Black Girls Glow

Annual Report 2025



Table of Contents

Letter from Leadership 02

Meet Our Board 04

Highlights of 2025 07

- You Are Cared For 08
- Koshka Sound Residency 12
- Accra-Berlin Tandem Residency 19
- Girl Atom 21

Our Impact 22

What Funding Can Do 25

Our Supporters 26

Finances 27



Letter from leadership

Eight years. Eight years of shaping the creative landscape, amplifying voices, and proving that art can be a force for social transformation. Black Girls Glow has grown from a bold idea into a dynamic ecosystem that nurtures artists, connects communities, and inspires change across Ghana and beyond.

2025 was a year of scale and boundary-breaking achievement. For the first time, the Koshka Sound Residency ran in two cities simultaneously — Accra and Kumasi — producing two studio albums that capture city-specific sounds and perspectives. This expansion is a testament to the residency's role in uncovering local talent and defining new narratives in African music.

Our Accra-Berlin Tandem Residency continued to redefine international collaboration, pairing Ghanaian and German artists for six-week residencies that produced career-defining work and lasting creative partnerships.

Meanwhile, You Are Cared For (YACF) achieved a major breakthrough with GES approval, reaching 1,849 students across 18 schools in three districts within just three months. Using arts-based methods, we made sexual health education engaging, culturally relevant, and transformative.

Strategic choices shaped this year as much as growth did. Girl Atom was paused to focus resources where they could create the most immediate and lasting impact, demonstrating

that sustainability and vision-driven decision-making are core to our leadership.

These milestones were made possible by an expanded, committed team — creative, administrative, and communications — whose dedication ensures that every initiative reflects excellence, innovation, and care.

As we close our eighth year, we recognize Black Girls Glow not just as an organization, but as a cultural force and ecosystem leader — shaping the future of arts, education, and social impact in Ghana. Our ambition is clear: to expand access, deepen impact, and create spaces where women and girls can thrive as artists, leaders, and changemakers.

To our partners, funders, and community: your belief in the power of art enables us to push boundaries, sustain vision, and amplify voices that matter. Together, we are proving what is possible when creativity and purpose converge.

Here's to eight years of transformation, momentum, and cultural leadership — and to the years ahead.

Ama Asantewa Diaka
Founder/Director



Meet Our Board

Our board plays a crucial role in guiding Black Girls Glow's vision, ensuring sustainability, and providing strategic oversight. Comprising leaders from various sectors, they bring diverse expertise to support our mission of fostering artistic growth, community-building, and systemic change. Their commitment helps us expand our reach, secure vital resources, and continuously evolve as an organization



Kinna Likimani

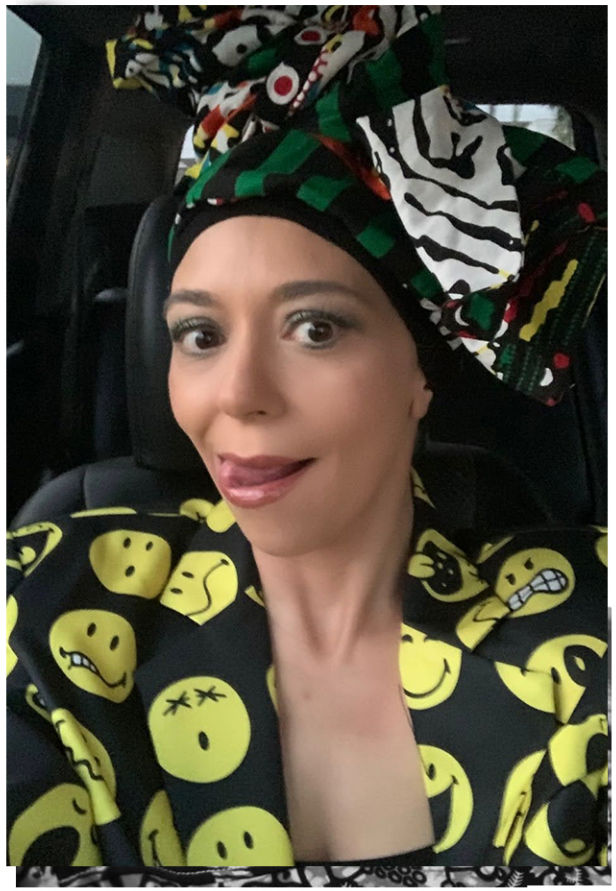
Kinna Likimani is a literary critic, writer and editor. She is a keen advocate for the literary arts and for writers, especially women writers. She is the publisher at Nsona Books which publishes fiction and textbooks. Over the two decades, Kinna has conducted workshops and programs to aid the development of writers.

Kinna is the Executive Manager at Afrikki, a pan-Africanist organization that provides support to activists and movements acrossthe African continent and in the Diaspora. She has led many projects focusing on Ghana's democratic space. Most recently, she was the Director of Programs at Odekro, a Parliamentary monitoring organization based in Ghana.

A feminist, she is a member of Ghana's Women's Manifesto Coalition. Kinna is a board member of Drama Queens, a feminist and youth-led drama initiative.

She's a graduate of Smith College and for 12 years, worked at Department of Medical Informatics at Columbia University as an administrator focusing on issues of technology transfer of publicly funded research to the private sector

An avid reader, Kinna used to blog about African literature at Kinna Reads. She's hoping to bring that back one day! Kinna is based in Accra but also calls Nairobi home.



Rania Odaymat

Rania Odaymat (b.1974) is a Ghanaian of Lebanese descent, multidisciplinary artist, creative coach, art curator, and fashion stylist. She received her early mentorship and training in the arts by Ms Angela Christian, Chief Of Protocol during president Nkrumah's tenure, and one of the first practicing curators and creative facilitators on the continent post independence. Christian's teachings, and particularly the idea that there can be no long term practice of freedom and independence without a solid investment in the arts, continue to be the backbone and inspiration of Odaymat's creative journey.

Following a stay in Beirut, Lebanon, where she completed a Masters degree in Languages And Translation from St Joseph's University, Odaymat came back home to Accra where she studied Painting And Sculpture under artist Seth Clottey.

Rania Odaymat is a founding member and curator of the Beyond Collective, an art collective which has been instrumental in raising the standards of exhibition in Accra, empowering creative collaborations, and spreading creative awareness to public school children. Odaymat is also a trustee of the Fair Justice Initiative. Her collaboration on the Remember Me project with fellow Beyond Collective member, Francis Kokoroko, planted a seed for prisons advocacy.



Highlights of 2025

You Are Cared For

In September 2025, You Are Cared For (YACF) reached a landmark moment when the **Ghana Education Service (GES)** granted approval for the program to operate in basic schools in **ten districts across the Greater Accra Region**. For Black Girls Glow, this milestone represents a major step toward addressing one of the most persistent gaps in youth education: access to accurate, age-appropriate sexual health knowledge

What began as a modest initiative three years ago is now entering classrooms at scale.

Within the first three months of implementation following GES approval, YACF reached **1,849 students — 1,122 girls and 727 boys** — across **18 basic schools** in **Korle Klottey Municipal, La Nkwantanang, and Adenta Municipal**. Participants ranged from **6 to 12 years old**, an age when foundational understanding of the body, personal boundaries, and healthy relationships can have a lasting impact.





Central to the program is its **art-based** sexual health education model, which integrates **visual storytelling, music, and interactive activities** to help young learners understand complex topics in accessible and engaging ways. By approaching sexual health through creative expression, YACF creates learning environments where students feel comfortable asking questions, participating openly, and developing confidence in their understanding of their bodies and wellbeing.

Early implementation has already demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach. Educators and students alike have responded strongly to the creative format, which helps translate sensitive subjects into language and imagery that children can meaningfully engage with.

The expansion would not have been possible without the collaboration of **SHEP Coordinators, head teachers, and education partners** who continue to support the program's integration within the school system.



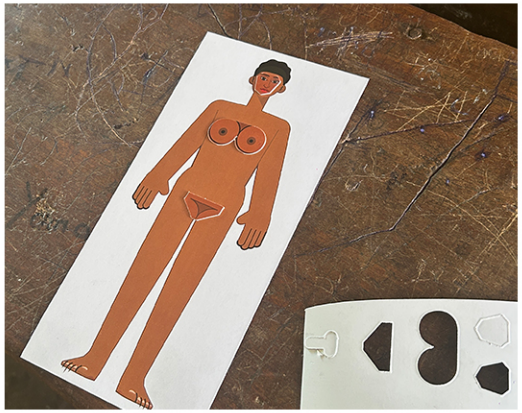
With approval now secured and early results demonstrating strong engagement, You Are Cared For is entering a new phase of growth. As the program expands across additional districts, it offers a compelling example of how creative approaches can strengthen public health education for young people. By combining art, dialogue, and culturally relevant teaching methods, the initiative is helping shape a model for delivering sexual health education that is both accessible and transformative.






Red Light, stay out of my boundary





Koshka Sound Residency

Since 2017, the Koshka Sound Residency has quietly built one of the most consistent platforms for women musicians on the continent. What began as a bold intervention has evolved into a sustained creative infrastructure — a space where artists gather each year to experiment, collaborate, and produce new work outside the constraints of the traditional music industry.

In 2025, the residency entered a new phase. For the first time Koshka expanded beyond Accra, establishing a second residency in Kumasi and running two editions of the program within the same year.

The result was not simply geographic growth, but a powerful demonstration of the residency's core philosophy: that creative ecosystems are shaped by place, and that when artists are given space within their own cultural contexts, entirely new sonic possibilities emerge.

Across both cities, the 2025 residencies produced two new studio albums, further expanding the growing Koshka archive of women-led collaborative music.





Koshka Kumasi

2025 marked the first-ever Koshka residency in Kumasi — a significant step toward decentralising creative opportunity and recognising the depth of musical talent across Ghana. Hosted at Innkeeper in Danyame from 30th March to 6th April, the inaugural cohort brought together four fellows — **JZMIN, Akoto, Jacquibell and Franky Molly** — under the theme Homegrown.

The theme invited artists to engage deeply with Kumasi's rhythms, histories, and creative spirit. Rather than approaching culture as something to preserve at a distance,the fellows explored how sound can emerge directly from the life of a place — its language, textures, and artistic traditions.

The residency culminated in an intimate acoustic concert on 5th April, followed by the creation of the seven-track album **Homegrown.**

The resulting work carries a sound that is unmistakably shaped by Kumasi — a reminder that when artistic programs take root within specific localities, they can reveal voices and sonic identities that broader national or international platforms often overlook.







Reflecting on the expansion, Programs Director **Poetra Asantewa** noted: “Each city carries its own rhythm and creative networks. What made Kumasi possible was the strength of the community already present — artists and collaborators deeply rooted in the scene. The residency grew through relationships, trust, and shared belief in what this space could become.”


ST. BRIDGET
SCHOOL






VOYAGER



Koshka Accra

While 2025 marked an expansion, Accra remains the birthplace and enduring foundation of the Koshka Sound Residency.

Now in its eighth year, the Accra edition continues to stand as the program's flagship — a testament to the power of sustained creative investment in women artists. Over nearly a decade, the residency has brought together musicians from across Ghana and the world, producing albums, collaborations, and artistic networks that continue to shape contemporary African sound.

The 2025 Accra cohort brought together **Legasie, Sea, Safo NP, S3nti, Auds, Makayy, and Laura Robles**, whose practices span genres, geographies, and musical traditions.

Hosted at Bojo Beach Resort from 12th–20th July, the residency unfolded under the theme Local — an exploration of how artists interpret place, identity, and belonging through sound. Fellows were challenged to consider locality not as a limitation, but as a powerful creative force capable of generating music that resonates far beyond its origins.

The residency concluded with a public concert at Alliance Française Accra on 25th July, where audiences experienced the collaborative works created during the intensive week. From this gathering emerged the album **Home Is Where the Heart Is** — a body of work that explores the fluid nature of home, tracing the connections between geography, memory, and musical expression.





In doing so, the Koshka Sound Residency is steadily establishing itself as one of the continent's most vital platforms for collaborative music-making—one that is redefining where African sound is created, who gets to create it, and how those voices enter the global conversation.

Eight years of continuous creation in Accra and a first expansion into Kumasi mark more than the growth of a program; they signal the emergence of a new cultural infrastructure. With each residency and each album added to its archive, Koshka is demonstrating that when women artists are given space, time, and community, they generate work that reshapes the sonic landscape.









Accra-Berlin Tandem Residency

In its fourth year, the ACCRA-BERLIN Tandem Residency has become more than an exchange program — it is a strategic bridge linking creative ecosystems across continents. Through this residency, Black Girls Glow continues to position Ghana at the forefront of international artistic dialogue, demonstrating how immersive collaboration can shape careers, communities, and the future of African sound.

Run in partnership with Music Board Berlin and the Pop-Kultur Festival, the program pairs one artist from Berlin with one from Accra for an intensive six-week residency, fostering deep cross-cultural exchange, innovation, and co-creation. Each residency is designed not as a short-term project, but as a catalyst for enduring artistic networks that ripple far beyond the six weeks.

The 2025 cohort featured two exceptional artists: **Laura Robles**,the Berlin resident, who spent six transformative weeks in Accra, and **Lor**, who immersed herself in Berlin's dynamic music scene.



Laura Robles
Berlin, Germany



Lor
Accra, Ghana







Laura Robles explored traditional Ghanaian percussion, tracing resonances between Ghana and Peru, and translating these influences into her own practice.

Lor experimented across live performance, guitar, vocals, rap, beatboxing, and looping, pushing the boundaries of genre and live experimentation in Berlin's ecosystem.

Through these immersive experiences, the residency demonstrates the power of transcultural co-creation: artists gain not only new techniques and inspiration, but also networks that accelerate careers and catalyze long-term collaboration.

By embedding Accra and Ghana into global artistic circuits, the ACCRA-BERLIN Tandem Residency is helping reshape perceptions of African music on the world stage. It exemplifies how Black Girls Glow is building an interconnected creative infrastructure — one that nurtures local talent, fosters international partnerships, and ensures that African women artists occupy a central place in global cultural conversations.



Girl Atom

In 2025, Girl Atom did not run due to strategic prioritisation of resources toward expanding You Are Cared For and other flagship initiatives. While this program took a temporary pause, the vision behind Girl Atom remains central to Black Girls Glow's mission: creating intentional spaces where art is actively engaged as a tool for self-discovery, personal growth, and community building.

We look forward to returning in 2026 with renewed energy, expanded programming, and the same commitment to amplifying voices, fostering creativity, and nurturing collective growth through immersive artistic experiences.

Our Impact



2025 Impact

1,849
students reached through creative sexual health education

13
artists supported across programs

02
residencies delivered

08
workshops delivered

02
new albums created and published

02
concerts produced, showcasing work developed through our residencies



Since 2017

Black Girls Glow has built a platform for creative innovation and cultural leadership in Ghana:

54
women artists have participated in the Sound Residency

15
Ghanaian authors published through our anthology

2,262
students reached through sexual health education workshops

67
artists engaged through Art Conversations and Lecture Series

05
artists supported through project grants

Reaching over
3,000
individuals and contributing to the growth of Ghana's creative ecosystem.



What Funding Can do

A dedicated budget of

GHS 331,500

will enable complete fundraising for **You Are Cared For (YACF)** to tour all 70 schools across Accra, covering logistics, equipment, and facilitator fees, reaching thousands of children. And begin producing an art-based sexual health education curriculum in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service for the next year

A dedicated budget of

GHS 12,300

will support **Girl Atom events**, creating a community space for **500 women** to engage in self-discovery, creativity, and professional growth.

A dedicated budget of

GHS 171,600

will enable us to hire a **full-time Programs Coordinator**, ensuring the smooth delivery and strategic oversight of all initiatives.

A dedicated budget of

GHS 226,400

will support **planning the 10-year anniversary of Black Girls Glow**, marking a landmark celebration that showcases a decade of cultural impact, amplifies artists, and engages communities and stakeholders.

A dedicated budget of

GHS 215,000

will allow the **Koshka Sound Residency** to run in **both Accra and Kumasi**, producing two studio albums and nurturing women artists across two vibrant creative hubs.



Our Supporters

RANA MOTORS

BBC Industrials Co. (Gh.) Ltd

THE SUPPORTING ACT FOUNDATION

Patreons

Our Partners

MUSIC BOARD BERLIN

AllianceFrançaise Accra

BOJO BEACH RESORT

Innkeepers
Kumasi



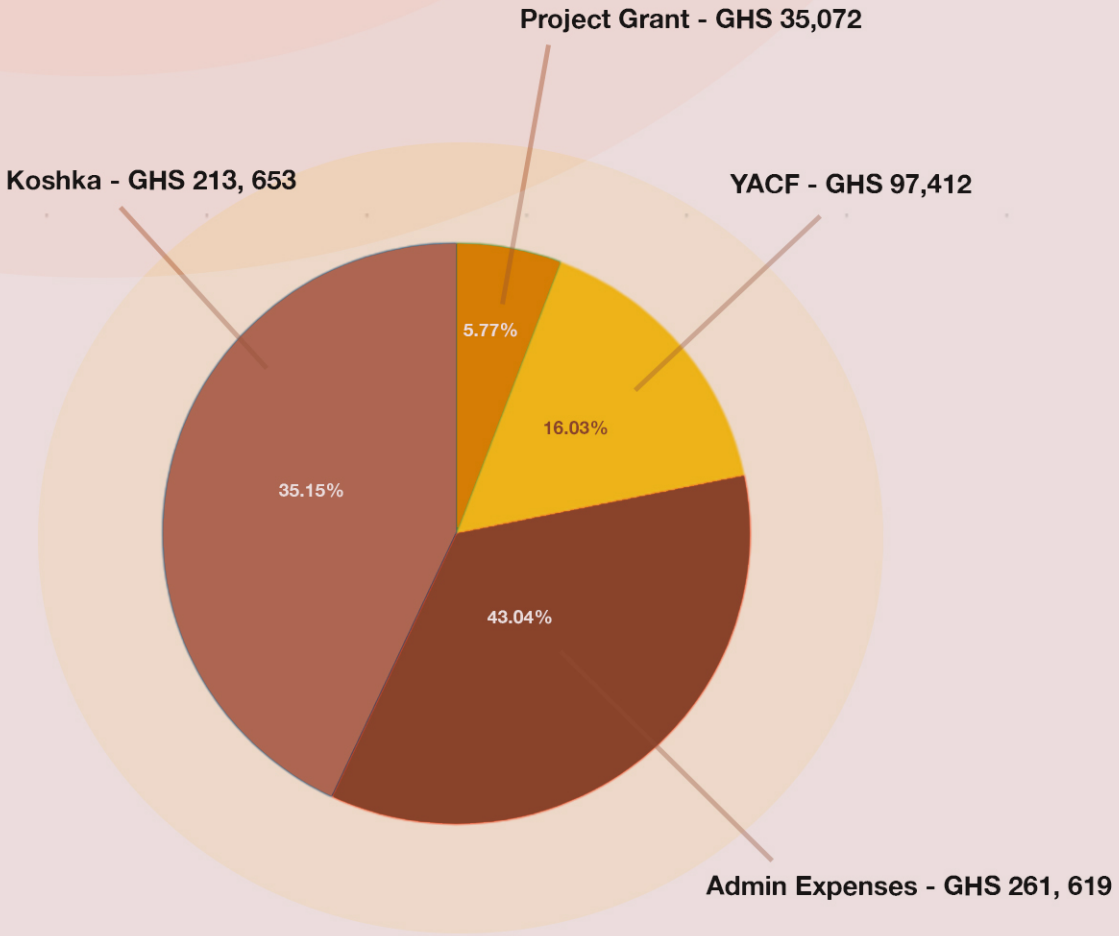


Finances

The figures presented are for the Ghanaian financial year ending **31 December 2025**. Full audited accounts are available upon request.

Income

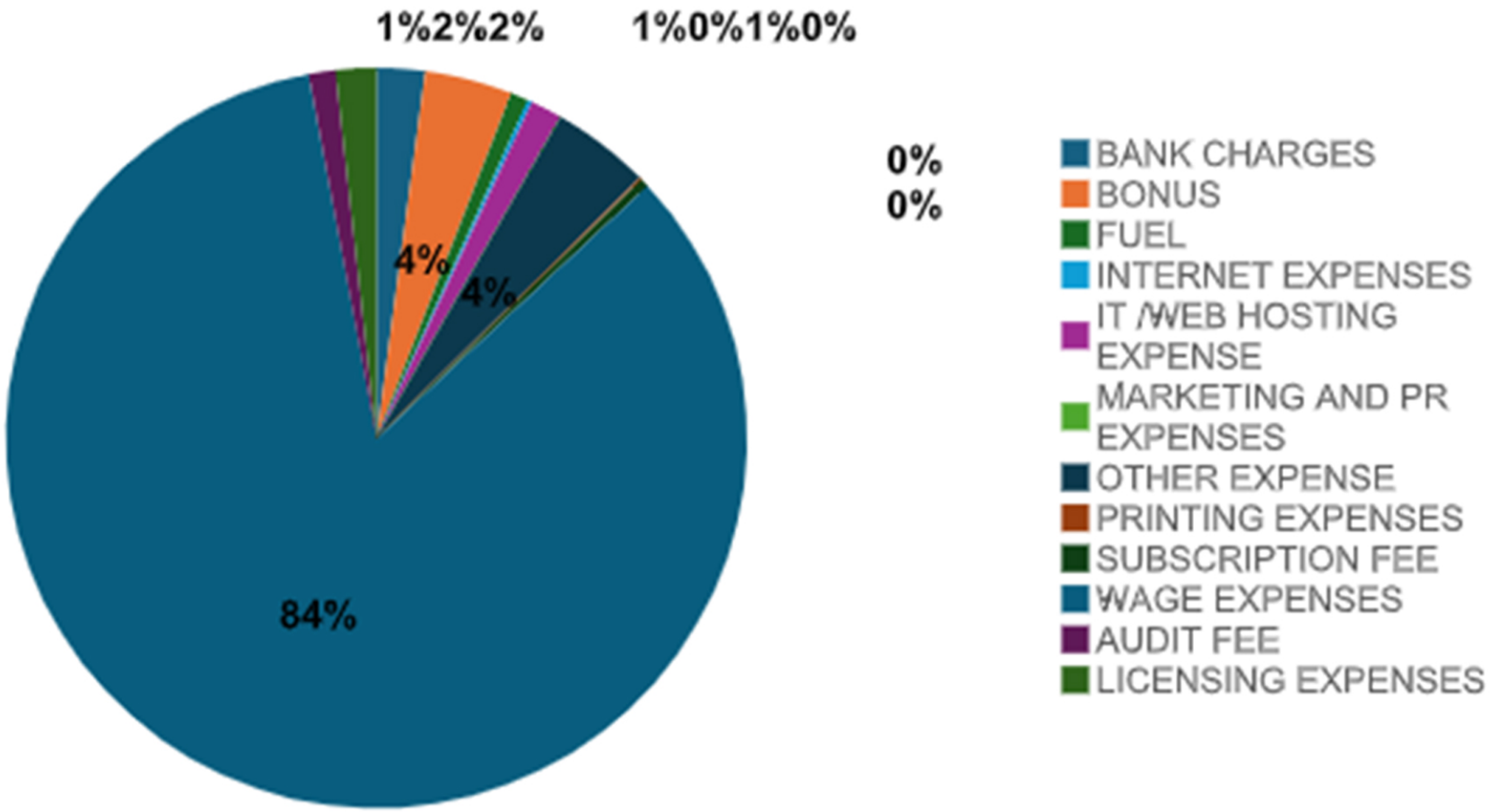
Contribution Revenue	GHS 120,000
Donation Revenue	GHS 132,638
Fundraising Revenue	GHS 1,437
Grant Revenue	GHS 375,411
Total Revenue	**GHS 629,486**



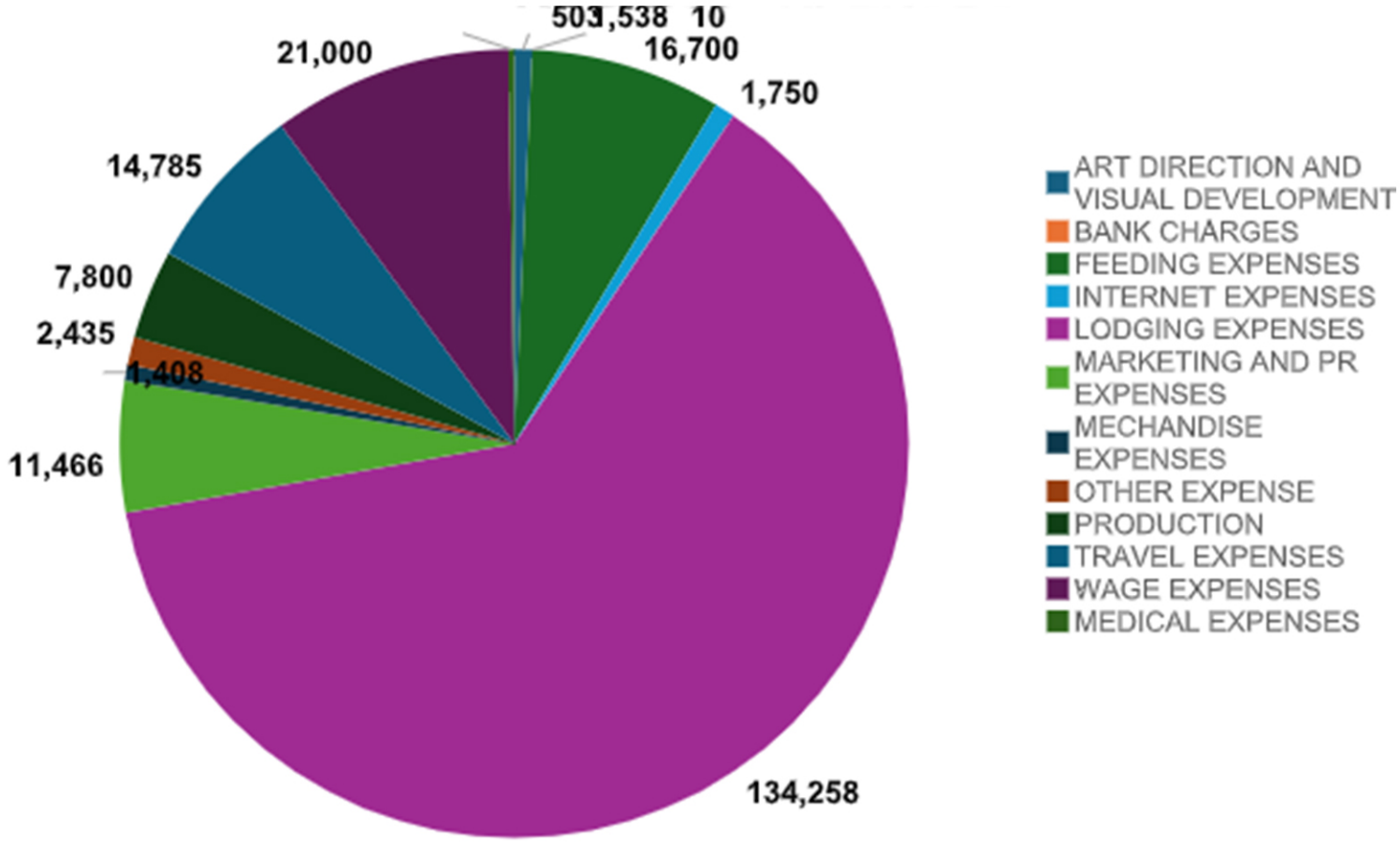
Expenditure

Total Expenses	**GHS 607,756**

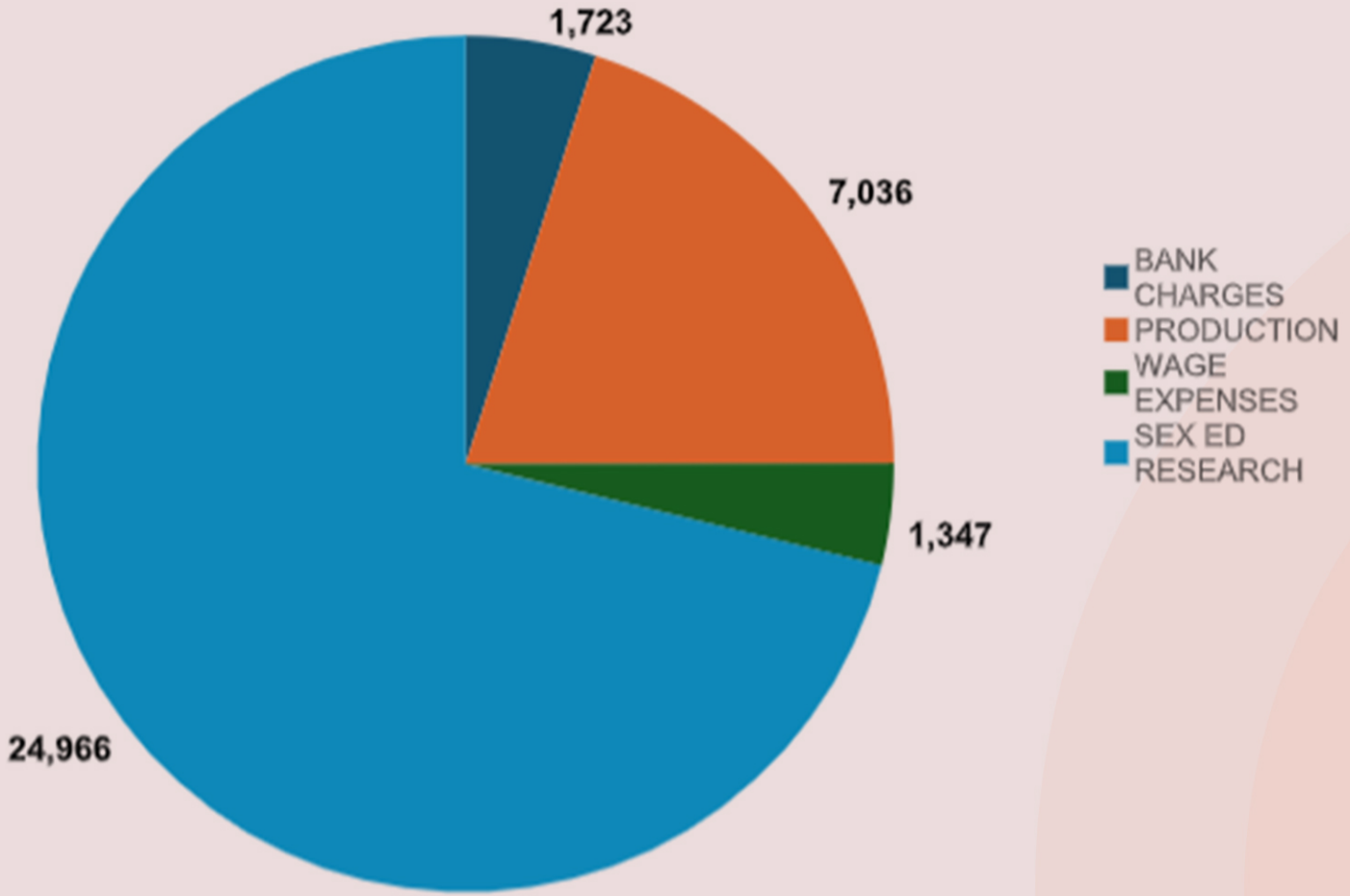
Admin Expenses



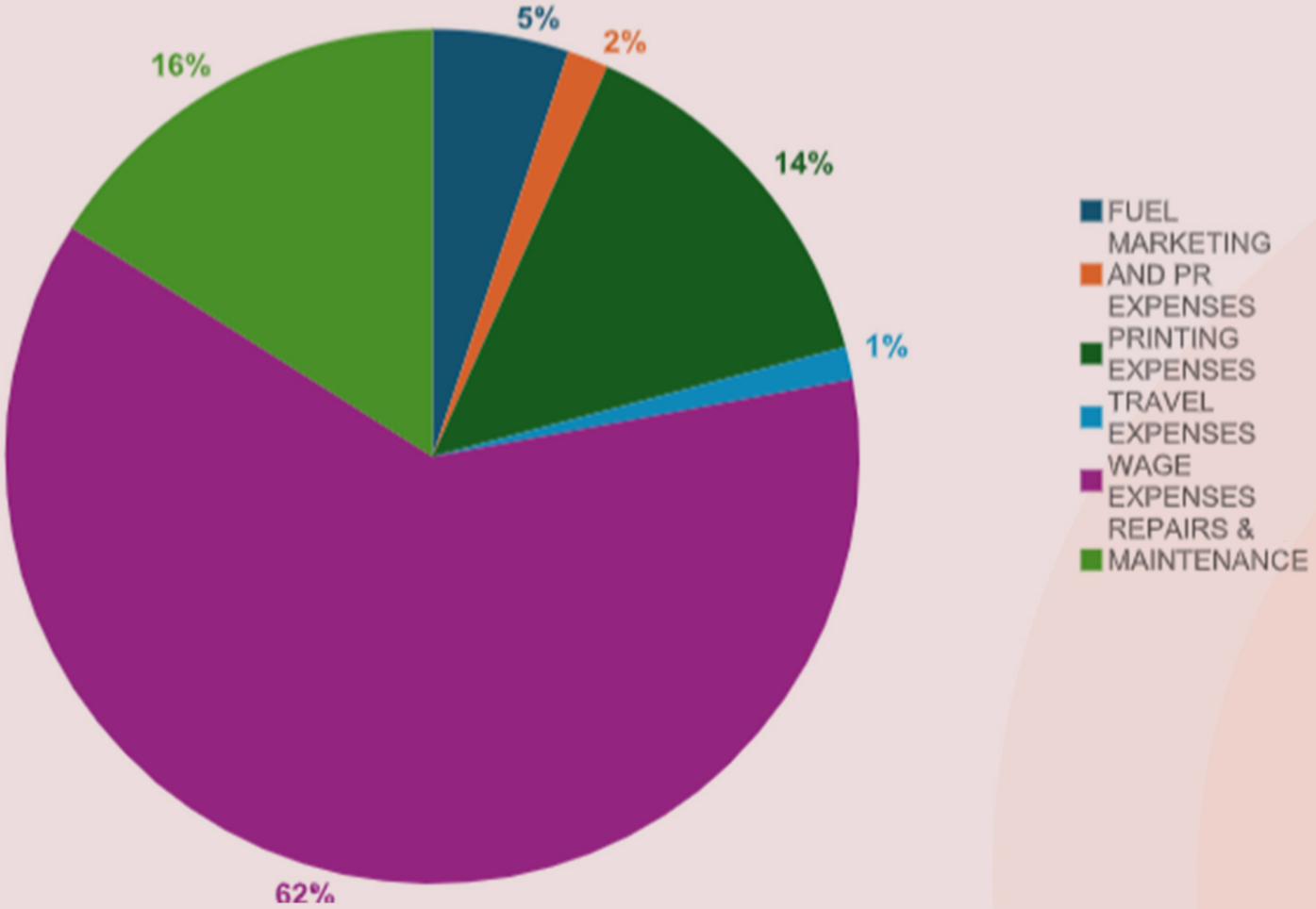
Koshka Expenses



Project Grant



YACF Expenses



www.blackgirlsglow.org

Black Girls Glow

Support Our Work

Make a one-time donation

Become a Patreon

