

2025 IMPACT REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Founder's Note	2
Introduction	3
HiiiLIGHTS	4
Major Wins	5
Fiscal Sponsorship	6
Oakland Tech Week	7
Artist Infrastructure & Place	8
The Future	9
Thank You	10

Thank you to our incredible supporters: Kapor Foundation, Meta, Good Trouble VC, Akonadi Foundation, Alameda County, Full Spectrum Capital, and our growing community of champions!

FOUNDER'S NOTE

2024 was supposed to be a year of consolidation. Instead, it became a year of **audacious expansion**.

We secured **\$450,000 in multi-year funding**—anonymous backing that signals deep trust in our mission. We launched **OaklandTechWeek**, bringing together the ecosystem we've been building for years. We partnered with **Kapor Foundation** on a multi-year commitment that positions HiiiWAV as a cornerstone of Oakland's creative tech infrastructure.

At Hiero Day and Hella Juneteenth, our community showed up in force. At Meta AI conferences from the Bay to Chicago, we proved that **Oakland's voice belongs at every table where AI's future is being decided**.

We invested in our people—Kev Choice's continued innovation, E-40's historic Tiny Desk, the next generation of creators at our summer internship program with EOYDC and Represented.

But at HiiiWAV, we don't wait for permission. We build. We own. We lead.

This year, we're launching **Director**—our fractional nonprofit leadership service at directorforgood.org. It's what we've been doing informally for years, now available to organizations that need backbone support to scale their impact.

The HiiiWAV 50 Fund. New studio upgrades. New residents. New partnerships with Good Trouble VC. **This isn't just growth—it's proof of concept.**

The danger is real. But so is our power.

In Solidarity,

Bosko Kante

Co-founder & President, HiiiWAV

INTRO

As we reflect on the past year at **HiiiWAV**, we recognize the accelerating pace of change in technology, culture, and community. The landscape for artists, creators, and technologists has never been more dynamic—or more urgent.

2024-2025 marked a turning point. While others debated the future of AI, we built infrastructure. While others worried about displacement, we created pathways to ownership. While others talked about community, we invested in it—with capital, space, and unwavering commitment.

HiiiWAV has always stood at the intersection of culture, technology, and economic opportunity. This year proved that intersection is exactly where transformation happens.

This is our moment to double down, to innovate where the system falls short, and to continue building an ecosystem where creativity is not just valued but sustained.

HIILIGHTS

HiiiWAV is a visionary Black-led organization innovating at the intersection of art and technology to confront the systemic exclusion and exploitation that have long shaped the entertainment and media industries.

In cultural hubs like Oakland—where rising costs, lack of access to capital, and now AI-driven disruption threaten the survival of independent creators—we exist to dismantle these barriers and build new pathways to ownership and sustainability.

We developed two national PSA campaigns—creative properties packaged and ready for production. We attended LlamaCon 2025, were honored as an IMPACT grant winner, and delivered a poster presentation at Meta.

SXSW partnership and presentation at Seed.AI. New AI software—a virtual accelerator tool—showcased at Meta headquarters.

“We do this because too many artists are forced to choose between their craft and financial stability—HiiiWAV exists to change that narrative.”

– Executive Director, Bosko Kante

Key milestones for 2024-2025 include:

- **Multi-Year Funding Secured:** \$450,000 anonymous commitment
- **Kapor Foundation Partnership:** Multi-year collaboration
- **OaklandTech Week Launch:** Inaugural ecosystem convening
- **Artist infrastructure & place:** Research; OSA / Cloud Park; City of Belonging Initiative & Frank Ogawa
- **Full Spectrum Capital Accelerator:** New capital pathways
- **Fiscal sponsorship (Make It Bay):** 501(c)(3) backbone; regional partnership with Make It Bay for inclusion & workforce alignment
- **Sponsored projects:** Ryan Nicole & Sol Affirmation (pipeline support); Alphabet Rockers; pass-through & reporting
- **Cofounders Musical:** APP accelerator + Live Concert Pitch—stage as venture lab; mentorship + investor storytelling
- **National PSA campaigns:** Two national PSA properties—ready for production
- **LlamaCon 2025 & Meta:** IMPACT grant honoree; poster presentation at Meta
- **SXSW & Seed.AI:** SXSW partnership; presentation at Seed.AI event
- **Virtual AI accelerator:** New AI software—showcased at Meta headquarters
- **Director Launch:** directorforgood.org
- **Studio Upgrades:** New resident Clay Xavier, tenant Precious Stroud
- **HiiiWAV 50 Fund:** Investing in Oakland creators

MAJOR WINS

A year of strategic partnerships and community milestones

FUNDING MILESTONE

\$450K Multi-Year Commitment

An anonymous donor made a transformative multi-year commitment of \$450,000—the largest single gift in HiiiWAV history. This investment enables long-term planning and sustained impact.

PARTNERSHIP

Kapor Foundation Multi-Year

The Kapor Foundation deepened their commitment with a multi-year partnership, recognizing HiiiWAV as essential infrastructure for Oakland's creative economy.

NEW INITIATIVE

Good Trouble VC Partnership

Opening new pathways for HiiiWAV entrepreneurs to access venture capital and scale their innovations.

INVESTMENT

Kev Choice Investment

Continued investment in Kev Choice's groundbreaking work—culminating in Choice Scores and expanded reach for artist-owned tools.

MILESTONE

E-40 Tiny Desk Concert

Supporting E-40's historic NPR Tiny Desk performance—showcasing Bay Area hip-hop excellence globally.

LAUNCH

Director for Good

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

Make It Bay & sponsored projects

Expanded fiscal sponsorship as core infrastructure—pass-through funds, compliance, grant-ready reporting. Partnered with Make It Bay for regional inclusion goals. Deep support for Ryan Nicole and Sol Affirmation plus Alphabet Rockers—without each project forming a new nonprofit.

PROGRAMS

APP accelerator & Live Concert Pitch

Built with Cofounders Musical: APP accelerator and Live Concert Pitch merge live performance with founder-style pitching—mentorship and investor storytelling on stage.

CREATIVE

National PSA campaigns

Developed two national PSA campaign properties—creative packaged and ready for production and national distribution.

RECOGNITION

LlamaCon 2025 & Meta

Attended LlamaCon 2025; honored as an IMPACT grant winner. Poster presentation at Meta.

EVENTS

SXSW & Seed.AI

SXSW partnership and presentation at the Seed.AI event—national festival and curated AI audiences.

PRODUCT

Virtual AI accelerator

Launching directorforgood.org—fractional nonprofit leadership bringing HiiiWAV's operational excellence to organizations that need backbone support.

New AI software: a virtual accelerator tool—showcased at Meta headquarters.

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

Backbone for artists and projects—grants, compliance, and programs

Fiscal sponsorship extends our 501(c)(3) so teams can receive tax-deductible donations and grants, run compliant financials and reporting, and access foundations—without each project forming a new nonprofit. We steward pass-through funds, documentation, and sponsor oversight so creative leads stay focused on art and community impact.

Make It Bay

We deepened our relationship with Make It Bay as a regional fiscal sponsorship partner—aligning Bay Area inclusion, workforce, and ecosystem goals with the artists and projects we sponsor, and connecting sponsored work to broader regional coordination.

Sponsored projects

- Alphabet Rockers — grant- and foundation-aligned education and culture work
- Ryan Nicole — pipeline support: fundraising readiness, grant/donor pathways, compliant administration as her work scales
- Sol Affirmation — structured financial and reporting support for program and partnership growth

Cofounders Musical

With Cofounders Musical we developed the APP accelerator and Live Concert Pitch—the stage as a venture lab: live performance plus founder-style pitching, mentorship, feedback, and investor storytelling so creative practice and entrepreneurial rigor reinforce each other.

OAKLAND TECH WEEK

Building the Ecosystem Oakland Deserves

Oakland Tech Week launched as HiiiWAV's flagship ecosystem convening—bringing together founders, investors, artists, and technologists for collaboration, learning, and community building.

The event showcased Oakland's unique position at the intersection of culture and technology, featuring panels, workshops, pitch sessions, and networking events.

Key Outcomes:

- Multiple ecosystem convenings throughout the year
- Connections between Oakland founders and Bay Area investors
- Showcased local innovation to national audiences
- Platform for AFRO AI graduates to present their work
- Foundation for annual Oakland Tech Week tradition

ARTIST INFRASTRUCTURE & PLACE

Research, venues, and public space for Oakland creatives

What we learned

We conducted research on what would make artists successful and able to generate income—and kept coming back to infrastructure: not only skills and networks, but places where audiences gather and money can change hands. Oakland does not yet have enough bars, music venues, and comparable rooms where artists can reliably work, perform, and earn.

Festivals show the need

Flagship events like Hiero Day and Hella Juneteenth demonstrate the draw and economic energy of artist-centered gatherings—and the gap: we need reusable indoor and outdoor venue capacity built for artist-centered programming, not one-off workarounds.

OSA & Cloud Park

We developed our relationship with OSA and advanced site development in collaboration toward Cloud Park—a downtown Oakland initiative advanced in memoriam to Angus Cloud, with OSA as a key partner. By bringing our event portfolio and production experience, we are helping catalyze an artist-purpose park—public space designed for creative life in the core of the city. The park is envisioned as a future home for Hella Juneteenth and other festivals, so annual energy can anchor in a durable civic asset.

City of Belonging Initiative & Frank Ogawa Plaza

City of Belonging Initiative (founded 2021, Oakland) develops and designs inclusive civic and retail infrastructure: micro market spaces, cultural placemaking, and public plazas as flexible cultural parks. Flagships include Hella Juneteenth, Holiday Fest (150+ vendors), Frank Ogawa Plaza with the City of Oakland, Ali Youssefi Square (Sacramento), and a six-month civic concert series pilot. 500+ vendors and artists supported annually.

HiiiWAV collaborates in this ecosystem—advancing Frank Ogawa Plaza and aligned activations so belonging, commerce, and creative life meet downtown.

THE FUTURE

Launching Director for Good

After years of informally supporting fellow nonprofits with operational guidance, HiiiWAV is formalizing this work through **Director**—a fractional nonprofit leadership service available at directorforgood.org.

Because when one organization succeeds, the whole ecosystem rises.

What's Next for HiiiWAV

'HiiiWAV 50 Fund: Investing in 50 Oakland creators

'Oakland Tech Week 2025: Bigger, bolder ecosystem convening

'AFRO AI Expansion: New cohorts, new partnerships

'Studio Development: More space for more creators

'Cloud Park & OSA: Artist-purpose park; Hella Juneteenth & festivals at a civic home

'Community Wins: Kev Choice, GNXL, Prospect, Sol Development

THANK YOU

To our donors, partners, artists, and community—you make this work possible. Together, we're building an Oakland where creativity thrives and ownership is the norm.

HiiiWAV

www.hiiwav.org