

Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott Announces \$1M Donation to San Francisco's Women's Audio Mission as Part of Latest \$2.74B Round of Grants

The Largest Single Donation in the Organization's History Will Help Aid a National Expansion, Helping Transform the Music Industry via Programs that Address the Critical Lack of Women in the Audio Industry

(San Francisco, CA—June 15, 2021)—[Women's Audio Mission](#) (WAM) announced today that philanthropist/author MacKenzie Scott has made a \$1M donation, the largest one-time gift in the organization's history, to support its efforts to expand its programs nationally to advance women, girls and gender expansive individuals in music production and the recording arts, fields where they are chronically under-represented (<5%). Scott announced the gift today in a post on [Medium](#).

Based in San Francisco, WAM provides hands-on training, work experience, career counseling, and job placement to more than 4,000 women and girls every year in music production and technology for music, radio, film, television, and the internet. The organization's innovative curriculum weaves art and music with science, technology and computer programming, specifically designed to close the persistent gender gap in the music and tech sectors.

National expansion plans will focus on strategic locations in major music industry hubs, including Nashville and Los Angeles, which will ultimately create a new, gender diverse pool of highly-qualified music technology and audio production experts that will fuel real change within the industry.

"MacKenzie Scott's generosity is transformational for WAM and our efforts to change the face of sound," said Terri Winston, Founder and Executive Director. "At this moment in our country, it is incredibly important to include and amplify the voices of women, girls and gender-expansive folks, especially in the production of the music and messages in the soundtrack of our lives. Her investment in WAM will allow us to expand nationally to other music hubs and bring our award-winning training and mentoring programs to thousands of women and girls."

Beyond its ongoing training programs, WAM also funds recording arts conferences, currently virtual, in multiple markets throughout the year featuring networking opportunities and interactive workshops for attendees featuring award-winning producers, songwriters and recording engineers.

---- Women's Audio Mission: Women's Audio Mission is a San Francisco/Oakland-based nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of women/girls/gender-expansive individuals in music production and the recording arts. In a field where women/gender-expansive individuals are critically underrepresented (less than 5%), WAM seeks to "change the face of sound" by providing hands-on training, experience, career counseling, and job

placement in media technology for music, radio, film, television and the internet. WAM believes that women's mastery of music technology and inclusion in the production process will expand the vision and voice of media and popular culture. For more information, visit www.womensaudiomission.org.

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