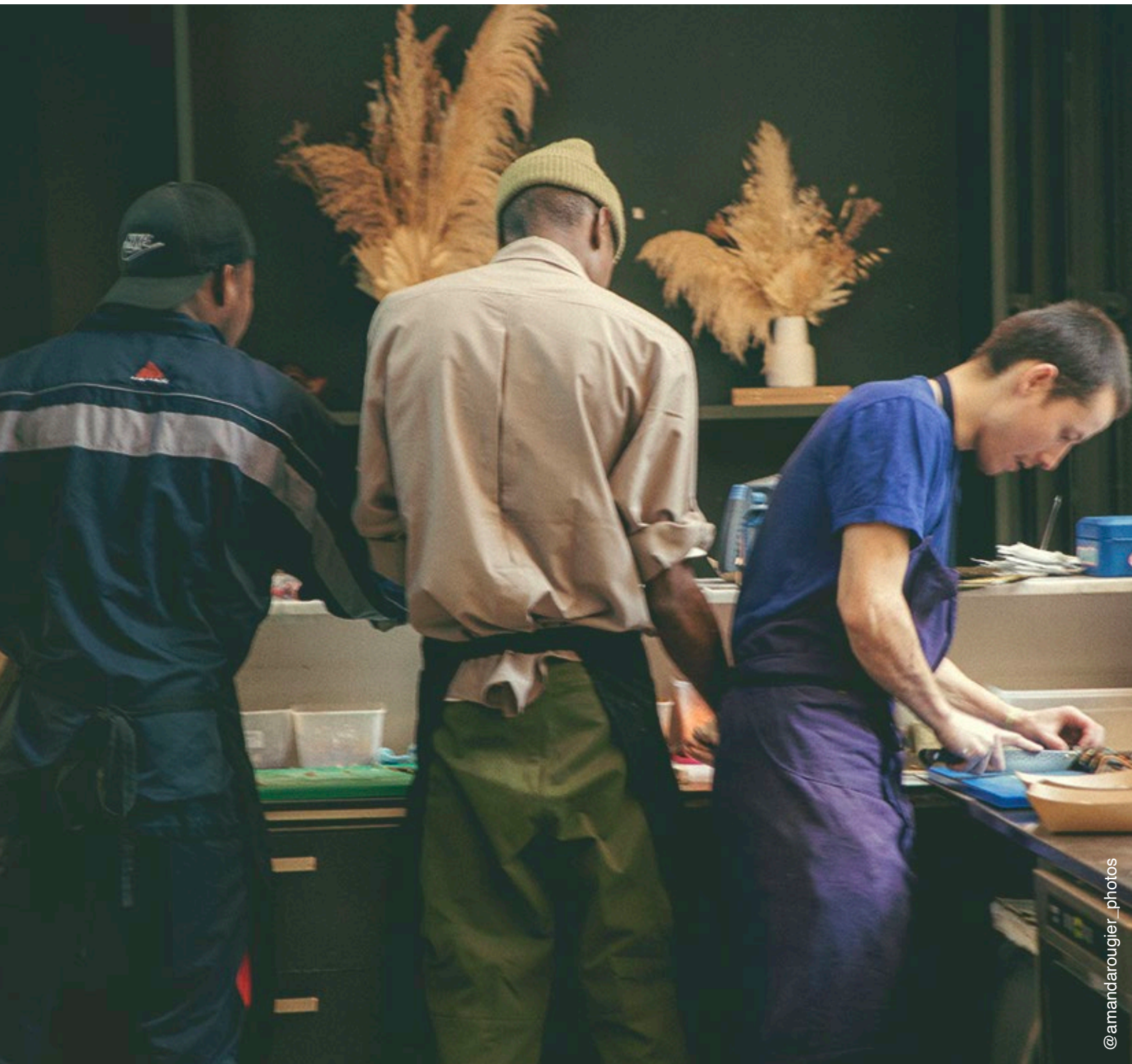
LES MOULINS
FAMILIAUX

VIVENT LES VINS
LIBRES!
Dégustation Paris 2019
Dimanche 18 Juin 10h-12h30 Pasville

Events

Through the events we organize and participate in, young Soul Food members in the culinary arts track of our professional development program have had the opportunity to stretch their creative culinary muscles and work with more professionals in their field by teaming up to create our menus and by baking fresh bread. Through this initiative, they are also able to network with chefs and other professionals from the food industry, and practice the skills they've learned while volunteering in a positive setting.

Each time we contribute to the food offering for an event, we use a list of West African recipes and ingredients that was created with young Soul Food members, partners, chefs, and volunteers. This list contains food that our young members are accustomed to cooking and eating. It's an integral component of each of the meals we help create and serves as a great starting point for Soul Food culinary collaborations. Additionally, this practice has given young members the opportunity to switch roles when they teach chefs how to make their traditional recipes.





After the Program

Our goals with this program are to help young Soul Food members discover a career path they can be passionate about, to open doors to prestigious, meaningful and equitable professional opportunities, to guide them through their career initiation with reliable and talented professionals, and to use these opportunities to help them achieve stable administrative situations in France. Our hope is that as we achieve these goals, they will reach a level of autonomy and positive integration that will then empower them to go off and secure vocations that they aspire to attain on their own.

“We are extremely fortunate to work with artisans, entrepreneurs and chefs who take their responsibilities towards these young people very seriously and commit to creating a safe work space for them. I’m specifically referring to the responsibility of the apprentice master, who takes the time to pass on knowledge, his/her savoir-faire.

Unfortunately, there is also a question of the responsibility taken by our partners regarding the risk of administrative sanctions and criminal charges incurred due to the employment of foreigners without work authorization or residence permits as a result of the [poor] administrative management of files in Île-de France (unprecedented delays in processing residence permits and work authorization requests).

Without this commitment on their part, such professional opportunities would not exist for these young people.”

- François, soul food co-founder

Communication, Staff & Volunteers



Digital Communication

Social Media

Social media continues to be a useful tool for us. We use it for advocacy, spreading awareness, growth, visibility, networking, forming new partnerships, selling merch and art, and storytelling. We also use it to inform people about our events.

While we remain active on several social media platforms, Instagram is the one we use the most. It's where we have the highest number of followers and where we engage the most with our community.

3,207 Instagram followers Most accounts reached with original content⁷ = **14.8k**

We also share content on Facebook, LinkedIn, X, Spotify, YouTube, and via our blog.

The soul food Collective

Our newsletter, The Soul Food Collective, is another way we stay in touch with our community and continue to grow. It's the best way to find out about our upcoming events and other news. Issues also include art, creative resources, special updates from our community, ways to support our initiatives, and Soul Food highlights.

7 This was for a "boosted," or paid, story for the 5th birthday celebration in February 2023.



@fanchouam

@kryssandra

Staff and Volunteers

Everyone working at Soul Food is a volunteer, but changing this is one of our main priorities. Our team is an international and creative one, with talented individuals contributing in different ways.

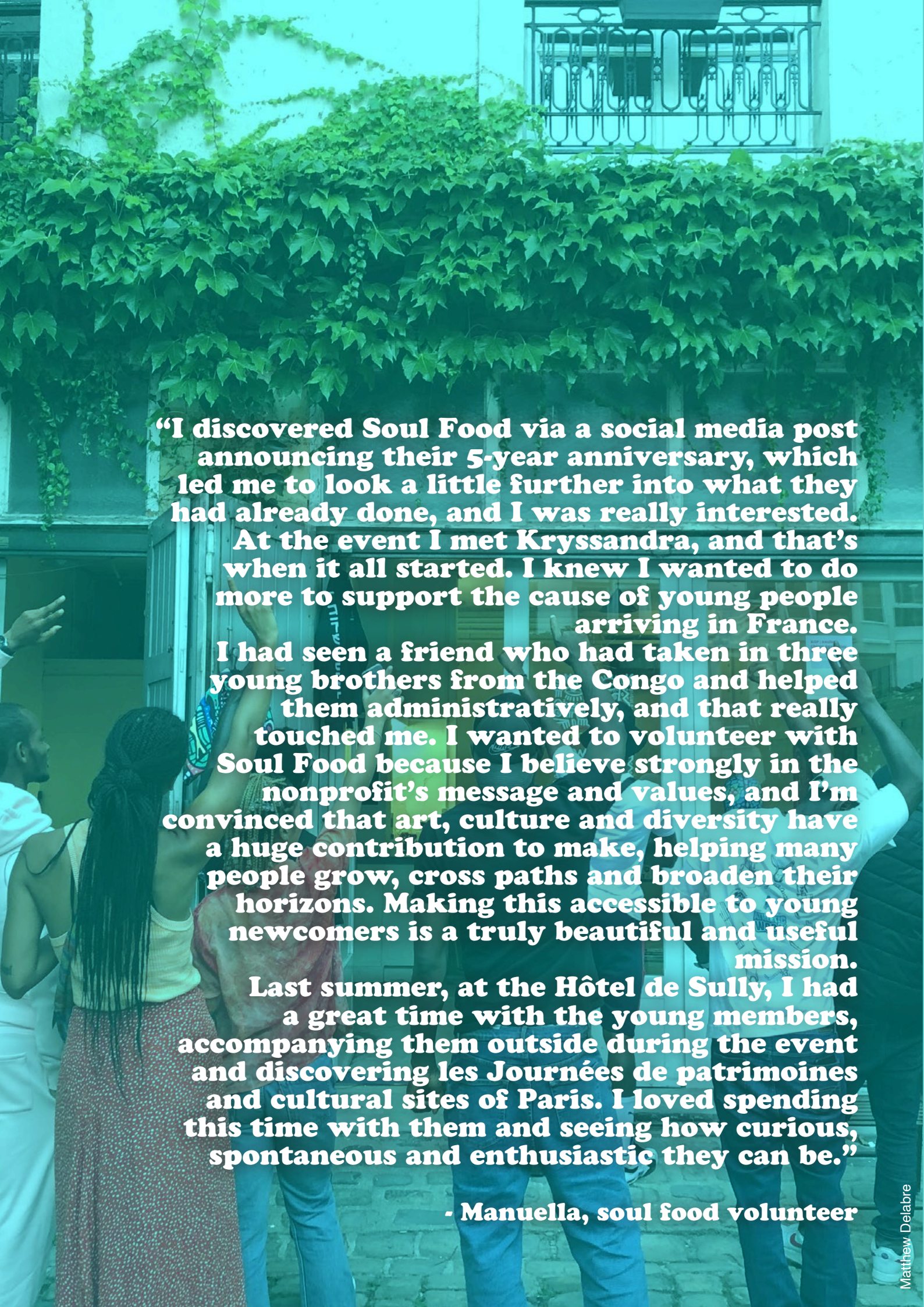
Staff

Soul Food continues to be run by our two co-founders who serve as secretary general and legal expert (François Le Louarn) and president and creative director (Kryssandra Heslop). They collaborate on most aspects of the organization, while also using their individual specializations to complete specific tasks and projects.

Volunteers

Our team of volunteers continued to grow this year. Those who do not live in France help us with online projects, such as research, website maintenance and social media campaigns. Some volunteers who are based in Paris help with specific skills-based tasks (graphic design, translation, etc.) a handful of times a year, while others have taken on more global roles within the organization, helping with multiple types of tasks and projects on a more regular basis. This year we focused more on training new volunteers so that the organization can continue to grow.





“I discovered Soul Food via a social media post announcing their 5-year anniversary, which led me to look a little further into what they had already done, and I was really interested. At the event I met Kryssandra, and that’s when it all started. I knew I wanted to do more to support the cause of young people arriving in France. I had seen a friend who had taken in three young brothers from the Congo and helped them administratively, and that really touched me. I wanted to volunteer with Soul Food because I believe strongly in the nonprofit’s message and values, and I’m convinced that art, culture and diversity have a huge contribution to make, helping many people grow, cross paths and broaden their horizons. Making this accessible to young newcomers is a truly beautiful and useful mission. Last summer, at the Hôtel de Sully, I had a great time with the young members, accompanying them outside during the event and discovering les Journées de patrimoines and cultural sites of Paris. I loved spending this time with them and seeing how curious, spontaneous and enthusiastic they can be.”

- Manuella, soul food volunteer

Financial Resources



Financial Reporting

We adhere to the emergent understanding that dividing expenses into program and overhead costs is not an accurate way to portray a nonprofit's activities and expenses, especially a small one that functions with limited resources. It's also not a sustainable or realistic method of considering what it takes to run an effective organization. Expenses that have been traditionally categorized as overhead costs are actually mission-critical expenditures. They are necessary to generate future income, continue existing programs, pay qualified staff, and guarantee the future sustainability of the organization, making them critical investments.

A more representative financial portrayal demonstrates how costs are shared between programs and activities. For instance, when we invest in fundraising or administrative materials and equipment, these are expenses that support our mission and are therefore classified as core mission support. As we do not currently have a designated Soul Food location, most of our meetings and work sessions take place in public settings (coworking spaces, cafes and restaurants), adding expenses to this category and those of the programs or projects we are working on. When we purchase materials such as art supplies, we typically use them for multiple projects and initiatives, making them direct shared program expenses. Other expenses and funds can be specific to particular programs, activities or events, such as computers for Soul Tech or canvases for painting workshops, and that is why they are classified under direct expenses – program specific.

Prioritizing impact instead of overhead is also a more accurate interpretation of success. Expenses traditionally classified as overhead and administrative costs are required components of nonprofit work. Our mission cannot be carried out without these. A strong, sustainable infrastructure cannot be built without investing in the organization. Our financial reporting reflects this.



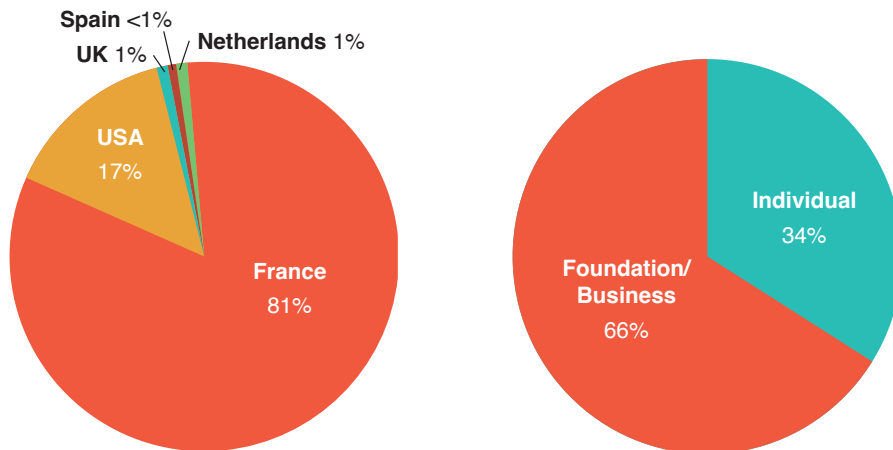
Sources of Funding and Donations

We've continued working on creative fundraising methods, such as selling Soul Food merch and hosting cultural community events to increase the organization's long-term sustainability. Financial donations from our donors remained an integral component of our financial resources. In-kind and skills-based donations contributed immensely to our 2023 programs as well.

Direct Financial Donations

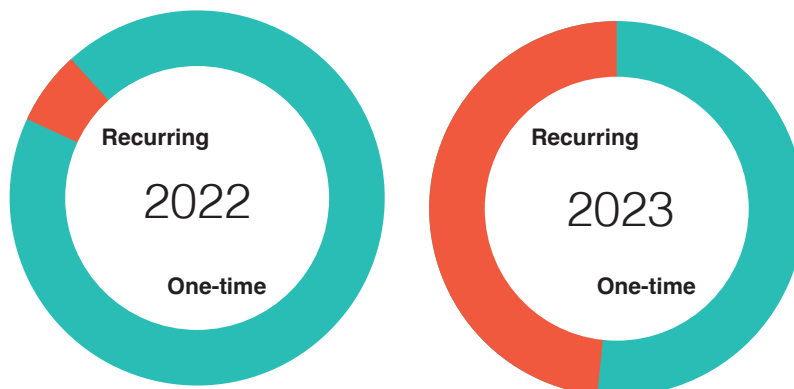
Direct monetary donations continue to be fundamental to Soul Food's success. These donations serve as non-compromising funds, which allow us the flexibility to fulfill our mission and adapt to situations when needed..

Sources of Direct Financial Donations



For the past few years, one of our principal goals has been securing more recurring donations. Thanks to several generous donors who contribute monthly to support our work, we received more recurring monthly donations in 2024 compared to previous years.

One-Time vs Monthly recurring Donations



Monthly recurring donations are a vital component to Soul Food's sustainability because they provide a level of reliability that one-time donations do not, allowing us to plan future activities and getting us closer to being able to pay staff by ensuring that we will have funds coming in each month.

In-Kind Donations

Soul Food has been able to function thus far, largely thanks to in-kind donations from partners and supporters. These include, but are not limited to: free museum passes, concert tickets, snacks, art workshops, food and wine for events, exhibition materials, and book donations. Some partners also offer discounts on things like tickets to shows and food from their establishments.

“This year we worked together with Jakman and young members on the feeling of being at home, what the young members would like to see in their dream Parisian apartments and how integration in a new place can feel. This was for Soul Food’s 5-year anniversary exhibition. [In June] we did a workshop with young members around one of my paintings, working all together on the same picture but with a variation of colors. [Towards the end of the year] we did a workshop with young migrants in Calais, where we painted on a large tarp. The objective was to create something positive as a decoration for a refugee day center.

I really appreciate working with Soul Food. It’s enriching to learn and share the positivity of all of the people that I met through Soul Food. I learn from Kryssandra and François, and the way they give so much of themselves to help other people.

My favorite project has been the exhibit at La Montgolifère because it gave me the chance to work with Jakman, an artist that I really appreciate, and with young Soul Food members. It was just the perfect mix between sharing and growing. It was very exiting. I learned a lot.”

- Madiakham, artist

Skills-Based Donations

Certain donations take the form of expertise. Creative professionals have donated their time and skills in areas such as photography and videography, ensuring that all major Soul Food events are well-documented. Several chefs volunteered with us in 2023, which was an immense help in terms of fundraising for the organization, as well as networking and professional experiences for young Soul Food members. The Sheriff Gallery and Art Lab teams produced the majority of the *INVISIBLE* exhibition, including fine art photography printing, for free.

These donations are instrumental, as we do not currently have the budget to pay full-price for these services⁸. Their work also helps legitimize our work by ensuring we have useful tools, such as professional digital content to show partners and new potential donors, and professional entertainment at Soul Food events.

Creative Community Events

Organizing and participating in events serves many purposes for us, including fundraising. One of the major ways we raise money through events is with food. Since we do not have our own physical space, events are also where we sell most of our merch and art. Some events provide other opportunities to fundraise, such as through direct donations, bake sales, silent auctions, and raffles.

Events we organized and participated in by year:

2023=11

2022=13

2021=2

2020=1

⁸ We have started paying musicians a symbolic sum for performing at our events, in an effort to support artists who support Soul Food. We also paid symbolic sums to some of the artists and creatives who led workshops as part of our one-off initiative with France Terre d'Asile.



Merch and Art

Merch and art are integral components of our fundraising strategy⁹. The primary goal of this initiative is to create alternative, non-compromising revenue streams to fund our activities. This is in line with our strategic goal of achieving financial sustainability.

The art pieces we sell are created in collaboration with artists who are part of the Soul Food community. Kryssandra designs Soul Food merch. In addition to merch and art stands being at most of our events, sometimes we are invited to markets, where selling these items is one of the primary objectives. Some of our merch is also sold at Yallä, as well as via our online boutique.

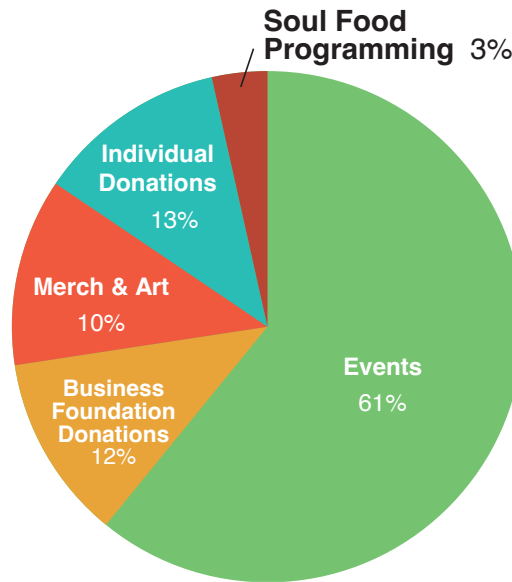
⁹ In 2023 we sold merch and art that was created in 2022 (and in previous years). We also started working on a merch collection that will be sold in 2024.



Paid for Our Savoir Faire

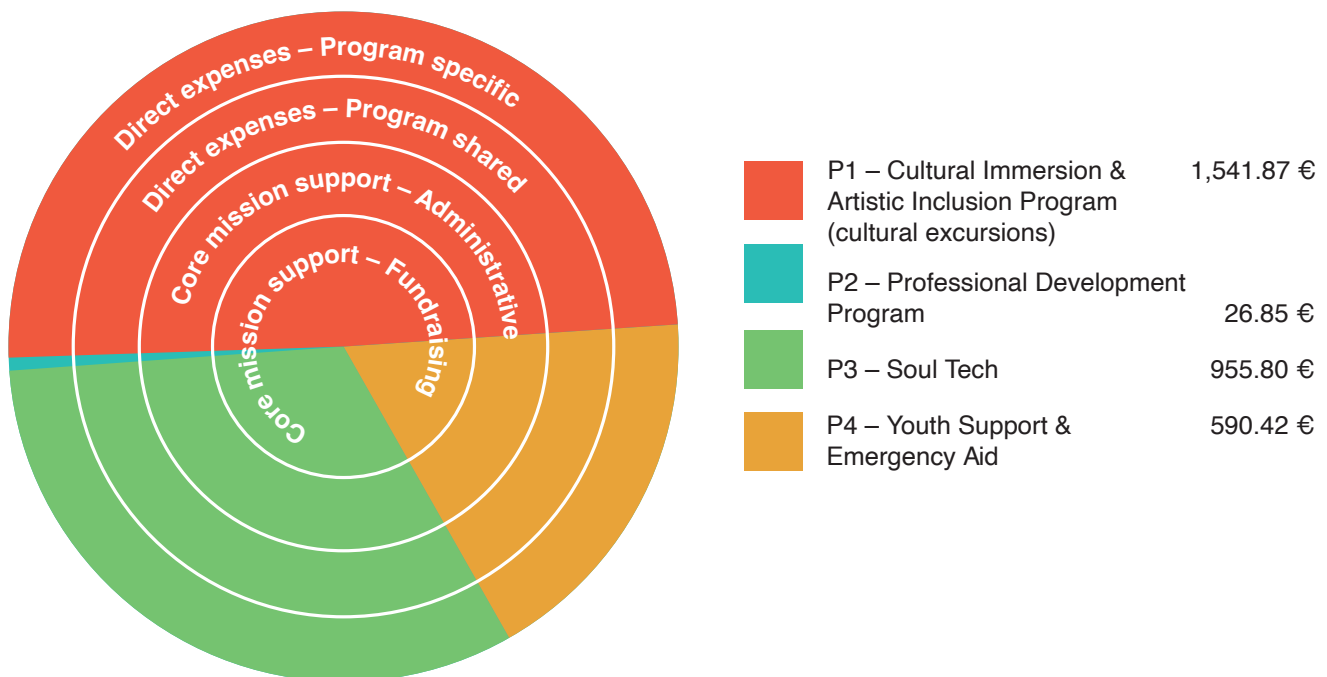
For the first time, this year we were paid to create and run programming. It was through our one-off initiative and a partnership with the French national nonprofit France Terre d’Asile (FTdA). We partnered with them for a series of 5 creative workshops in their different facilities around Paris, where they host unaccompanied minors and young adult migrants.

Sources of Income¹⁰



Breakdown of Expenses¹¹

This year we continued to invest in the organization’s core to support Soul Food’s mission. This is reflected in our breakdown of expenses, as are the four principal youth-centered initiatives that we spent financial resources on in 2023.



¹⁰ The “Merch & Art” total includes all merch and art sales, including those sold at events. The “Events” total is therefore missing these sales.

¹¹ Cultural excursions that we organized as part of our one-off initiative, including those around Paris with FTdA and the one in Calais with Project Play, are included here.

Looking Toward the Future



Future Ideas & Projects

In 2018 we set out to make a positive impact in the lives of young migrants and refugees. In 2023 we remained committed to this mission and plan to continue.

soul food not in Paris

We are actively working to expand our initiatives to other locations. This year we managed to meet many new potential partners in different cities and countries, therefore making this vision clearer.

One of the many reasons why we are interested in expanding internationally is related to our need to achieve financial stability and independence. Our community has been made up of supporters, including donors, living in other countries since the beginning, and it's thanks to this incredible community that we've made it this far.

In addition to our work in Calais, Grenoble and Conakry, before the end of 2023, Kryssandra and François met with many potential partners in New York City. These included artists, nonprofits, immigration lawyers, creative collectives, and chefs, all of whom are interested in partnering with Soul Food in the future to carry out activities and initiatives in NYC, where there is a growing population of unaccompanied minors.

This year we also joined the Migrant, Immigrant and Refugee Rights (MIRR) Alliance. It's a global coalition of grassroots organizations focused on advancing the rights and dignity of refugees and migrants.

These creative activities, national and international links, helped us move toward our expansion goals. In the short and long-term future, we plan to continue making these meaningful connections in different cities and countries around the world.



Near Future

Our strategic priorities still include:

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

Soul Food is a volunteer-driven nonprofit. While volunteering is noble, we recognize that having an organization entirely made up of volunteers is not sustainable. This is one of the foremost reasons why financial, non-compromising security is a priority for us.

This year we increased our recurring monthly donations and we will continue working to secure more. This is an accessible and practical way that individuals can help us reach our goals.

Creating and contributing to art exhibitions has been a wonderful way to showcase young Soul Food members' creative skills, collaborate with artists, tell our story, advocate for migrant and refugee rights, increase our visibility, and grow our community. This is therefore something we plan to explore further in the near future.



Long-term Future

We aim to eventually have a space dedicated to Soul Food. Ideally it would generate some income for the organization as a creative space that is open to the public, where locals and immigrants would interact. It would also serve as a place for our team to meet and work, and provide a safe, creative space for young Soul Food members to participate in our artistic programming.

We strive to be a driving force for the positive integration of young migrants and refugees around the world. As such, we hope to one day be able to use our programs and initiatives as research contributions that can eventually impact policy on issues such as positive integration, the effectiveness of current migration policies, multicultural psychology, and the role reception conditions and available resources have on young migrant and refugees' lives, including on their social, educational and professional trajectory.

A Final Thank You

We are appreciative of this adventure and immensely grateful for all of the help our community provides along the way. Thank you for believing in Soul Food and for contributing to our work. Thank you for helping us support young Soul Food members.

Merci beaucoup !

#SoulFoodForMigrantYouth





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

Cover Photo

© Kryssandra Heslop

Photography

© Thenappan Chinnaiah (@ilove.tc), Matthew Delabre, Benoît Dhennin (@benoit.dhennin), Kryssandra Heslop (@krysssssandra), François Le Louarn (@fanchlouarn), Florencia Owen (@florenciaowen), Amanda Rougier (@amandarougier_photos), U.S. Embassy in Conakry (@usembassyconakry)

Graphic Design

Tim Francis
Fabienne Ndoung

Content

Kryssandra Heslop

Editing & Translation

Penelope Bacle
François Le Louarn
Matthew Delabre

François Le Louarn,
Secretary General, Co-Founder
Kryssandra Heslop,
Creative Director, President, Co-Founder

**© 2024, Soul Food.
All rights reserved.**



soul food



@soulfoodparis

