
2024

ANNUAL REPORT



**Iranian
Cultural
Foundation
Houston**

ABOUT US

Founded in 2007, the Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston is a registered non-profit organization without political or religious affiliations.

The Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston is devoted to preserving and passing on Iranian heritage and language to the next generation of Iranian Americans in Houston.

OUR VISION

Our vision is to be a home for Iranians and a hub for the preservation and promotion of Iranian heritage in Houston. We aspire to build a vibrant, connected community of Iranian Americans who embrace their heritage, language, and cultural roots. The Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston is dedicated to fostering a legacy of cultural preservation, education, and celebration for generations to come.

OUR MISSION

Committed to advancing the educational, social, and charitable pursuits of the Iranian American community, ICF Houston actively promotes the appreciation of Persian culture and language.

01. Preserving and promoting Iranian heritage and language to the next generation of Iranian Americans in Houston
02. Fostering positive Persian cultural traditions within the Iranian American community
03. Fostering mutual understanding and connection between the Iranian and American communities



Mike Majid Jameson
President

OUR TEAM

The Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston is governed by the **Board of Directors**. Elections are held every September, where ICF members vote to elect the board. Each board member serves a two-year term.



Mahmoud Miremadi
Vice President



Ramtin Barzin
Treasurer



Shermin Hassanpour
Secretary



Abdi Rezaei
Board Member



Azadeh Nakhostin
Board Member



Darya Shavandi
Board Member

OUR TEAM

Board Members are not compensated.

They serve as volunteer stewards of the organization, and devote their time to planning, organizing and managing ICF's affairs.



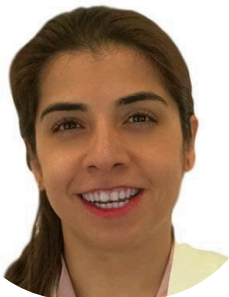
Farshid Emami
Board Member



Kamelia Namazi
Board Member



Kaveh Moghaddam
Board Member



Nafiseh Gonabadi
Board Member



Nastaran Barhemmati
Board Member



Pouya Alijanipour
Board Member

BECOME A MEMBER

Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston's member dues help to fund our mission of preserving and promoting Iranian heritage, language, arts, and cultural education. To join, all that is required is a love for Iranian culture.

Everyone is welcomed warmly at ICF, regardless of language, religion, political views, or social status.

Our shared Iranian heritage is the bond that unites us all.

JOIN THE BOARD

Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston invites YOU to join the Board of Directors.

For more information:
icfhouston.com/people

We operate within a structured framework comprised of five essential committees:

01. Education
02. Business & Partners Relations
03. Public Relations and Marketing
04. Membership Services
05. Event Planning

VOLUNTEER

Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston is proud to be an official Certifying Organization for the President's Volunteer Service Award.

This award is a Presidential honor, initiated by President Bush in 2003, to recognize the valuable contributions of volunteers across the nation that serve others through their volunteer activities.

As a certifying organization, Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston identifies eligible volunteers, verifies their service hours, and recognizes outstanding volunteers with an award annually.



VOLUNTEER

This year, Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston proudly recognized Ms. Fereshteh Pahlavan for her tireless dedication to volunteer service with the Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston over the past 15 years.

In addition to being a founding member of ICF's school, Ms. Pahlavan has served the Iranian and Afghan communities as a board member and key advisor, as well as a passionate fundraiser, advocate and volunteer.

Ms. Pahlavan's selfless devotion is commendable, and we were honored to award her the President's Volunteer Service Lifetime Achievement Award.



A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



I am incredibly proud of the work we've accomplished this year at the Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston. Our commitment to preserving and promoting our heritage has truly made an impact. I look forward to another successful year of growth and cultural celebration ahead.

Mike Jameson

NOWRUZ FESTIVAL

The Iranian Cultural Foundation hosts the Nowruz festival in Houston every year, and 2024 marked our 15th annual event. As our biggest fundraising effort of the year, the proceeds from this festival play a crucial role in funding ICF's activities and supporting our mission throughout the year. Nowruz 2024 was a tremendous success, making history as our first-ever sold-out show with over 2,100 attendees. We had a record-breaking 33 volunteers contributing their time and efforts. It was also our most profitable festival to date, with sponsorships being the top source of revenue.



Additionally, we received significant recognition, including a Congressional Recognition from Congressman Al Green, a Nowruz Day recognition from the State of Texas issued by Governor Abbott, and a Nowruz Day proclamation from the City of Houston, presented by Council Member Tiffany Thomas on behalf of Mayor John Whitmire.

DIDARE DOUSTAN

Didare Doustan, or Meeting of Friends, is a warm and welcoming gathering held on the last Friday of each month. Members come together to sing and play music, discuss a wide range of topics such as ancient Iranian religions, scientific and medical news, and recite the poetry of Hafez and Molavi. Mrs. Nahid Sabeti, the group's director, offers practical insights in psychology and occasionally leads the group in a brief meditation.

The program concludes with participants sharing a homemade potluck lunch, fostering a sense of community. This gathering has a positive and profound effect on the spirit of the participants, who eagerly look forward to reuniting the following month.



SHABE SHER

The Iranian Cultural Foundation's Monthly Poetry Night, or Shabe Sher, takes place on the last Friday of each month.

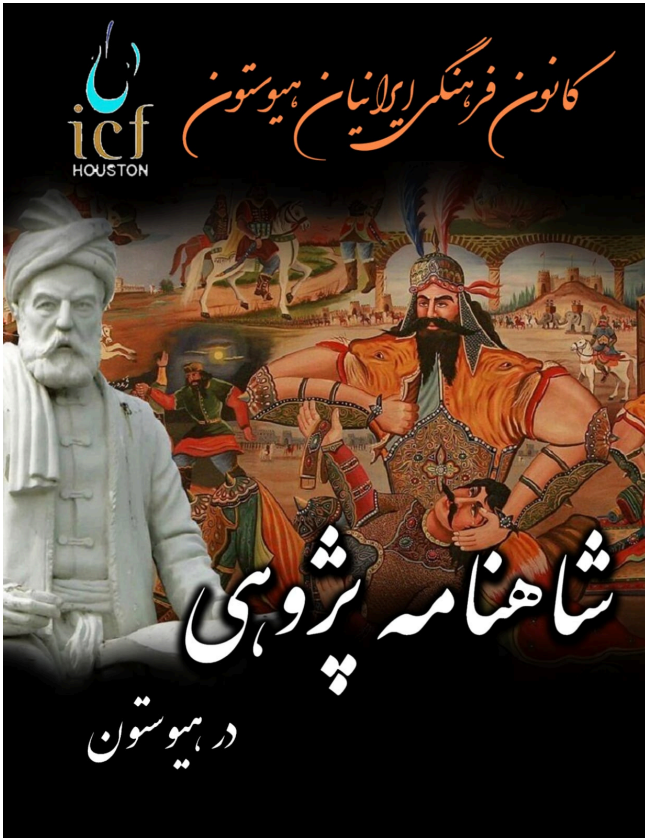
Dedicated to celebrating Persian culture and literature, this event provides a welcoming space for poetry lovers and literary enthusiasts to gather. Participants are encouraged to share and perform their own poetry in a supportive environment. With its beautiful verses and uplifting atmosphere, Shabe Sher fosters a sense of unity, inspiring creativity and bringing hearts closer together.



SHAHNAME KHANI

Shahnameh Reading, or Shahnameh Khani, is a new monthly program held on the third Tuesday of each month.

This gathering offers participants the chance to delve deeper into Ferdowsi's epic masterpiece, the Book of Kings (Shahnameh), exploring its timeless and instructive stories as well as the profound messages woven throughout. More than just a literary treasure, the Shahnameh is a symbol of Persian identity, history, and culture. We hope this evening will open a window into the vast and enduring world of Ferdowsi, inspiring all who are passionate about Iranian literature and heritage.



YALDA

The Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston hosted two vibrant Yalda events, each featuring stunning Yalda sofrehs and photo backdrops.



The Yalda event for our school children showcased beautifully choreographed dance performances by our talented students, while the event for our members included live music and poetry alongside the dances. Both events were a huge success, with full attendance!



ICF SCHOOL

At the Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston, our Sunday School is our pride and joy. We offer Persian (Farsi) classes from Kindergarten through 5th grade, along with a variety of other enriching programs such as conversational Persian, conversational English, Persian dance, Art, Chess, and more.

Our students have the opportunity to showcase their talents by performing songs and dances on stage at our annual Nowruz festival. Through our Sunday School, we are dedicated to nurturing a love for Iranian culture, language, and the arts in the next generation.



ICF SCHOOL

This year, we streamlined student registration by going digital, making it easier for parents to select classes and create their own schedules. We also upgraded our dance room, storage room, and kindergarten room to enhance the learning environment. In addition, we introduced new classes such as storytelling, calligraphy, photography, theater, and adult English conversation, providing our community with more diverse options.

We're proud to report that 89% of students re-enrolled for the next semester, and the school saw a 27% increase in new students. For the first time in the history of the Iranian Cultural Foundation, the school was profitable.



FILM FESTIVAL

The Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston proudly collaborates with The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston on the annual Festival of Films from Iran – the Museum’s longest-running film festival.

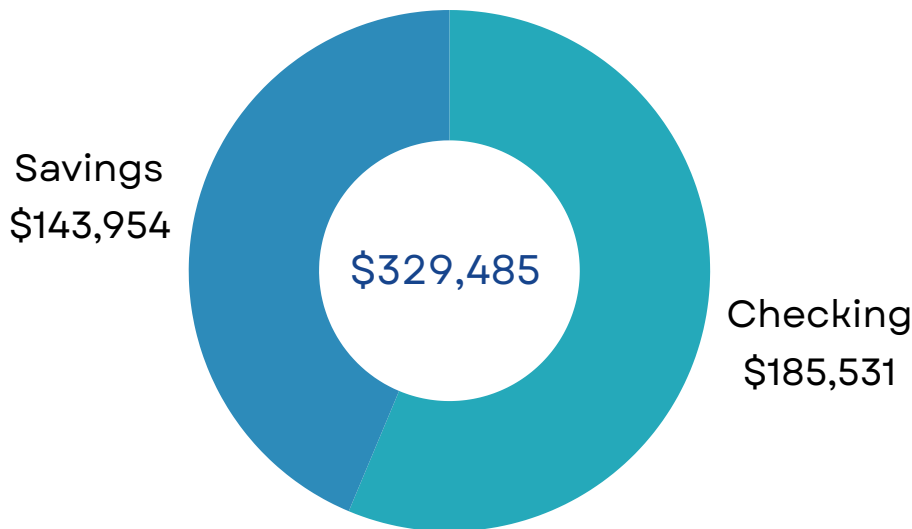
In its 31st year, the festival took place from January 19–27, 2024, showcasing a remarkable lineup of films celebrating Iranian cinema.

- *A Revolution on Canvas*
Preceded by the short film *Anita, Lost in the News*
- *The Persian Version*
- *Roxana*
- *Orca*
- *Terrestrial Verses*
(*Ayeh haye zamini*)
With a post-film Zoom Q&A with filmmaker Alireza Khatami



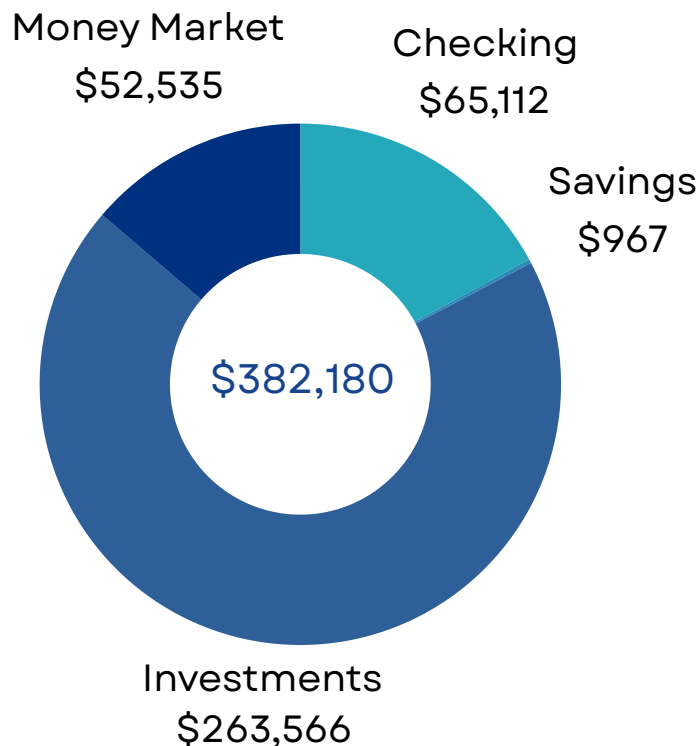
ASSETS AT A GLANCE

September 2023



Over the course of the past year, ICF moved cash assets out of checking and savings accounts and into CDs and a Money Market accounts instead.

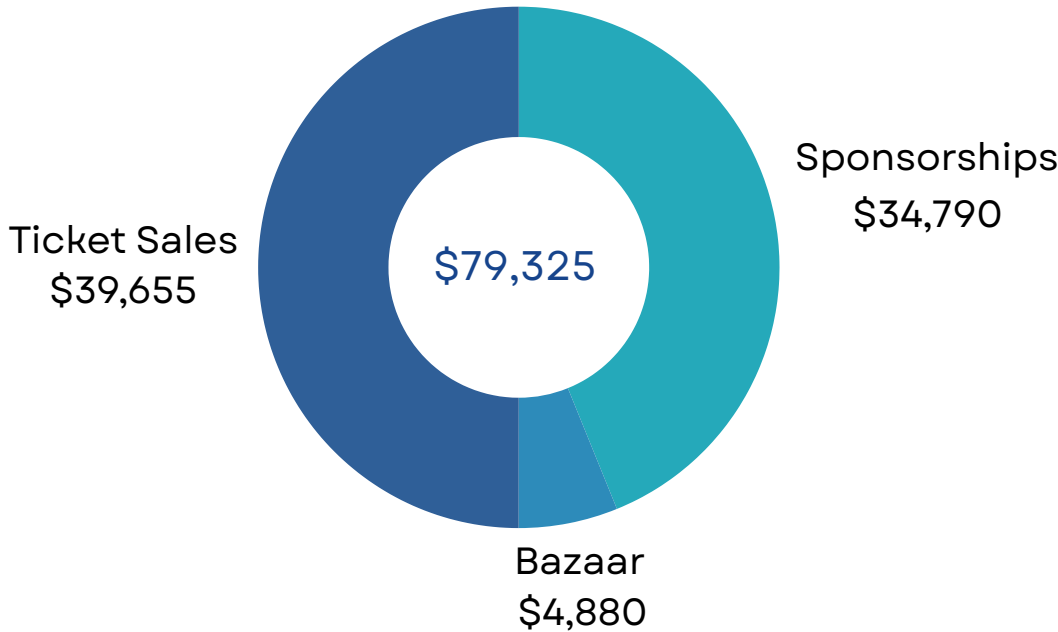
September 2024



This strategy, in combination with other successful initiatives, has contributed to a \$52,695 total asset increase year over year, which amounts to 16% growth.

2024 NOWRUZ FESTIVAL

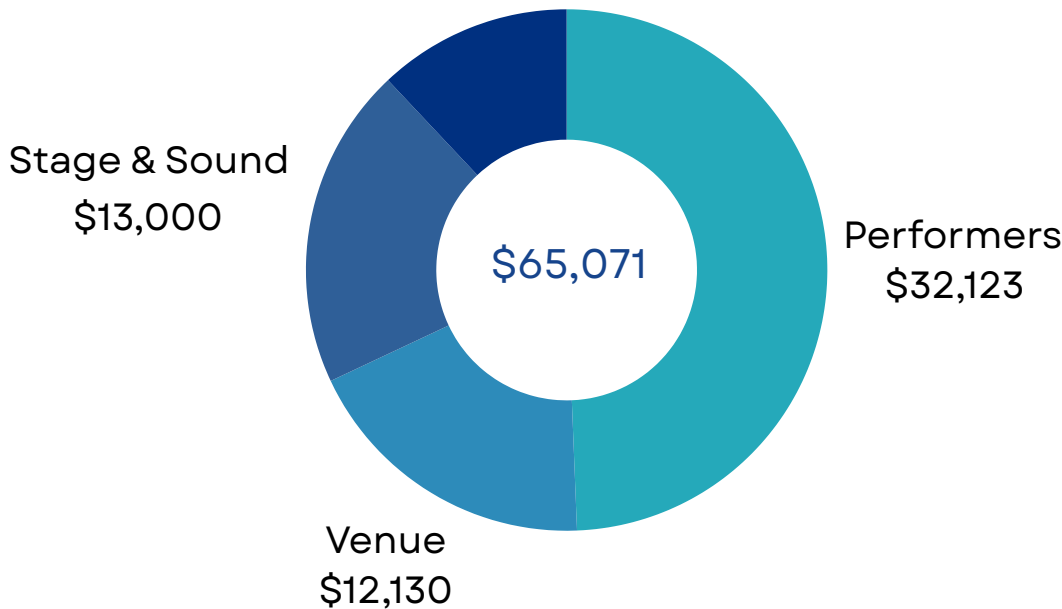
Revenues



The 2024 Nowruz Festival cost ICF \$65,071 and brought in \$79,325 in revenue, resulting in a net income of \$14,245.

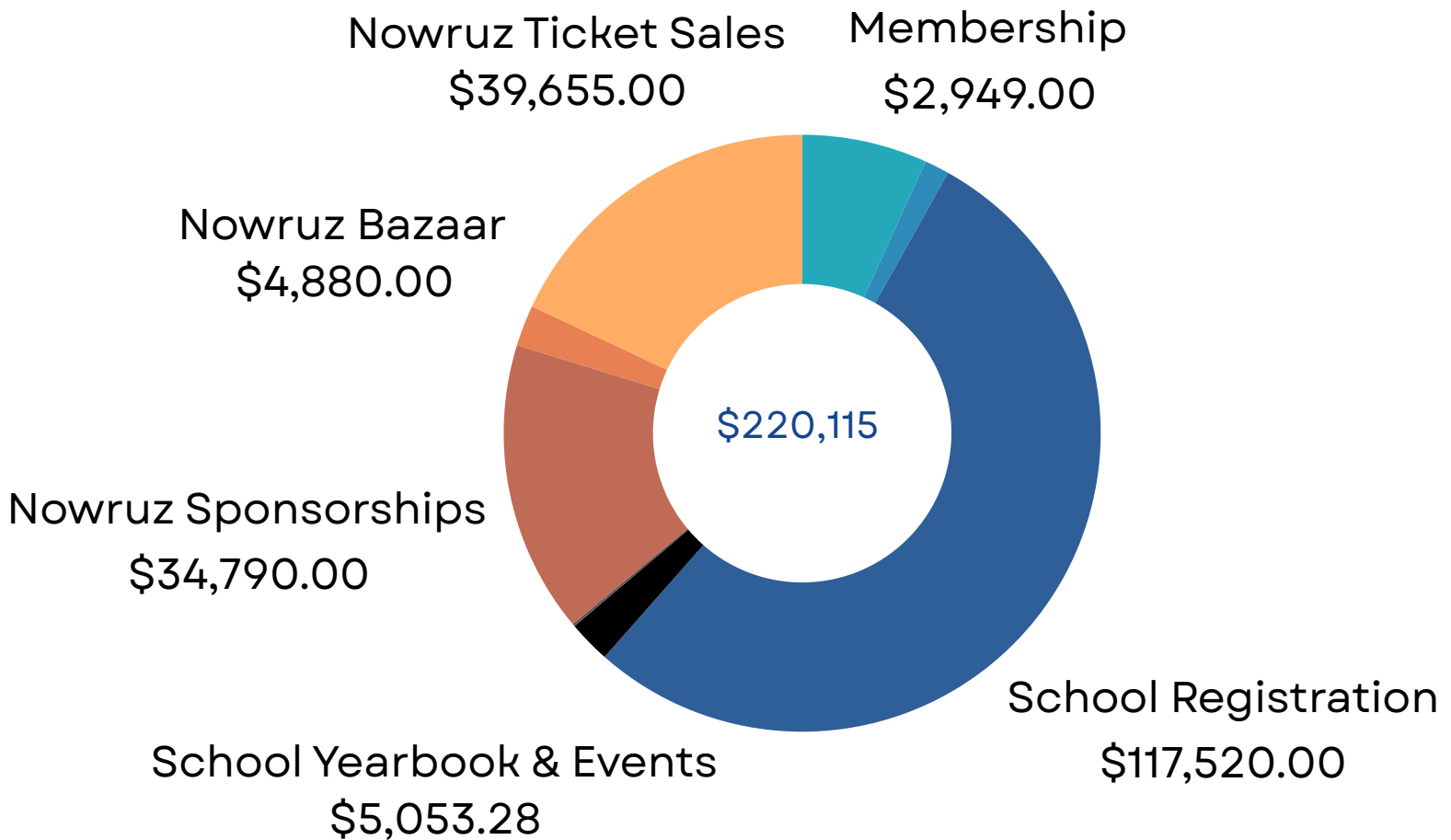
Expenses

Supplies, Labor, Insurance, Other
\$7,818



More than half of the Nowruz Festival revenues come directly from our valued sponsors and bazaar vendors, proving that the Nowruz Festival would not be possible without their generous support.

REVENUE AT A GLANCE



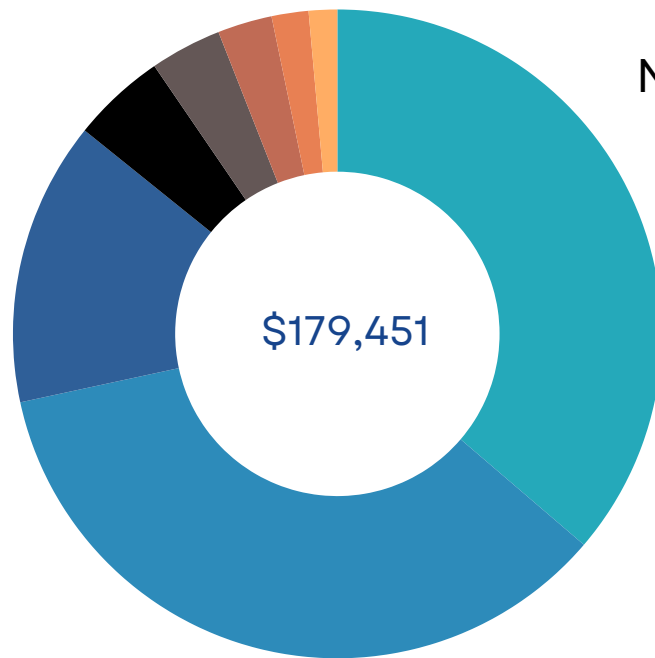
The 2024 Nowruz Festival accounted for 36% of our revenue, while the School accounted for 53% of our revenue.

EXPENSES AT A GLANCE

School Books & Supplies
\$8,382.00

Teacher/Admin Salaries
\$25,433.90

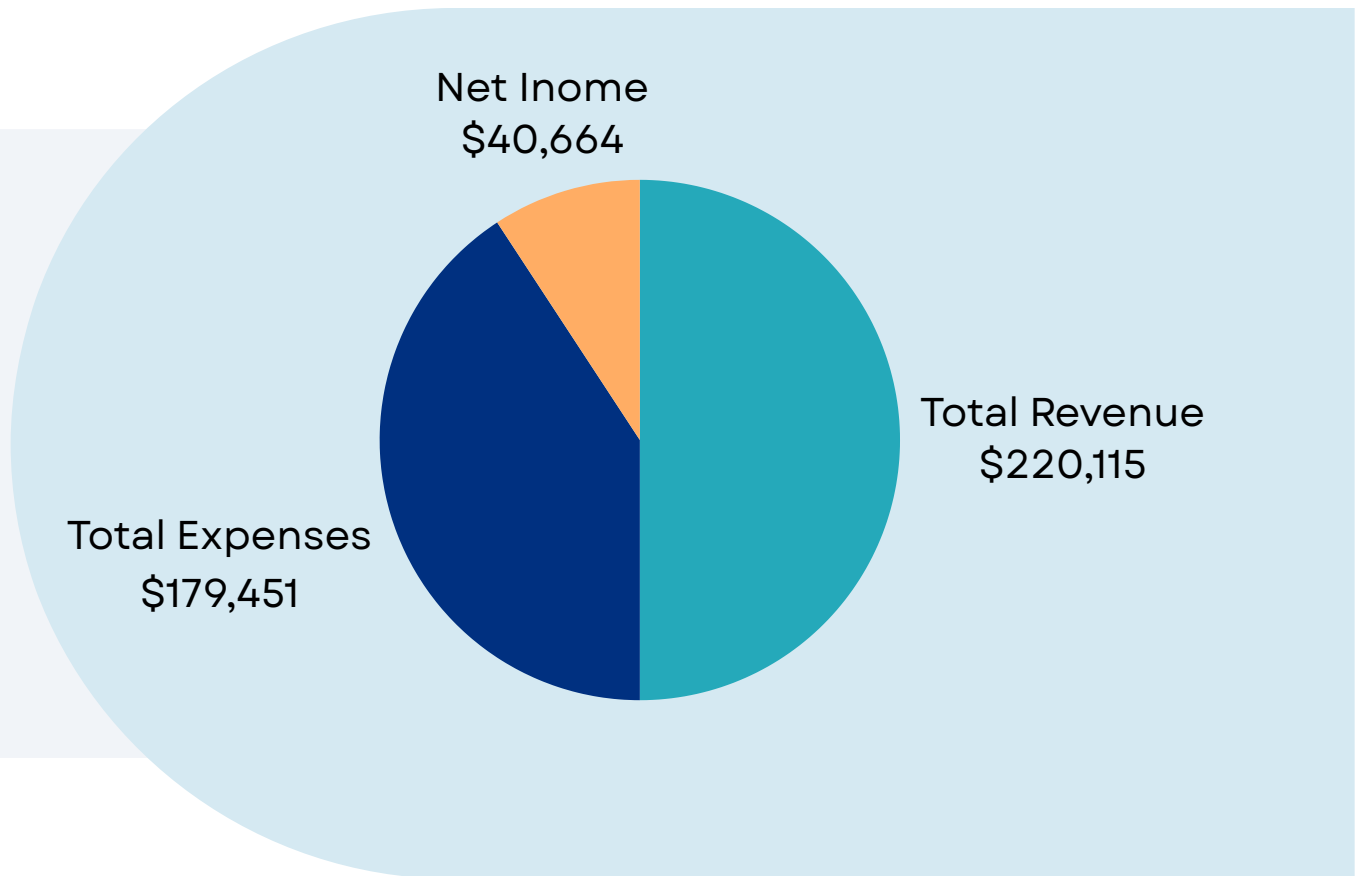
Nowruz Festival
\$65,071.06



Rent & Insurance
\$63,445.00

Our monthly rent and insurance, as well as the Nowruz festival, continue to be the largest expenses for ICF, coming in at 36% and 35% of total expenses respectively.

NET INCOME AT A GLANCE



The growth and success of our school, our financial investments, the generous support of our sponsor and donor community, as well as the success of the 2024 Nowruz Festival all contributed to over \$40,000 in net income for ICF from September 2023 - August 2024.

LOOKING AHEAD

Iranian Cultural Foundation is proud to present our first ever Annual Report spanning September 2023 - August 2024. Going forward, we plan to continue to produce this report for the community each calendar year.

ICF recognizes the need for transparency on who we are, what we do, where our funds are derived from, and where they are spent throughout the year.

We welcome your comments and suggestions and hope to continue improving and expanding this report annually.



SPECIAL THANKS

Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston extends our heartfelt gratitude to the following for their generous support

Diamond Honors \$10,000 and above

Dr. Ali Hassanpour and Mrs. Shermin Hassanpour

Diamond \$5,000 - \$9,999

Mr. Hossein Hadi of The Hadi Law Firm

Platinum \$2,000 - \$4,999

Ms. Pegah Rahgozar of Rahgozar Law Firm, PLLC

Mr. Mehran Talabi of Talabi & Associates, P.C.

Dr. Sogol Pahlavan of ABC Pediatric Clinic

Ms. Maryam Avanlu of Randevou Taste of Persia

Gold \$1,000 - \$1,999

Mr. Mostafa Alavi of Americo Energy Resources LLC

Ms. Foroogh Naghshine of Atlas Insurance Group LLC

Ms. Sanaz Billiny of Siba's Dog Obedience Training & Grooming

Ms. Khatereh Talebi of Atlas Insurance Group LLC

Dr Ghasem Bayat of New Dawn Energy Mines Energy Resources LLC

Dr. Parvin Bagherpour of Society of Iranian-American Women for Education (SIAWE)

Mr. Ashkan Nowamooz of Hungry's Café and LT Management Group

Dr. Forough Farizani of Hillcroft Physicians, P.A.

Mr. Tommy Pourmahram of Pourmahram Family Foundation

Dr. Negar Vazirinia

Ms. Sonya Hemmat of Precise Technical Services

Ms. Fereshteh Pahlavan of Pahlavan Family Foundation

Mr. Reza (Tony) Balali of Reza Persian Grill

SPECIAL THANKS

Silver \$500 - \$999

Mr. Raffi Tcholakian of Phoenicia Specialty foods
Ms Hengameh Kiani of Kiani Realty
Ms. Mathilda Reckford of English for Heritage Language Speakers
Center for Applied Linguistics
Mr. Jahandad Memarian of New York Life Insurance
Dr. Kaveh Moghaddam of University of Houston
Ms. Beheshteh Eftekhari of Tak Tax LLC
Ms. Marzieh Rafatbakhshimian of Lionyx LLC
Dr Sanaz Khavari of Love Brushing Dentistry
Dr. Jamshid Lotfi of EMG Center of Houston
Mr. Seth Eslami of Stellar International Commercial Real Estate, LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Kazem Khonsari
Mr. Masoud Manoochehri of Auto Max
Dr. Fatemeh Mohandes of FM Dentistry & Orthodontics
Mr. Majid Gerami of Magic Construction LLC
Ms. Sara Bagheri
Mr. Ali Ebadat of Last Call Ice Cream

Bronze \$1 - \$499

Ms. Bita Abdollahi of Bibi Bakery
Ms. Somayeh Ghorbani of Magic and Fun Face Painting
Ms. Fariba Varkiani of Aryan Gallery
Ms. Fahimeh Basiri
Ms. Shiva Taefy of Asians Against Domestic Abuse
Ms. Niloufar Hafizi of Emgage - TX
Ms. Elahe Sadeghi
Ms. Parvaneh Miri of Miri's Kitchen
Ms. Yasi Lotfi
The Rokhsaz Family
Ms. Shahla O'Neil

SPECIAL THANKS

Bronze \$1 - \$499

Ms. Marjon Nayebhashemi
Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Tammy Chambers
Mr. and Mrs. Ardy and Romina Banan
Ms. Farrah Kheradmand
Ms. Jessica Kaminsky
Dr. Masood Jameossanaie
Mr. Abbas Etefagh
Ms. Lilac Khosrowyar

Ms. Nazanin Majd
Ms. Laila Khazai
Ms. Narges Moghimi
Dr. Neelu Shirvani
Ms. Maryam Nemati
Dr. Golnar Parvizi
Ms. Bahareh Sayyar
Ms. Shahla Shirvani

Volunteers and Friends of ICF

Dr. Farshid Emami
Dr. Mozhdeh Niazmand
Dr. Nastaran Barhemmati
Dr. Pouya Alijanipour
Mr. Abdi Rezaei
Mr. Ashkan Pourjavadi
Mr. Farhad Jahangiri
Mr. Hadi Sadeghi
Mr. Kamroush Rahbar
Mr. Kaveh Fallah
Mr. Kourosch Rezvankhoo
Mr. Kousha Khadivi
Mr. Mahmoud Miremadi
Mr. Majid Jameson
Mr. Masoud Hashemi
Mr. Parsa Satchell
Mr. Ramtin Barzin
Mr. Sassan Djahanshahi
Ms. Ava Nazari

Ms. Azadeh Nakhostin
Ms. Darya Shavandi
Ms. Fatima Alghafir
Ms. Fereshteh Pahlavan
Ms. Kamelia Namazi
Ms. Leila Moussavi
Ms. Leyla Ashrafi
Ms. Leyla Rezvankhoo
Ms. Lillian Satchell
Ms. Linda Moatamed
Ms. Nafiseh Gonabadi
Ms. Nickan Poshtkoohi
Ms. Nika Rezvankhoo
Ms. Pooneh Raznahan
Ms. Raina Baig
Ms. Sara Moussavi
Ms. Shermin Hassanpour
Ms. Sophia Payrovi
Ms. Tannaz Tarahhom

DONATE TODAY

By supporting our mission to preserve and promote Iranian heritage, Persian language, Iranian arts, and cultural education, donor contributions leave a significant and lasting impact on the Iranian community in Houston. Donations allow us to continue to host educational programs and cultural events that celebrate the richness and diversity of Iranian heritage and have a meaningful and lasting impact on the Iranian community in Houston. Iranian Cultural Foundation Houston extends our heartfelt gratitude to our donors for their generous support.



CONTACT US

We'd love to hear from you



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