Alliance Française
Seattle

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE SEATTLE

Looking Back on 2025

A year of historic, unprecedented growth for our Alliance Française

OTILIA BARABOI

Executive Director of the Alliance Française de Seattle

RAJ MATHEW

President of the Board of Directors of the Alliance Française de Seattle

Dear Members and Friends of Alliance Française de Seattle,

2025 was a year of historic, unprecedented growth, cementing our position as the 3rd largest Alliance Française in the United States by enrollment and 4th by revenue. We welcomed 1,377 active members and served over 1,000 students, with our gross income growing 44.5% to reach $1,767,133 a testament to the extraordinary community you have helped us build.

Our fundraising reached new heights with the sold-out Soirée Belle Époque Gala at the Rainier Club, which significantly expanded our scholarship fund. Grant funding surged to $54,291 (a 722% increase from the prior year) through multiple awards from 4Culture and other sources. We also received Employee Retention Credit funds, a federal recognition of our commitment to our team during the pandemic, further strengthening our financial foundation.

This growth, along with careful management of expenses, is allowing us to offer employee benefits for the first time. The 2025 results also put us in a good position to acquire new space at the Good Shepherd Center in 2026 to accommodate a new library, additional classrooms, and a dedicated area for community gatherings.

We believe this growth reflects something deeper. In a time when new technologies reshape how we connect and our deepest values are being tested, more people are turning toward what makes us essentially human: the joy of learning a language, the discovery of other cultures, the shared passion for travel, literature, and conversation. Alliance Française de Seattle is that place.

As we develop our five-year strategic plan, we look ahead with excitement to our 40th anniversary in 2027, a milestone and an opportunity to cast an even bolder vision for the decades ahead.

None of this would be possible without the people who breathe life into our mission every day: our board, staff, teachers, students, and members. Thank you for your trust, your passion and appreciation of our mission and the proverbial French joie de vivre at the core of our community.

Looking forward with enthusiasm and confidence,

Otilia Baraboi, Executive Director
Raj Mathew, President

Alliance Française de Seattle

Mission

Alliance Française Seattle provides outstanding French language education, promotes Francophone cultures, and fosters a vibrant Francophile community, serving people of all ages in Washington state.

Vision

To create a welcoming hub where all learners thrive, cultures connect, and a lifelong love of Francophone cultures flourishes.

Board of Directors

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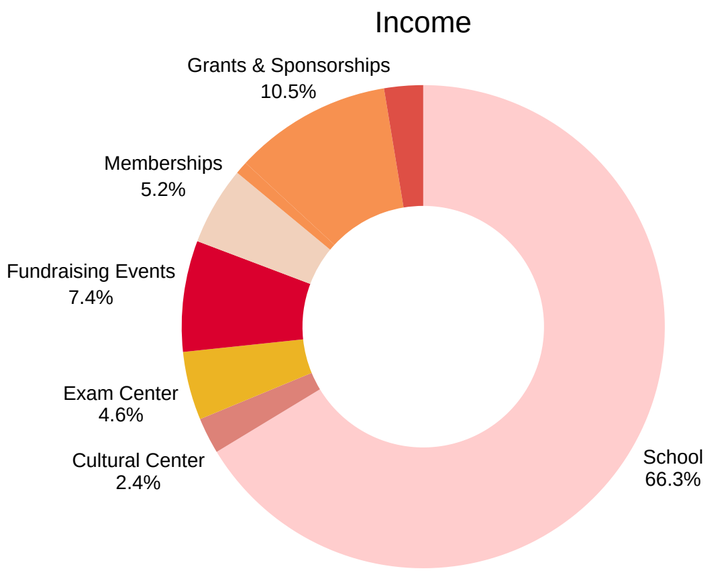
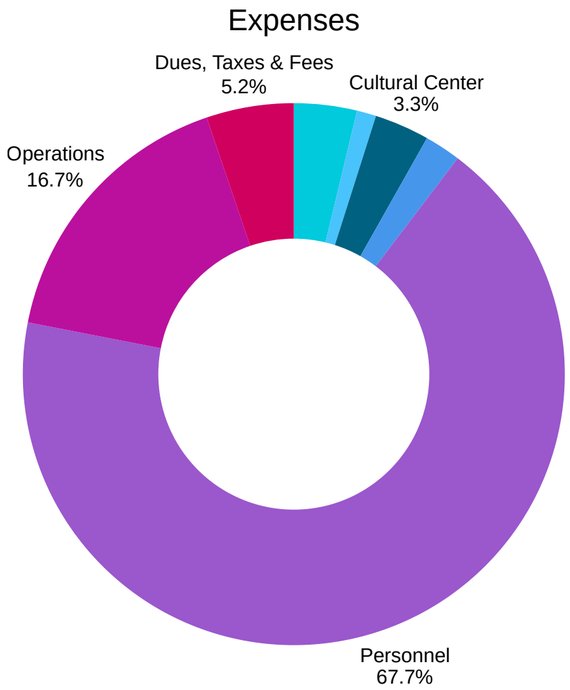
Financials



INCOME	
School	$1,172,098
Exam Center	$80,961
Cultural Center	$42,774
Fundraising Events	$131,278
Memberships	$92,656
Individual Donations	$15,054
Grants & Sponsorships	$186,361
Other Income	$45,951
TOTAL INCOME	**$1,767,133**

EXPENSES	
School	$49,784
Exam Center	$15,294
Cultural Center	$43,419
Fundraising Events	$28,665
Personnel	$898,752
Operations	$221,963
Dues, Taxes & Fees	$69,166
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$1,327,043**
NET REVENUE	**$440,090**



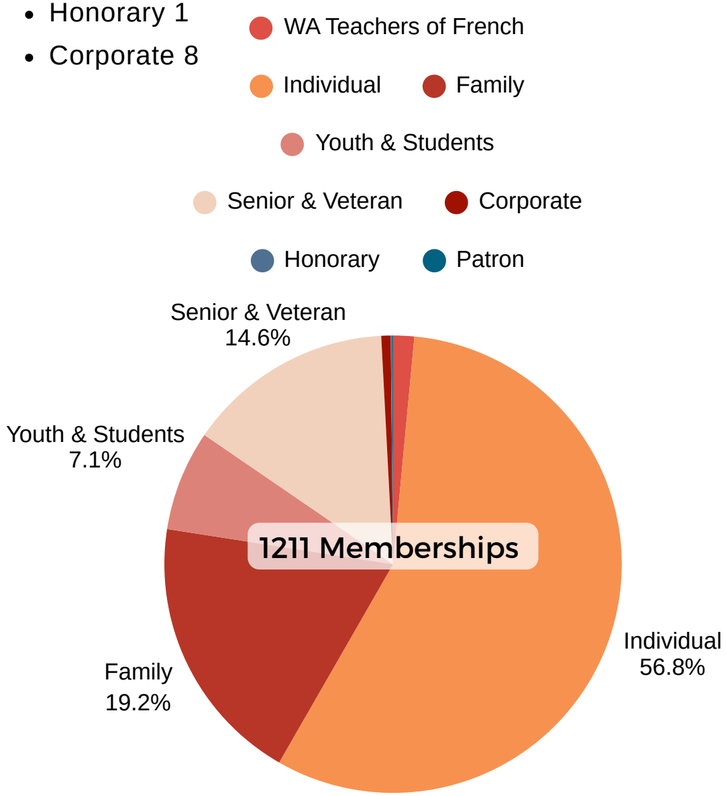
TOTAL ASSETS	**$1,759,218**
% growth since 2024	43.50%
TOTAL LIABILITITES	$319,791

Memberships & Statistics

Memberships

Total Memberships in 2025: 1211
(for a total of 1,377 members)

- Youth 86
- Family 232
- French teachers 18
- Senior 177
- Individual 688
- Patron 1
- Honorary 1
- Corporate 8



Statistics

	2025	Growth since 2024
Unique students	1,293	18%
Enrollments	3,023	21%
Sold hours of French classes	45,088	22%
Exams & certifications	447	41%
Volunteers	73	14%
Memberships	1,211	22%
Event attendees	3,893	22%

Digital Reach

	Page Views	Followers	Link Clicks	Visits
Facebook	348,345	4200 (+7%)	5590 (+172%)	8736 (+1%)
Instagram	167,961	2834 (+39%)	1,164 (+247%)	4275 (+90%)
Meetup		273 (+274%)		
Linkedin	651	1,976 (+19%)	1,377	316
TikTok	Top 2025 post: 120.3K	4,000	32K Likes	
Newsletter		9,627 (+12%)		
Website Traffic	967,847		4.87 pages per session	198,897

Events & Partnerships

Signature Events

Spring Performance: Portrait of Ludmilla as Nina Simone
March 8 - 200 attendees
Sold out theatrical performance highlighting the life and music of Nina Simone, including her pivotal role in the civil rights movement.

The Night of Ideas
April 11 - 200 attendees
This worldwide cultural diplomacy event was launched by the French Embassy in 2016. Seattle's third edition's theme was "Common Ground: Building Global Community."

Le Thé des Etudiants
May 28 - 50 attendees
A diploma ceremony recognizing high school students of Puget Sound (and their teachers) for their French studies.

Fête de la Musique
June 21 - 150 attendees
The French "World Music Day" has become a global event; we hosted a concert at Ballard Homestead with the Djeliyah Band and the Jean Chaumont Group.

Fundraising Gala
October 18 - 110 attendees, 300 bidders
Our annual fundraising event brought together our students, our teachers and our donors for a fun evening of celebration and giving.

Joyeux Bazaar
December 6 - 1500+ attendees
Our annual holiday market moved to a new location, featuring 35 vendors in 2025, live musical performances, and local choirs.

Community Programs

Happy Hours in French
1000+ attendees in 2025
Twice a month (online and in person), we host a casual discussion in French.

Storytime in French
150+ attendees in 2025
A weekly reading session for kids and parents, in person.

Ciné-Salons
100+ attendees in 2025
A curated selection of French-language films lead our monthly virtual discussions.

Dictées de l'Alliance
100+ attendees in 2025
Our students' favorite French exercise is offered twice a month, online and in person.

Back-to-School Community Picnic
First edition! 80+ attendees
A gathering to celebrate la rentrée with community members of all ages.

Cultural Events

CULINARY EVENTS
- La Galette des Rois - Jan 11
- The Art of Pavlova - Oct 4

AUTHOR EVENTS
- Conversation with author Malick Ndiaye - Feb 15
- Conversation with Djaili Amadou Amal - Mar 1

CINEMA
- Soirée Québec: Ru - Mar 12
- Film Festival: Young French Cinema - Mar 21-23

Cultural Partnerships

The Gates Foundation
- International Women's Day with UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Djaili Amadou Amal - March

Seattle Art Museum
- Farm to Table: Art, Food, and Identity in the Age of Impressionism - Oct to Jan

Seattle Symphony
- Ravel Mother Goose at Seattle Symphony - January

Seattle Repertory Theater
- Duel Reality at Seattle Rep - May to Jun

Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF)
- Young French Cinema - Mar 21-23
- Co-presented French-language films at Seattle International Film Festival

Cirque du Soleil
- Cirque du Soleil in Seattle - February

Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques & Quebec Government Office in Seattle
- Author Visit: Juliana Léveillé-Trudel - Mar

Additional Author Events
- Maya Smith at Third Place Books - Mar 6
- Sjj Author Visit - Mar 20

France Education Northwest
- French Fest - Mar 23

Northwest Film Forum
- "The Queens of Drama" at Northwest Film Forum - May 1-11

PIAFF - Promotion Internationale d'Artistes Français et Francophones
- Caroline Loeb - Mar 11
- Anne Roumanoff - May 3
- Antonia Rendinger - May 12
- Caroline Vigneaux - May 29

Cherry Orchard Festival
- Julien Dassin Sings Joe Dassin - May 20

French Premiere
- Monthly French film screenings at Cinemark Lincoln Square

Paris-Chansons
- Paris-Chansons at Triple Door - Sep 12

Café Campagne
- Bastille Day - Jul 14

Fête de la Musique

Portrait de Ludmilla en Nina Simone

Night of Ideas

Fundraising Gala

Thé des Etudiants

French Fest

Events & Partnerships

A Selection of Our New Events in 2025

Quebec Author Highlight

March 4
In collaboration with the new Québec Government Office in Seattle and the Centre de la Francophonie des Amériques, we hosted Québec author, Julianna Léveillé-Trudel.

International Women's Day

March 1 & 5
Alongside the Gates Foundation, Seattle University, and Elliott Bay Book Company, we welcomed UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Djaili Amadou Amal in Seattle for a series of events.

Happy Hours at Princess & Bear Wines

Quarterly event
Starting in March, we launched a new series of in-person happy hours at Princess and Bear. An opportunity of francophone and francophile members of our community to practice French while enjoying French wines.

An Evening of Harp & Wine

March 25
Thanks to the generosity of our Board Member and principal harpist of the Seattle Symphony, Valérie Muzzolini, alongside our partners Princess and Bear, we hosted a private event pairing pieces played on harp with a selection of wines.

Teacher Appreciation Day

May 8
Our Teacher Appreciation Day celebration was a heartfelt tribute filled with gratitude for the incredible dedication and impact of our teachers

Donor Appreciation Event

June 15
A memorable celebration of generosity and impact, bringing together supporters of AFSeattle for a meaningful night of connections and gratitude for the difference our donors make in our community.

Rencontre des Leaders Francophones

September 24
Meeting of leaders from francophone nonprofits and other organizations across the Seattle region to discuss common challenges, share insights, and foster collaboration.

Salon des Arts

September 27
An informal, drop-in gathering designed to celebrate French and Francophone culture in all its forms. Guests were encouraged to share something they love, such as a favorite French song, excerpt of literature, dish they prepared, or a work of art. Hosted by members of AFSeattle.

Belle Époque Baking Class

October 4
An immersive pastry class where participants learned to craft the perfect Pavlova while discovering the origins of the dessert, key vocabulary in French, and baking foundations. Hosted with Pâtisserie Mon Amour, a new organization founded in 2025.

Xuman at West Seattle High School

October 10
A visit of Senegalese rapper Xuman to West Seattle High School, where he engaged over 150 students in meaningful dialogue about music, civic responsibility, and cultural identity.

French Book Fair

November 15
A book sale showcasing a large and diverse selection of brand new imported French books organized in collaboration with Clotilde French Bookstore and Education Française Greater Seattle (EFGS).

Paint & Sip

November 19
An art class led in French by local painter Jamie Rawding who guided participants through the luminous and expressive world of watercolor. Included an exclusive tour of the artist's personal studio, for a behind-the-scenes look into her creative process.

2025 Events Highlights

French Art & Food Series with Seattle Art Museum

The French Art & Food Series, inspired by the Seattle Art Museum's exhibit *Farm to Table: Art, Food, and Identity in the Age of Impressionism*, brought together art lovers, language learners, and the broader community for a rich, multidisciplinary cultural experience. Running from October 2025 to January 2026, the series highlighted the deep connections between French artistic traditions and culinary heritage through classes, tours, film screenings, and hands-on creative workshops.

AFSeattle partnered closely with the Seattle Art Museum to offer French-language exhibit tours, bilingual film discussions, and special events such as SAM Talks featuring local culinary leaders, as well as a collaborative visit and dinner with Alliance Française de Portland. Complementary events invited attendees to learn, create, and taste in community, while classes and workshops deepened the educational dimension of the series by blending language learning with cultural immersion.

This collaboration strengthened AFSeattle's role as a vibrant cultural hub in the region. By connecting members with art, food, and one another, this program fostered meaningful engagement and expanded the organization's reach within Seattle's cultural landscape.

Young French Cinema - Mini Film Festival

The Young French Cinema program, facilitated by Villa Albertine in San Francisco, returned in March 2025 with a three-day showcase at the SIFF Film Center, presented by Alliance Française de Seattle in partnership with Unifrance.

Designed to spotlight emerging voices in contemporary French filmmaking, the series offered Seattle audiences exclusive access to six acclaimed films that have not yet secured U.S. distribution. This year's selection was notable for featuring an all-women lineup of directors, underscoring the organization's commitment to elevating diverse and underrepresented perspectives in global cinema.

The Consul General of France in San Francisco, Florian Cardinaux (left), was in attendance for the closing night screening.

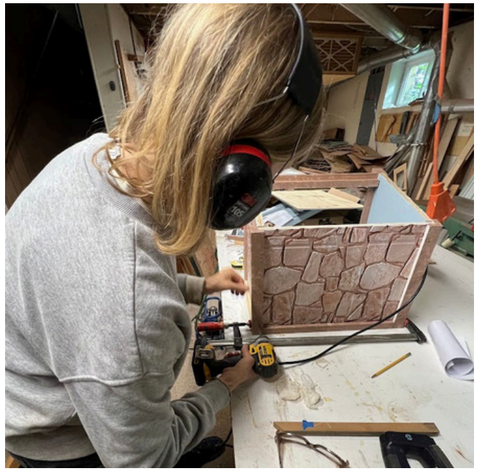
2025 Project Highlights

Little Free French Library

The Alliance Française de Seattle launched the very first French-language “Little Free Library” in the US, a project led by student and volunteer Sophie Biernacki and completed in June 2025. Neighbors and visitors of all ages can pick up a book, leave a book, and foster a love of reading; and for the first time, in French!

Sophie Biernacki received the 2023 Youth Innovation Grant from the Alliance Française de Seattle to develop this project, which she led from conception to installation.

Visit it across from the Good Shepherd Center entrance!
https://littlefreelibrary.org/map/



New Logo & Illustrations by Lars Larrowby

We collaborated with local artist Lars Larrowby to craft new logos and custom illustrations that refresh our visual identity and celebrate our deep connection to Seattle and the Good Shepherd Center.

This partnership allowed us to reimagine how we present ourselves to the community: honoring our history while embracing a more contemporary, welcoming aesthetic. The artist drew inspiration from the building’s architecture, the surrounding gardens, and Seattle’s classic landscape.

The resulting artwork captures the spirit of AFSeattle: rooted in place, open to creativity, and committed to fostering cultural exchange. These new visual elements now appear across our communications, programs, and public spaces, helping us tell our story as we continue to grow our local presence.

View our new promotional items featuring the logo and illustrations:
https://www.afseattle.org/about/store/

Private Donors & Corporate Sponsors

Champions
$5000 and above

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Sally Wolf

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$1000 to $4,999

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Jeff Cole
Gary & Gay Duvall
Micaiah Evans & Kate Gentry
Clathel Goodwin
Daisley Gordon
Galia Leonard
Robin & Raj Mathew
Lee-Lee Miao
Jamie Rawding
Anastasiia Rusina
Laura & Yvan Tabellion
Monica Welle-Brown
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Patrons
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Marc Tedder
Frank Woodruff
Matthew Wyatt

Friends
Up to $249

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Shannon Boldizsar
Hailey Burgess
Carrie Chida
Sandra Day
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Gerald Edgar
Olivier Fontana
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City Opera Ballet
French-American Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest

Thank you for being a part of our community!

Alliance Française

Seattle

Report Date

February 23, 2026

Prepared by

Otilia Baraboi & Diane Le Lay