



WORLD SPEAKS



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Reflecting On 2024

In 2024, World Speaks saw another year of incredible growth and intentionality. The organization entered into 2024 as a 3 full-time staff team and ended it with 3 full-time and 1 part-time staff, 40+ contractors, and 29 languages that we used to connect the Omaha Community.

We moved to a centralized and accessible location, completed our first year of our strategic plan, partnered with the Omaha Police Department, had over 110 students, 25 native speaker volunteers for the year, and 300+ contracts completed.

We were awarded our biggest grant and will use it to launch an incredible program that will make direct impact to language access in the affordable housing space!

- Leah Whitney Chavez
Executive Director

Who Are We?

Mission: To address socio economic gaps and injustices through cultural education, inclusion initiatives, and advocacy services.

Vision: World Speaks envisions a world where every voice is respected, the marginalized are included, & the vulnerable are safe.

Our Staff

**Paulina Campos
Guzman**
Programs Manager



**Arturo Aceves
González**
Language Accessibility
Manager

**Leah Whitney
Chavez**
Executive Director
& Founder

Cruz Cabrera
Linguistic Coordinator

Volunteers: 22

Contractors: 43

Our Board

President - Melanie Bloom
Vice President - Jasmine Elmore
Treasurer - Krystal Rider
Secretary - Michelle Maurer

Director - Candy Zollicoffer
Director - Hannah Michelle Bussa
Director - Anahi Salazar
Director - Brian Torpy



Programs

Performed in 29 languages

Accessibility

Interpretation and Translation Services

Open Doors

Community

Community language courses

Tutoring

Justice Speaks

Language Access Training

Interpreters Training (coming soon)

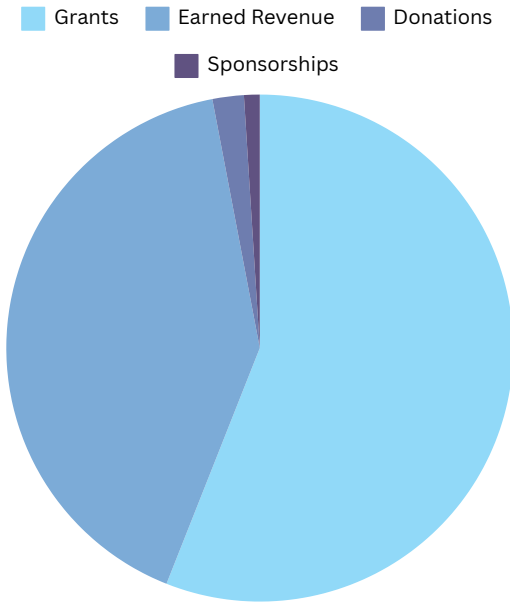
The Next Generation

Tutoring for children

Workshops and School programs (coming soon)



Budget \$441,409*



How We Made A Difference!

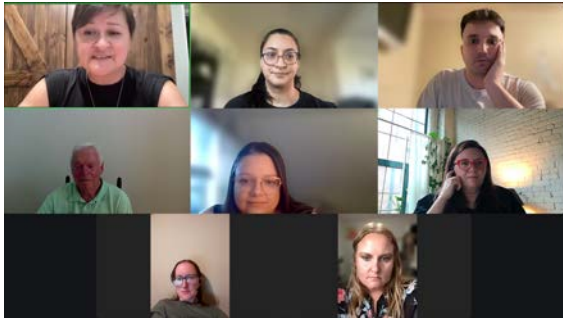
- 450+ hours of Interpreting
- 128+ translation projects
- 11 Community Courses
- 13 Community Events
- 26 Cohorts sessions attended
- 3 Conferences attended
- 3 Organizational presentations
- 3 Strategic plan meetings

**During 2024 we
served
approximately
3000+
individuals**

* Unaudited number

Highlights Of 2024 Impact

- Launched the Open Doors Program
 - Partnered with over 50 organizations, including but not limited to Nebraska Early Childhood Collaborative, UNO, Firefly, McConaughy Discovery Center, Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim, Step-Up Omaha, Nebraska Department of Education, Together, DoSpace, Westside School District, Omaha Municipal Land Bank, Wilder Research, Omaha Public Library, Omaha by Design, National Center for Families Learning, Family Inc, Emspace Lovegren, Nebraska Children Homes Society, City of Omaha, Inclusive Communities, Film Streams, Kiewit Luminarium, CIRA, and more
 - Created and led the first Language Access Week, made the first language access proclamation at the city council, hosted a cooking event in Nepali, partnered with local organizations, and reached over 10,000 individuals with our messaging of inclusion, language accessibility, and cultural awareness.
 - Word Speaks Spoke at the NATI conference and had the opportunity to present at the Leadership Omaha Inclusivity Seminar.
 - Over 35 engagements with our tutoring students 165+ hours of instruction and 110+ engagements with community course students
 - Successfully created and executed the first year our first strategic plan
 - Hired our Language Accessibility Manager full-time and our Linguistic Coordinator part-time
 - Voted in 2 additional board members
 - Successfully moved to a new physically accessible and central location.
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What Our Students & Partners Have To Say

The entire World Speaks team is incredible to work with! Everyone at Film Streams is incredibly grateful to have worked with World Speaks. We hope to continue to work with you on other events to make them accessible to as many people in our community! Thank you!"

-Film Streams

"I'm so very grateful for this opportunity and the accessibility of it. I would not be able to afford a class if it cost more. I also have a very busy schedule and the time of this class was perfect. I had not heard about World Speaks until right when this class started. I plan to sign up for as many Spanish classes as I can. I'd love to get more involved in the organization and I plan to support World Speaks in any way I can. THANK YOU!"

-Community Course Student

"Your team was incredible -- kind and friendly, welcoming, professional, talented, and just wonderful to work with. Thank you!"

-Buffett Early Childhood Institute at the University of Nebraska

"The service was excellent - timely, clear, consistent communication, lots of empathy and understanding of our unique, organizational needs, and a solid delivery of accurate results. I recommend y'all ALL THE TIME and will continue to do so into perpetuity. You are working so hard to change the accessibility landscape of Omaha and I truly thank you for your time and labor."

-Nebraska Writers Collective

"The impact of this program extends beyond mere logistics; it transforms lives."

-Open Doors Program recipient

Thank You!

Donors

- The Weitz Family Foundation
- The Sherwood Foundation
- The Lozier Foundation
- An anonymous donor
- The Mutual of Omaha Foundation
- John and Dianne Scott Fund
- The Hawks Family Foundation

Sponsorships

- Valmont Industries
- The Omaha Community Foundation
- Cox Communications

Additionally, we have to thank our volunteers, board, Programs Manager, Language Accessibility Manager, Linguistic Coordinator, Partners, Individual donors, and Funders for helping us achieve major milestones.

In 2025, we have hopes of expanding our team and growing in our space that we call our own. Thank you for all who have believed in this vision and continue to support and understand that language accessibility is equity.

- Leah Whitney Chavez
Executive Director & Founder



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