



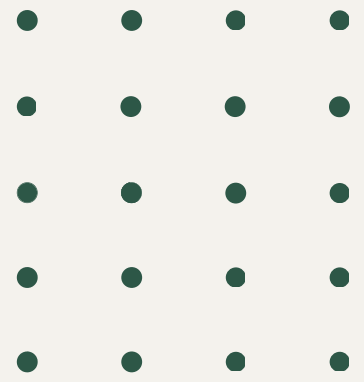
PRODIGY
VENTURES

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

WHERE CRAFT MEETS CULTURE

| www.prodigyventures.org |

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Thank you for spending some time with Prodigy Ventures' 2025 Annual Report, a reflection of a year filled with unexpected opportunities.

Recently, someone asked me what a “perfect day” at Prodigy looks like. I had to think about it for a moment.

As a small business, a perfect day might mean happy customers, espresso machines that behave, and shifts that run smoothly.

But as a nonprofit, a perfect day is something much deeper.

A perfect day is when young people walk through our doors choosing growth. It's when they show up, sometimes in the face of real challenges outside of these walls and commit to learning, to craft, and to one another.



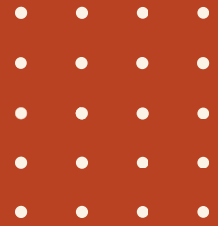
It's watching apprentices build not only technical skills as baristas, but confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging. It's seeing them support each other, push through barriers, and begin to imagine new possibilities for their futures.

That's what Prodigy is really about.

And that's why your commitment to this work matters so much. Your engagement reinforces that you see this work, that you believe in it, and that you believe in the next generation of leaders in our community.

Jeslin Shahrezaei
Executive Director

MISSION AND VISION



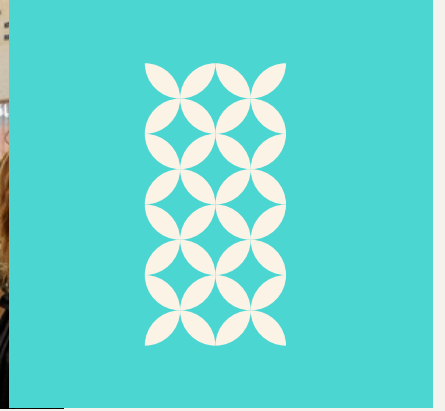
MISSION:

THROUGH PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND HANDS-ON LEARNING IN A PRODIGY ENTERPRISE, YOUNG ADULTS BUILD A FOUNDATION OF MINDSETS AND SKILLS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVES, ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO GO FORTH AND ENRICH THEIR CITY.

VISION:

WE ENVISION AN ECONOMICALLY EQUITABLE DENVER WITH A NEW GENERATION OF THRIVING, HEALTHY, COMMUNITY LEADERS WHO HAVE ACTIVATED THEIR INHERENT GREATNESS.





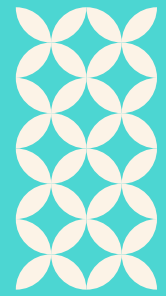
THIRD SHOP EXPANSION

In February 2025, Prodigy was invited to a meeting with longtime partner Purple Door Coffee, a fellow social enterprise coffeehouse in Denver dedicated to workforce readiness for primarily unhoused young adults. After careful deliberation, Purple Door's board of directors made the decision to close their coffeehouse after 11 months of operation. In alignment with their mission to serve the community, Purple Door extended Prodigy the first right of refusal to take over the shop, ensuring the space would continue to provide social impact.



The timing of this opportunity was paramount. The previous year, Prodigy received 225 applications for just 30 available apprenticeships; the agency was already exploring how to expand capacity.





THIRD SHOP EXPANSION CONT.

The third location at 1640 Sherman serves as a transitional workspace designed specifically for apprentices in the final phase of their 12-month program. By providing a dedicated space for late-stage apprentices to gain deeper business acumen and leadership experience, Prodigy is strengthening its pipeline of young professionals who are not only job-ready but equipped with the confidence and skills to thrive in long-term careers.



2025 IN NUMBERS



\$565,304 IN APPRENTICE WAGES

69 APPRENTICES TRAINED

113 INDUSTRY-RECOGNIZED
CERTIFICATIONS EARNED

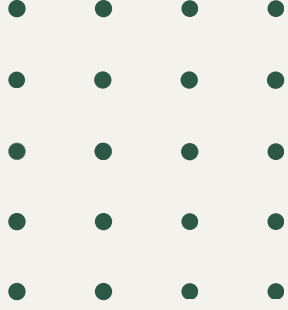


5200 HOURS OF CLASSROOM LEARNING



67% OF GRADUATES WERE EMPLOYED OR ENROLLED IN
POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION WITHIN 3 MONTHS





APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT

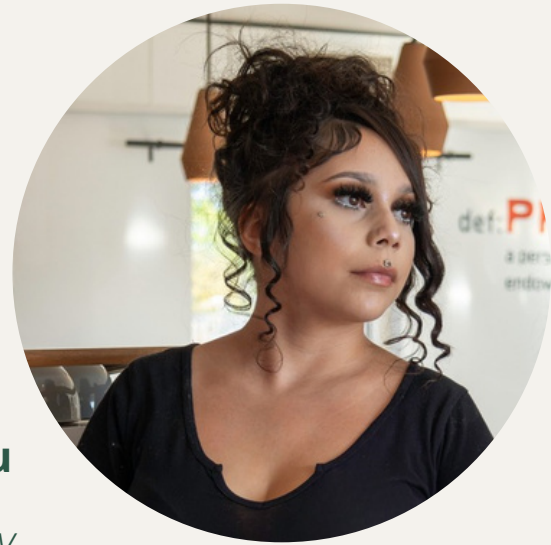
ARMANI

Neighborhood: Globeville

Age: 19

Favorite Prodigy drink? Iced strawberry matcha

What has been the biggest push for you during the apprenticeship? *"Moving to Sherman location [third shop] and working by myself downtown, but i ended up loving it."*



NEFTALI

Neighborhood: born in the Bronx, raised in Central Park neighborhood in Denver.

Age: 23

Favorite prodigy drink? *Four espresso shots with sugar*

What has been the best part of your time at Prodigy?

"Meeting my new friends, and getting the opportunity to go back to school for my high school diploma."

What is one thing you want people to know about prodigy?

"That they care about their apprentices and the coffee is goood."



def: **PRODIGY** \n,
a person, especially a young one,
endowed with exceptional abilities.



VALUES

INCLUSION AND BELONGING

We believe in creating a safe space where people can fully and authentically be themselves.

COMMUNITY

We believe in honoring lived experiences through intentional relationship building and a shared responsibility to each other.

EXCELLENCE

We believe in creating an environment where everyone can tap into their inherent greatness and have a shared commitment to high-quality customer experience and craft coffee.

RESTORATIVE

We believe in the whole person. We create opportunities for dismantling systems of oppression through identity work, creating space for authenticity and resources to engage in healing work.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We believe in the power of mutual respect & problem-solving. We honor the ownership of individual learning and growth to move towards a common goal.

COLLABORATION

We believe in the importance of working across our team, with the community, and with our partners to harness our collective strengths.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: BLUE SPARROW



Blue Sparrow Coffee has been an important partner throughout Prodigy's journey. Jeffrey Knott, a partner at Blue Sparrow, was a member of Prodigy's founding team, helping shape the craft coffee apprenticeship model and curriculum that continues to guide our high-quality training program today.

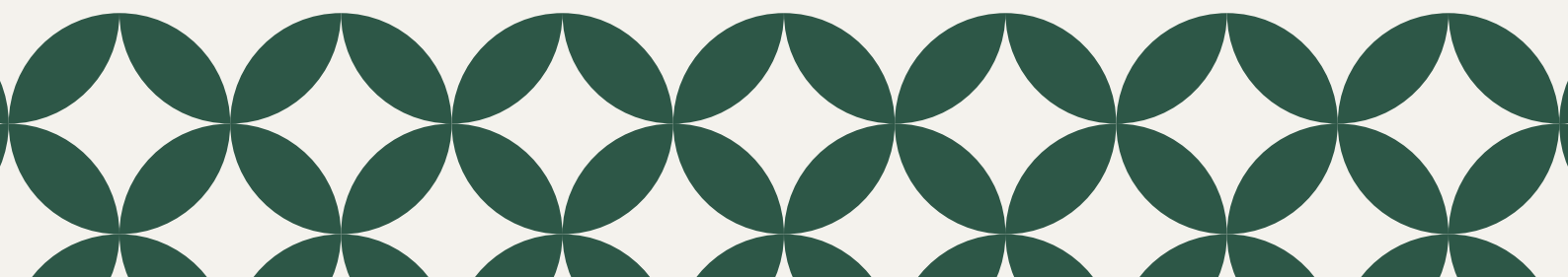
That partnership remains strong. Blue Sparrow is one of Prodigy's leading employer partners, providing meaningful career opportunities for graduates. Today, 28% of Blue Sparrow's baristas are Prodigy alumni, a testament to our shared commitment to developing skilled professionals and creating pathways to long-term success in the coffee industry.



“

I've seen other coffee shops that have missions to support certain demographics in their community. Prodigy's focus on a high level of craft coffee lets apprentices learn at a high level. The assumption Prodigy has, that apprentices can step up to high expectations, is a real differentiator.

-Jeffrey Knott, Partner, Blue Sparrow



PARTNERS



ACLU
All Pro CPR of Colorado
Always Food Safe
America's Promise Alliance
Ballmer Peak Distillery
Barefoot PR
Blue Sparrow
CAP Logistics
Central Presbyterian Church
Cherry Bean Coffee
College of Professional Studies at
University of Denver
Consumption Literacy Project
Convivio Cafe
CSU Spur
Denver North Business Association
EspressoSmith
GES Coalition
Graduate School of Social Work
University of Denver

Hidden Pines
Huntington Bank
Ignation Volunteer Corps
Miguel Vicuña
North Denver Safe Streets
Northeast Transportation Connections
Novo Coffee
People House
Project Angel Heart
RINO Arts District
Salesforce
Savory Spice
Sidewalk Poets
Social Venture Partners
Strava Coffee
UC Health
Viva! Mexi-Coffee Shop



APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT



AALIYAH

Neighborhood: Thornton

Age: 19

Favorite prodigy drink? Iced vanilla matcha

What has been the biggest push for you during the apprenticeship?

"Communication skills and time management. I learned how to be places early and on time. I get nervous to speak up, its taught me how to be more open to what I want to say. I feel a lot more confident in the work environment and customer service."



WILLIE

Neighborhood: East Colfax

Age: 20

Favorite Prodigy drink? Iced mazapan oat latte

What has been the best part of the apprenticeship?

"The first day I started, I was clueless, now I can run the whole [third] shop at Sherman. It's a good place for your first job."



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Sonia Sisneros, Board Chair

Senior Director of Development & Operations

SOAR Elementary

Sumaya Vanderhorst, Treasurer

General Counsel

AMSUNG

Tanner Sandoval, Secretary

Senior Director, Advisor Relations

NTT Data

Hal Anderson

Senior Advisor, Supervision-Specialized Products

Raymond James

Milagros Barsallo

City and County of Denver

Community Outreach Director

Ashley Furst

Senior Manager, Strategic Solutions

Aventiv

Dr. Paula Gallegos

UC Denver and Denver Public Schools

Educator

Angela Garcia, Emeritus

Retired

CO Dept. of Public Health and Environment

Michael Guzman

Director

RTD

Amanda Karger

Senior Manager

Plante Moran

Derrick Kelsey

Managing Director

Rockies Seed Fund

Heather Lafferty

Senior Advisor, Strategic Partnership

Ulysses Development Group

Katie McKenna

Housing Development Manager

Archway Communities

Gretchen Morgan

VP of Policy

Linked Learning Alliance

Mark Tapy

Director of Talent Management

Pinnacol Assurance

This list reflects all Prodigy board membership

Jan 1-Dec 31, 2025



STAFF



Emilia Cano

Craft Learning Manager

Summer Davis

Assistant Operations Manager

Brady Grant

Director of Learning

Lettie Lazaga

Operations Manager

Alex Rios

Assistant Operations Manager

Jonathan Schultz

Craft Syrup Project Manager

Jeslin Shahrezaei

Executive Director

Monica Villalobos

Director of Operations

This list reflects all Prodigy staff Jan 1-Dec 31, 2025

VOLUNTEERS

Austin Adamson

Will Carr

Erik Frandsen

Richard Goening

Eduardo Gonzales

Donya Khosham

Katie Lisle

Lori Laurita

Margaret Matthews

Maria Rangel

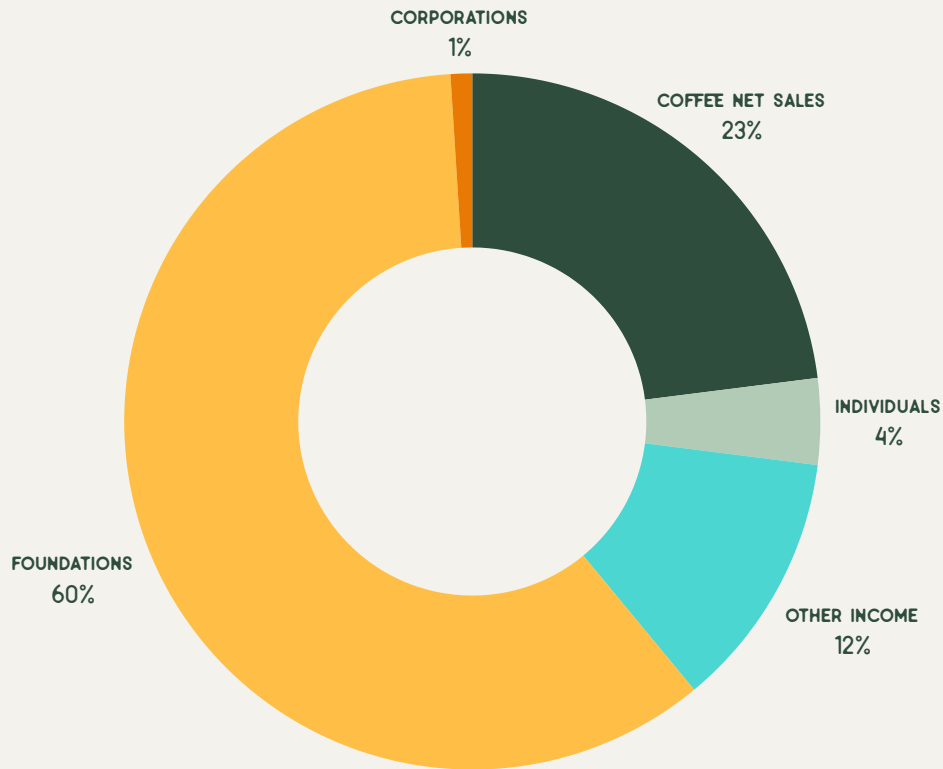
Ken Taylor

Matt Teegarden



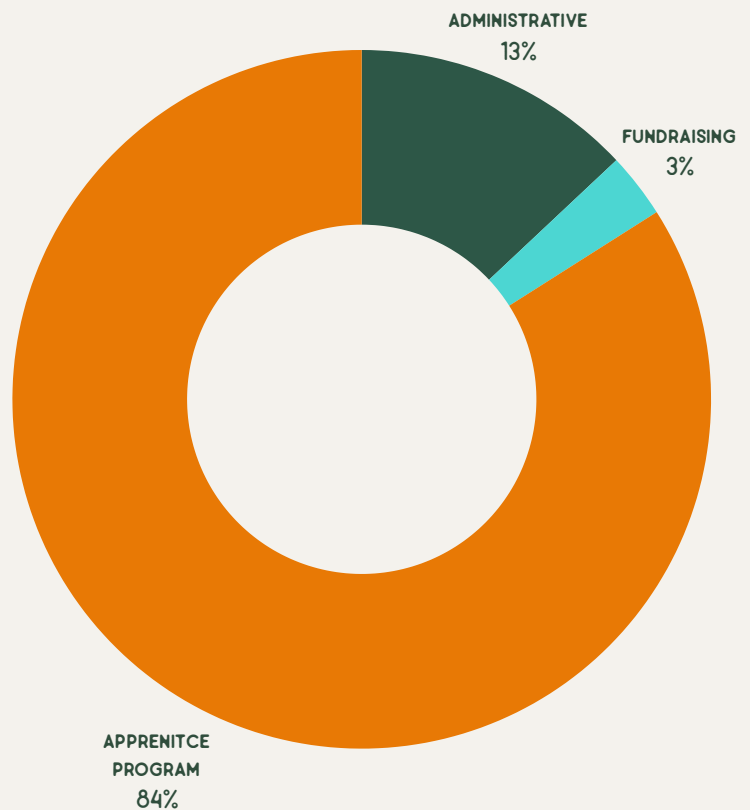


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



**2025
REVENUE
\$1,640.741**

**2025
EXPENSE
\$1,775.607**



*Expense includes
\$83,716 in non cash
depreciation

LOCATIONS



NORTH CAPITOL HILL

1640 Sherman St.
Denver

COLORADO BLVD

3801 E. 40th Ave.
Denver



GLOBEVILLE

4500 Broadway
Denver