

# Marcel Fable Price

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## Work History

### The Diatribe Co-Founder and Executive Director (2013 - 2023)

- Utilized restorative art to challenge historical systems of oppression, reimagining education, and fostering community well-being through The Diatribe's unique approach, creating an unapologetic vision for liberation accessible to all.
- Established a multimillion-dollar nonprofit organization, successfully filing articles of incorporation, and spearheaded remarkable revenue growth, elevating organizational income from \$80K in 2018 to nearly \$4M in 2023.
- Raised \$3.5 million through state lobbying for "The Emory Arts and Culture Hub" in the South Division/Grandville Corridor of Grand Rapids.
- Developed a robust board of directors with supportive committees to enhance organizational effectiveness.
- Orchestrated "The 49507 Project," managing a team to install 17 murals in the 49507 zip code, crafted by Black and Brown artists and co-created through extensive listening sessions.
- Secured a \$1M lead capital support pledge from the Wege Foundation, demonstrating effective fundraising leadership.
- Inspired and led a dedicated team of contractors to support programs, operations, and fundraising efforts.
- Facilitated impactful programming, maximizing grant impact, and ensuring equitable compensation for artists and teaching staff.
- Created and disseminated free, downloadable, interactive content for remote education over Zoom, including prompts, presentations, and digital journals.
- Spearheaded adaptive fundraising event management during the challenges of COVID-19 and implemented a cloud-based storage system for streamlined document access, managing donor relations, and strengthening partnerships with community organizations.

### South Division/Grandville Corridor Improvement Authority, Co-Chair (2021 - 2023)

- Appointed to this Grand Rapids City position, contributing to the revitalization and enhancement of the South Division/Grandville Corridor.
- Instrumental in the successful completion of three impactful murals, transforming the visual landscape of the area.
- Spearheaded numerous facade improvements, directly benefiting local business owners and fostering economic development.
- Played a key role in securing \$3.5 million in state revenue, dedicated to advancing crucial development initiatives in one of the city's underinvested areas.
- Contributed to the success of Ole Mole, a neighborhood food festival, enhancing community engagement and promoting local businesses.
- Served on the Burton Heights Business Association alongside this work.

### Garfield Park Neighborhood Association, Board Member (2019 - 2022)

- Spearheaded the Unification Project in 2020, focusing on supporting residents facing financial challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Engaged with nearly 3,000 neighbors through various channels, establishing direct contact and email connections.
- Facilitated a network to provide essential supplies, gift cards, and funds to those in need.
- Developed a comprehensive framework, including a data mapping initiative, to enhance neighborhood understanding and cohesion.
- Established a database to effectively communicate with stakeholders about neighborhood association events and available resources.
- Implemented a multifaceted approach to each project, ensuring a holistic and inclusive strategy.

#### Fable the Poet; Performing Artist (2010 - present)

- Delivered impactful 1-hour long assemblies and teacher performances.
- Organized logistics for 2-3 month tours, featuring 20-30 shows per tour.
- Managed the booking process and coordinated with hosts for successful performances.
- Developed and executed promotional strategies for shows.
- Created compelling flyers and graphics to enhance show visibility.

#### The Diatribe; Teaching Artist (2010 - 2020)

- Engaged youth through dynamic performance poetry and motivational speaking.
- Organized creative workshops, fostering safe spaces for expression and personal growth.
- Enhancing the culture of poetry in Kent County, spreading awareness for literary arts, and educating our community on the importance of poetry in Grand Rapids.
- After school programs, assemblies, and weekly workshops.
- Coordinated the 6-12 weeks of programming and staffing of those programs for up to eight schools simultaneously.
- Curated weekly reading, writing, and life-skills workshops to build relationships and foster a safe space among youth.
- Collaborated with team members to provide an inclusive environment for healthy expression and vocal release.

#### Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation Poet Laureate (2017 - 2020)

- The youngest, first person without a college degree, and first person of color to hold this title.
  - Served as an ambassador for poetry and the literary arts in Grand Rapids.
  - Conducted outreach programs and workshops to promote literature appreciation.
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## Education and Training

- INELDA: End-of-Life Doula Training
  - Experience GR Event Management
  - TedX Storytelling Workshop
  - Mental Health America: Various workshops
  - Lincoln Consolidated High School, Ypsilanti, MI
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## Publications & Media

- Local Spins 2023 (In His Own Words: Marcel 'Fable' Price — Standing up for an artistic renaissance)
- El Vocero Espano 2023
- Michigan Advance 2023 ('Just not The Diatribe')
- Grand Rapids Magazine 2022 (The Diatribe continues antiracist art project)
- Michigan Radio Stateside 2022 (Grand Rapids poet reimagines rent)
- MLive 2022 (The Diatribe has big plans for affordable housing in Grand Rapids' Southeast side)
- Wood TV 8 2021 (The 49507 Project to color, educate and inspire the community)
- WKTV Journal 2021 (How an anti-racist art project in a neighboring community may have an impact on Wyoming, Kentwood)

## Publications & Media, cont.

- MLive 2021 (Grand Rapids needs less talk, more action on racial injustice, community advocate says on anniversary of George Floyd's murder)
- WZZM 13 2021 (Mural project aims to reclaim southside Grand Rapids neighborhoods)
- Fox 17 2021 (Local nonprofit launches project to change image of Grand Rapids' southeast side)
- MLive 2021 (Anti-racism project to bring large murals to the Southeast Side of Grand Rapids)
- Grand Rapids Business Journal 2020 (Inside Track: Price empowers through poetry)
- The Missouri Review 2020 (Playing Just for You - Audio)
- Michigan Radio 2020 (Grand Rapids poet laureate asks "what are we willing to do" for justice and peace?)
- MLive 2020 (Grand Rapids outgoing poet laureate talks about using the post as a platform)
- GVSU Lanthorn Cover Story 2019
- Grand Rapids Magazine 2019
- Button Poetry 2018 (Don't Mind Me)
- Michigan Radio 2018 (A high school in Muskegon looks to poetry to change the city's rough image)
- School News Network 2018 (This Fable Speaks Truth to Teens)
- The Rapidian 2017 (Marcel 'Fable' Price, talks about his work as Grand Rapids' 2017 Poet Laureate)
- Rapid Growth Media 2017 (A brutal (and joyful) honesty: GR Poet Laureate Marcel Price shines light on mental health)
- State of Opportunity 2017 (Students find the words to say the things they think they cannot say)
- The Missouri Review 2016 (Picasso Baby - Audio)
- Michigan Radio 2016 (When it comes to mental wellness, spoken-word poet says, "There's no one way to be.")
- PBS - Mutually Inclusive 2016
- MLive 2016 (Spoken word poetry keeping kids engaged in class)
- Button Poetry 2016 (Little Timmy)
- A Drift in a Sea of M&Ms 2016 (Chapbook, Autonomous Press)
- Western Michigan University Campus Paper 2015 (The Diatribe Helps Teens Open Up Through Spoken Word)

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## Awards

- Imagination Award 2023 (West Michigan Center for Arts and Technology)
- Community Partner of the Year 2023 (Fair Housing Center of West Michigan)
- Newsmaker of the Year 2022 (Grand Rapids Business Journal)
- Nonprofit Project of the Year - The 49507 Project 2022 (Linc Up)
- Impact Partner of the Year 2021 (Michigan Humanities)
- Nonprofit Campaign of the Year - The 49507 Project 2021 (The Anthem Awards)
- The Black Bottom Community Builder Award 2020 (Grand Rapids Area Black Businesses)
- WK Kellogg Community Leadership Network Fellow Finalist 2018
- Community Advocate Award Nominee 2019 (Grand Rapids Young Professionals)
- Harlem Renaissance Culture Architect Award Finalist 2018 (Grand Rapids Area Black Businesses)
- Best Young Nominee and Male Trailblazer Award 2018 (The Beat Awards)
- 40 Under 40 - 2017 (Grand Rapids Business Journal)
- Community Advocate Award Winner 2016 (Grand Rapids Young Professionals)
- Community Advocate Award Nominee 2016 (Young Nonprofit Professionals Network Grand Rapids)
- Community Spirit Award Nominee 2016 (LINC Community Revitalization Inc)
- Runner Up 2016 (Missouri Review Annual Audio Poetry Contest)
- Jammie Award Nominee #ProjectCastAway 2015 (88.1 WYCE)

## Audio Poetry Projects

- #Project Castaway 2017 (17 Tracks Accompanied by Live Music)
  - The Project Cast Away EP 2015 (5 Tracks Accompanied by Live Music)
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## Public Poetry Projects

- The Diatribe (2013 - 2023): A nonprofit organization dedicated to utilizing creative writing as a therapeutic tool for young individuals navigating complex emotional experiences. Their mission involves empowering students to express their thoughts on sensitive topics such as abuse, neglect, parental separation, bullying, and sexual trauma through poetry. This initiative fosters safe and open dialogues within schools. Collaborated with nearly 30 schools, impacting over 15,000 students. Currently engaged with 10-15 public schools annually.
  - The Retort (2014-2020): A prominent weekly nightlife event in Grand Rapids, MI, renowned for featuring bi-monthly performances from poets across the United States. It significantly contributed to the city's poetry and cultural scene. Hosted distinguished artists, including Danez Smith, Hanif Willis-Abdurraqib, and Buddy Wakefield.
  - Poetry, Art, and Mental Health Showcase (2017 & 2018): A well-attended annual event blending artistry and community advocacy, featuring crisis prevention organizations, therapy/psychology resource centers, and holistic healing providers. Attracts over 200 attendees. Provides a platform for 10 artists to share their mental health experiences and struggles, encouraging support-seeking.
  - Youth Poetry & Art Series (2018): A collaborative project involving artists from West Michigan, fostering Ekphrastic Poetry creation. Recognizing the best 30 youth writers, the initiative awarded \$1000 in cash prizes and sponsored 9 weeks of free summer writers' workshops by The Diatribe.
  - The Grand Showcase Annual Poetry Festival (2018): Positioned as "West Michigan's largest poetry showcase for a purpose," this evolving event aspires to become a premier poetry festival in Michigan and the Midwest. In its inaugural year (2018), headlined by Andrea Gibson, it attracted nearly 700 attendees. Subsequent editions featured renowned poets such as Rudy Francisco, Ebony Stewart, and Brieáne Black Rose Kapri, maintaining strong community engagement with approximately 700 attendees each year.
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## Youth Outreach

- Burton Elementary, Grand Rapids, MI 2023
- Discovery Elementary, Kentwood, MI 2020-2023
- Muskegon High School, Muskegon, MI 2020-2023
- Valleywood Middle School, Kentwood, MI 2022-2023
- Crestwood Elementary, Kentwood, MI 2022-2023
- Blue Bridge School, Grand Rapids, MI 2022
- Muskegon Heights High School, Muskegon, MI 2023
- Southwest Community Campus, Grand Rapids, MI 2020-2023
- CA Frost High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2017-2023
- Ottawa Hills High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2018-2023
- Union High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2017-2023
- Godwin Heights Middle School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2015 & 2019-2023
- Godwin Heights High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016 & 2019-2023
- The Grand Rapids Museum School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2019-2023
- Kelloggsville High School, Wyoming, MI, 2014-2023
- Northview High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016-2023

## Youth Outreach, cont.

- North Muskegon High School 2019, Muskegon, MI 2019
- Crossroads Alternative High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016-2019
- Union High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2017-2019
- Ottawa Hills High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2018-2019
- Orchard View High School, Muskegon, MI 2018-2019
- CA Frost High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2017-2019
- Wyoming Intermediate, Wyoming, MI, 2019
- Pinewood Middle School, Kentwood, MI, 2016-2019
- Glen Lake, Glen Lake, MI, 2018-2019
- Godfrey Lee High School, Wyoming, MI, 2019
- Godwin Heights Middle School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2015 & 2019
- Godwin Heights High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016 & 2019
- Hope School, Holt, MI, 2019
- The Grand Rapids Museum School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2019
- Byron Center High School, Byron Center, MI, 2015-2019
- Crossroads Middle School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2015-2019
- City High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2018
- Wellspring Prep Academy, Grand Rapids, MI, 2018
- Forest Hills Northern High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2017-2018
- Kenowa Hills High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2018
- Forest Hills Northern Middle School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2018
- City High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2018
- Vista Charter Academy, Grand Rapids, MI, 2018
- Kelloggsville High School, Wyoming, MI, 2014-2018
- Lighthouse Academy, Grand Rapids, MI, 2017-2018
- Shawmut Hills, Grand Rapids, MI, 2017-2018
- Gerald R Ford Job Academy, Grand Rapids, MI, 2017
- 54th Street Academy, Wyoming, MI, 2013-2017
- Riverview East Alternative High School, Marine, MI, 2015-2017
- The Museum School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016-2017
- University Prep Academy, Grand Rapids, MI, 2015-2017
- Northview High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016-2017
- Kent City Middle School, Kent City, MI, 2017
- Harrison Park, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016
- Ionia High School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016
- Glen Arbor Private School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016
- BOOM Muskegon, Muskegon, MI, 2016
- Caledonia Kraft Meadows Middle School, Caledonia, MI, 2016
- East Grand Rapids Middle School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016
- Duncan Lake Middle School, Caledonia, MI, 2016
- Grand Rapids Montessori, Grand Rapids, MI, 2016
- Alger Middle School, Grand Rapids, MI, 2015