

2023 Nominations for an Individual/Organization for Outstanding Service to Persons with Disabilities

Who would you like to nominate?	A business or an organization	A business or an organization	A business or an organization
Nominee Information	LA Goal	The Achievable Foundation	Jazz Hands For Autism
Why should the nominee receive the recognition?	They are very supportive, caring makes everyone feel like family .	<p>The Achievable Foundation (Achievable) is a nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) located in Culver City. Our mission is to provide high quality, integrated health care to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), their families, and other vulnerable populations including communities of color and socioeconomically disadvantaged individuals. Patient testimonials speak volumes about the work Achievable is doing to provide a space where individuals with disabilities feel seen and understood. The care provided by Achievable's providers and other staff allows patients to develop a sense of belonging. One patient in particular, Connie, says, "I believe that Achievable represents diversity, equity and inclusion. For somebody like me that needs help, but doesn't quite fit in your traditional disability space, it's nice to see that Achievable creates a space keeping in mind the diversity of your clients, and the diversity of their experiences, so I just feel like I belong". At Achievable, our patients feel heard and seen thanks to the support they receive from our health care providers and clinical staff. With continued innovation, we strive to be culturally inclusive and diverse in the services we provide.</p>	<p>An activist for underserved populations, on the scene since 2014, Jazz Hands For Autism is a 501(c)(3) talent advocacy whose mission is to create pathways for employment, community, and social inclusion for musicians on the autism spectrum. We are working towards a world where individuals on the autism spectrum are fully included members of society who are confident in their ability to make valued social, cultural, and economic contributions to their communities.</p> <p>Most people don't know that 1 in 36 Americans (and up to 3% of the world's population) are the autism spectrum. Most people also don't know that over 85% of individuals on the autism spectrum are unemployed or underemployed. But, this is why Jazz Hands For Autism exists: we are here to break stigmas, to empower neurodivergent creatives and to create pathways to inclusion through expression, education and employment in the entertainment industry and beyond!</p> <p>Founded in May 2014, Jazz Hands for Autism is a talent advocacy group with a mission to provide avenues for musicians on the autism spectrum to turn their passion for music into a career. Jazz Hands For Autism's story began when Founder and Executive Director, Ifunanya Nweke, witnessed what she calls the beginning of the road to success for Ruben, a young musician on the autism spectrum.</p> <p>One day, Ruben spontaneously sat down at the piano and began singing a song, then something happened - his other classmates flocked to the remaining instruments in the room to accompany him. He was usually a quiet student in the corner of the classroom with his behavioral therapist, but that day he became a leader simply by being himself and doing what he loved. At that moment, destiny met opportunity: Ifunanya knew that there must be more musicians on the autism spectrum like Ruben, with their potential to be leaders lying dormant.</p> <p>Jazz Hands For Autism was born. We hosted the first Jazz Hands Concert on May 25th, 2014 with 3 musicians. Today, the organization has since grown into a talent advocacy group and provider of individualized music-based training, vocational development, job placement, and other support for over 150 musicians with autism and their families.</p> <p>Jazz Hands For Autism is recognized for its unique approach to inclusion for individuals with autism in the music industry - by using music as a vehicle through which confidence is built within the individual and bridges are built with the world at large.</p>
What is the nominee doing or have they done to benefit individuals with disabilities in the past year(s)?	Because of COVID in class sessions were canceled for a while , but they found a way to still support individuals virtually so they could still attend and not be left without a job . They are now re opening in person and everything is falling into place .	<p>Achievable has been deeply involved in addressing the needs of our priority population of individuals with I/DD for over 25 years. The unique population of those with I/DD lives at the intersection of all types of social justice issues; there is not one race, ethnicity, gender, or age group that is advocated for in which one will not find individuals with disabilities. Achievable provides high quality medical care and mental health care services to our most underserved community members. As an FQHC, we provide a full range of primary care services (well-, acute- and chronic- care, screenings, assessments, immunizations, diagnostic laboratory and radiology, health education), as well as integrated behavioral health services (psychiatry and therapy) to over 2,300 unduplicated patients annually. Our services include insurance enrollment and eligibility assistance, transportation assistance, translation services, referral coordination and enhanced care coordination in order to provide the best care and assistance to our patients. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Achievable began offering telehealth (video and telephone) primary care and mental health care and continue to do so. Our health center operates on a Patient-Centered Medical Home model of care, and the Achievable team provides whole-person, trauma-informed, culturally-sensitive care to help ensure physical, social and emotional needs are met. In addition to direct care, Achievable also collaborates on workforce development programs, and participates in advocacy work to increase awareness of their community's healthcare needs. Further, Achievable has implemented several new projects in response to identified needs, such as: COVID-19 vaccine administration, a Latinx outreach project, trauma-informed care practice transformation, improved telehealth systems, enhanced quality improvement efforts, and growth of our behavioral health program.</p>	<p>Jazz Hands For Autism is creating pathways from expression to employment for musicians on the autism spectrum. JHFA works toward a world where individuals on the autism spectrum are fully integrated members of society who are confident in their ability to make valued interpersonal, artistic, and economic contributions in their communities.</p> <p>For a majority of our students, there is limited access to the type of quality music education, job training, and person-centered support, provided by JHFA, that creates a pipeline to inclusion and community participation. The value that JHFA's system of support provides to the lives and careers of youth and adults on the autism spectrum results in increased confidence, community integration and greater quality of life. Our educators and mentors are deeply committed to creating cutting-edge and evidence-based curriculum, providing expansive opportunities for hands-on training and constructing platforms that bolster and highlight the artistic voices of aspiring musicians from an often invisible population.</p> <p>Currently, JHFA offers the following programs:</p> <p>Jam Sessions: This weekly jam session takes place in Culver City, at Exposition Studios and is donation based. The performers work together on vocal and instrumental pieces. The artists fine tune their performance pieces in readiness for paid gigs and concerts. It's also a great way to make new friends, enhance musicality, and personal awareness. Additionally the sessions build confidence and encourage collaboration, all traits which are essential in fostering a stronger sense of self and belonging.</p> <p>Concert Series: The bi-annual Jazz Hands Concert Series is free to the community, and typically held in the greater Los Angeles area where roughly 15-20 rotating musicians on the autism spectrum perform before a lively and supportive audience. The concerts help bring autism awareness to the public and are joyous boisterous events. The musicians blossom at these concerts and fight the stigma around disabilities and the event showcases the talents and value of individuals on the autism spectrum. Concerts occur live in-person and through virtual streaming.</p> <p>Jazz Hands Musicians Academy: The Jazz Hands Musicians Academy is an individualized music education and vocational program for adults with autism age 18+ with 1-2 prior experience in their instrument. The first 9 months feature a five day a week vocational training which develops performance, social, behavioral, and work readiness skills to enable the students to obtain work as paid performers. The Academy also finds paid gigs for the performers at community, private, and commercial events. The program has been accepted as a vendor by the West L.A. Regional Center. Remote and hybrid academy classes are offered. We also provide job scouting and job placement coaching.</p> <p>Jazz Hands Junior Academy: Jazz Hands Junior Academy is an individualized zoom (and eventually in-home) music lessons on piano and guitar for school-aged children with autism ages 10-17 who are looking to learn an instrument. Classes are 12 weeks long.</p> <p>Jazz Hands Work Placement Program: Through the Jazz Hands Work Placement Program (JHWP), Jazz Hands For Autism offers music-related job search and job and internship placement to students and graduates of the Jazz Hands Musicians Academy. Placements include performance gigs, teaching positions, track and composition placements, audio and sound tech positions, and more. Related initiatives include the Universal Mentorship Program and the Teacher Internship projects, which help students with professional development. JHFA also offers the MTP - Music Teacher Training Program, to train JHFA's students to teach music, providing even more experience and potential employment for its students.</p>
How many years has the organization or individual been of service to those with disabilities?	54	25	9
If nominating a business or organization, what percentage of their clients are served in Culver City and/or are residents of Culver City?	70%	20.2% based on four out of six Culver City zip codes.	90%
If nominating a business or organization what year was the business or non-profit founded?	1969	1996	2014
Organization or Individual Website Link (If applicable):	Lagoal.org	achievable.org	www.jazzhandsforautism.org