



# Language and Culture Education in Montana Matters!

With over **7,000 spoken or signed languages worldwide**, multilingualism is more than a skill—it's a bridge to connection and understanding. **60% of the global population speaks two or more languages**, but **in Montana, only 4.5% of residents are bilingual or multilingual.**

This gap highlights an urgent need for language education in our state. In today's interconnected world, multilingual skills aren't just enriching — they're essential. According to a recent study, **9 out of 10 employers rely on employees who can speak languages other than English.**

At WLI, we're addressing this gap by providing access to language learning opportunities that connect Montanans to the broader world and prepare them for a globally competitive future.

## WLI 2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT

# 826



People received language education

# 525

YOUTH



# 301

ADULTS



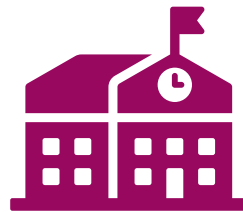
# 49%

## Increase in students

# 143



BIG SKY RESIDENTS AND EMPLOYEES participated in English & Spanish classes



# 10

## Community locations host WLI AFTERSCHOOL & IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

# 896



## HOURS OF LANGUAGE EDUCATION

SPANISH 48%  
(28 CLASSES)

ARABIC 9%  
(5 CLASSES)

# 58 CLASSES

ENGLISH 16%  
(9 CLASSES)

GERMAN 16%  
(9 CLASSES)

FRENCH 7%  
(7 CLASSES)






## Core Staff

Ann Swann, Executive Director  
 Kristina Allison, Director of Programs & Grants  
 Tanya Hauwiller, Program Manager  
 Mardy Harding, Marketing & Program Coordinator  
 Taylor Ladd, Program Coordinator – BELLA  
 Kristen Wolf, Program Manager – Training  
 Zeta Zuniga, Language Educator – Big Sky

## Board of Directors




Jessica Cartwright, President  
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### REVENUE

Class Fees		26%	\$	87,919
Grants		64%	\$	216,415
Individual Giving		10%	\$	33,815
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>338,149</b>



### EXPENSES

Programs		77%	\$	301,378
Admin		10%	\$	39,140
Fundraising		13%	\$	50,882
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>391,400</b>



**THANK YOU** to all WLI donors, students, volunteers and community partners for your support and commitment to building inclusive, multilingual communities through language education this past year. Your generosity has helped us provide impactful language programs, fostering connection and opportunity for all.

**Together, we are empowering individuals with essential language skills that open doors and build a brighter future. We couldn't do this work without you!**

## WORLD LANGUAGE INITIATIVE - MT

111 South Grand Avenue, Suite 202  
 Bozeman, MT 59715  
 406-414-6419 • [www.wlimt.org](http://www.wlimt.org) • [info@wlimt.org](mailto:info@wlimt.org)

  @worldlanguagemt

HELP US CREATE CONNECTIONS  
 THROUGH LANGUAGE!

