

Impact Report



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This season of programming has been made possible in its entirety by HELP Jamaica.



Period: January 1st – March 31st, 2025
Subject: Programming
Location: Freedom Skatepark, Jamaica

Date Prepared: June 3, 2025
By: Tim van Asdonck, Blake Burnett & Tabetha Phillips

Introduction

This report summarises the 18th season of programming that ran at the Freedom Skatepark from January – March 2025. The season consisted of 5 programmes:

Get-On-Board Rental Programme

This programme is in place to facilitate people that would like to skate but don't have a skateboard. Access is granted upon registration and rent a skateboard and/or protection material for \$100 JMD each. All income from this programme is reinjected into the maintenance of the skatepark.

The Community Activity Programme

This programme intertwines with the Get-on-Board programme, Many children from the community around the Freedom Skatepark are unable to pay board rental on a daily basis. The Community Activity Programme provides board rental in exchange for time spent in community activities. We work together with the skatepark community on maintenance and developments around Freedom Skatepark.

The Homework Programme

Educational support sessions were organized on a regular basis to support the children's academic development in a small group setting with the intention of improving personal development and academic outcomes.

Enrichment Activity Programme

A variety of enrichment activities that focus on personal development have been offered to kids and adolescents visiting the skatepark. Activities have the purpose of providing our youth with the opportunity to explore their interests and potential in what lies outside of their school curriculums. For this season, programming was delivered in a workshop style structure where we offered conflict resolution and yoga classes.

Edu-Skate Classes

This is Concrete Jungle Foundation's core youth programme: combining skateboarding classes with life skills. The programme is free of charge, participation is open for anyone between 6-16 years old who is registered for the programme. Through the grant provided by HELP Jamaica, we have been able to include youth from Bull Bay as well as downtown, Kingston, in partnership with youth organization Supm Fi Talk Bout.



Freedom Skatepark Foundation organized and executed the programmes with the support of 5 local staff members, under the guidance of Freedom Skatepark's Project Manager (Blake Burnett).

Data was collected on all programmes and will be presented in the following report, concluded with recommendations for the next season of the programme.

Get-on-Board Programme

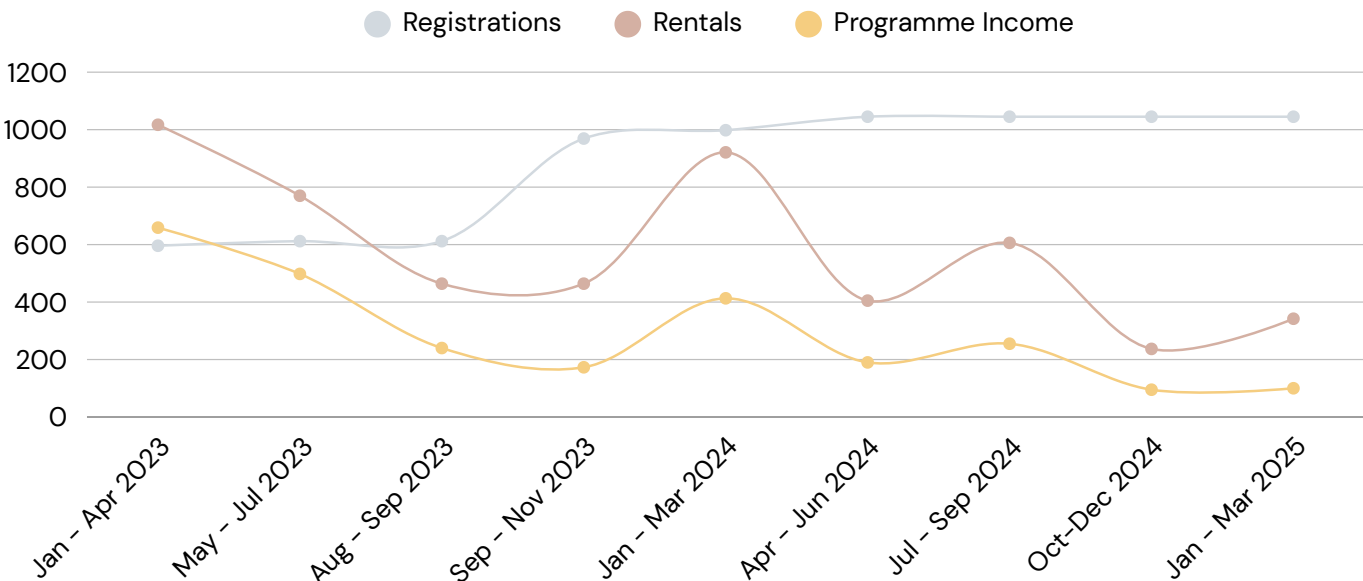
The Get-on-Board programme was set up to serve people that would like to give skateboarding a try but don't have a skateboard to use. Upon registration, a board and/or protective gear can be rented for \$100 JMD (\$0.65 USD) each (based on the socio-economic status of the surrounding community). For the people that are not able to afford this price, the programme can be accessed in exchange for participation in community activities (see 2. Community Activities Programme).

The Skatepark Managers run this programme during the opening times of the skatepark (1 pm – 7 pm) and keep track on a daily basis of how the materials were used and by whom. In the following, you find the results of running the Get-on-Board Programme this season.

Programme income in season 18:

16,000 JMD / \$100 USD

All income was reinvested in the maintenance of the Freedom Skatepark (see Skatepark Expenses in the Finances section).



Total amount of uses:

342

57%
Exchanged for
Community Support
Jobs and Skate Classes
(194 uses)

43%
Exchanged for money
(148 uses)

Total amount of registrations:

1045

40% Girls **60%** Boys

Average age: **14 years old**

Community Activity Programme

The Community Activity Programme is implemented for 3 reasons:

01

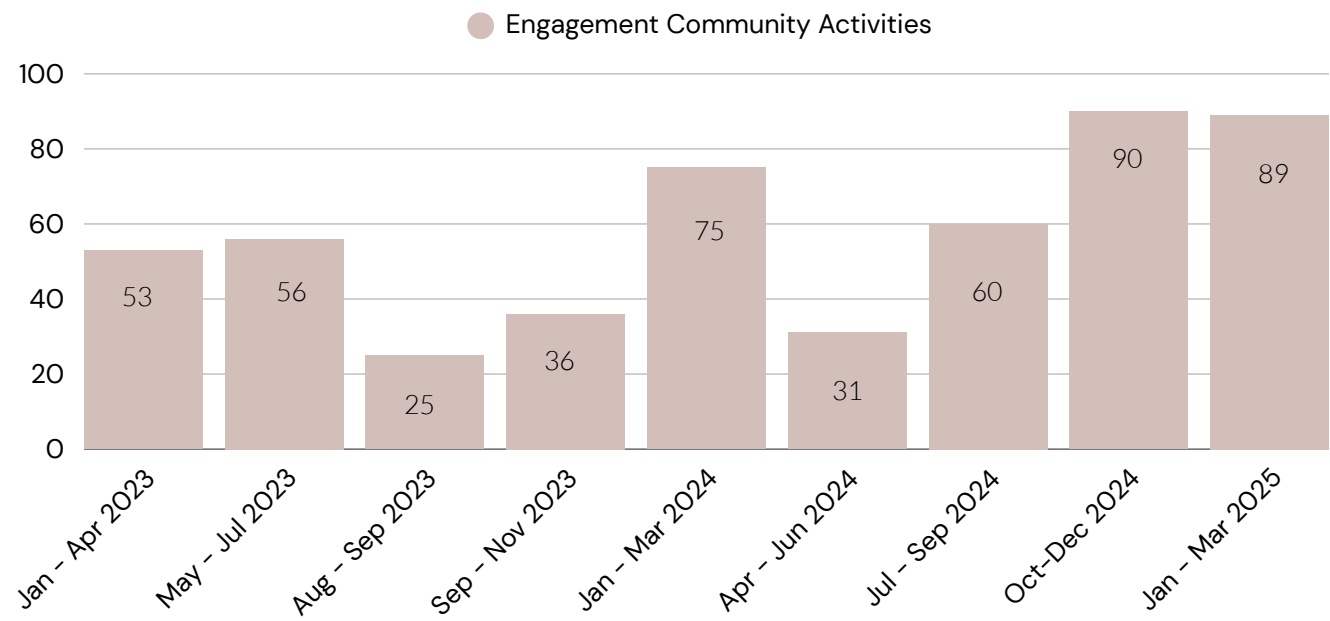
Involving the skatepark community in the work and development of the skatepark to instill a sense of ownership.

02

Community building: providing fun and educational activities through which the skatepark visitors can bond.

03

Some of the skatepark visitors do not have the financial means to rent a board or protection gear. This programme serves as a 'trade-off' for free board rental: if you help with some work around the park, you get to rent a board for free.



Unpromoted small activities were organised to engage the youth and community in educational and small communal activities. Throughout the season, community members (predominantly -18 youth) participated in the following activities:

89 Voluntary jobs executed

- Picking up trash
- Organizing the library and community center
- Watering the plants

Skatepark Management

Key Roles:

- Supervising the park
- Running the Get-on-Board, Community Activities and Edu-Skate programmes
- Keeping the skatepark clean and watering the greenery

Conflict Resolution Training

This season the skatepark management team completed 16 hours of conflict resolution training with PALS (Peace and Love In Society) Jamaica.

The Skatepark Management identified 1 significant challenge this season:

“Community issues that arise outside of the skatepark sometimes make their way into the skatepark. While we are happy that more children are participating in programs and more community members are utilizing the park, it just means more confrontations can arise.

Community members come to us to help resolve situations: we have had to learn to adapt and facilitated in the best way we can. I'm proud of my staff for this.”

Blake Burnett – Project Manager

Events

This season 2 skate competition took place:

SK876 Contest Series

This regular contest series in collaboration with SK876 serves to engage the youth in regular competition. 40 people participated to the event.

Ride Nature Contest

Ride Nature, a US-based non-profit organization visited the Freedom Skatepark once again to organize a skate competition at the park and hand out prizes. 50 people participated in the event.



“Sometimes unruly groups learn well from the respect lesson. It's a word they understand.”

Blake Burnett – Project Manager

Other projects

Maintenance projects

SWAP Foundation & Kasavana Family Foundation provided the Freedom Skatepark with a grant for some much needed maintenance work. The following projects have been executed this season:

- Painting and fixing the seat stands
- Installing new solar lights
- Repairing and painting the gates
- Painting the outside walls
- Building new benches for the Cawna Library



Musson Foundation Read and Skate Initiative

For this project Joel Nomdarkam, author of Future Makers, came out to the park to share his book with our youth, highlighting 30 creative careers outside of traditional pathways.



SEPROD food donation

To support some of the more economically challenged families in our community, Seprod Foundation gave out food donations through the Freedom Skatepark.



Season Highlights

“We used awareness of the body, mind and space to help them improve their sessions”

Blake Burnett–Project Manager

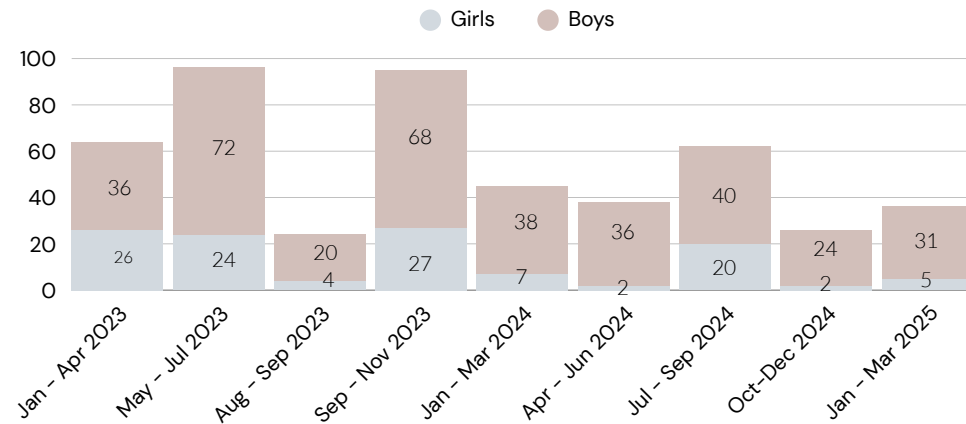


Edu-Skate Classes

The Edu-Skate Programme offers free skateboarding classes with a focus on life skills. This educational programme of Concrete Jungle Foundation was developed using academic research from the self-determination theory on psychological development and has been administered in collaboration with schools and NGOs globally .

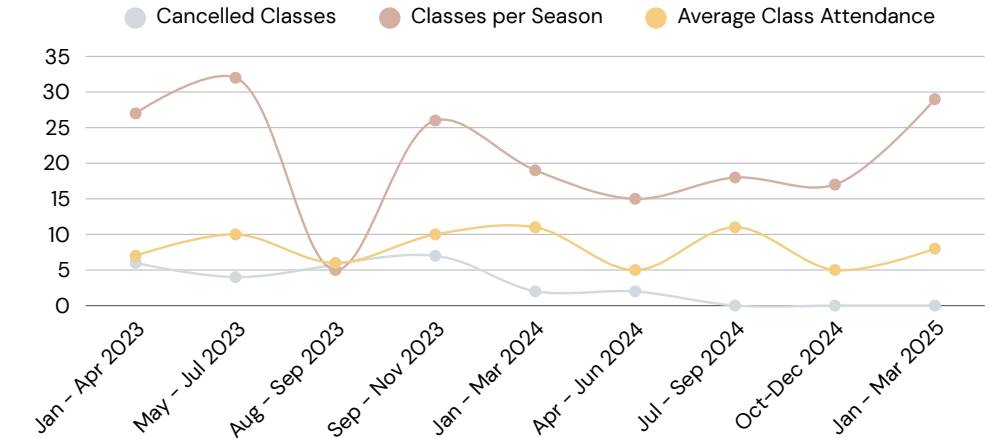
Participants came from Supm Fi Talk Bout (Downtown Kingston) and Bull Bay. No injuries were recorded during the Edu-Skate classes this season.

Edu-Skate Participation

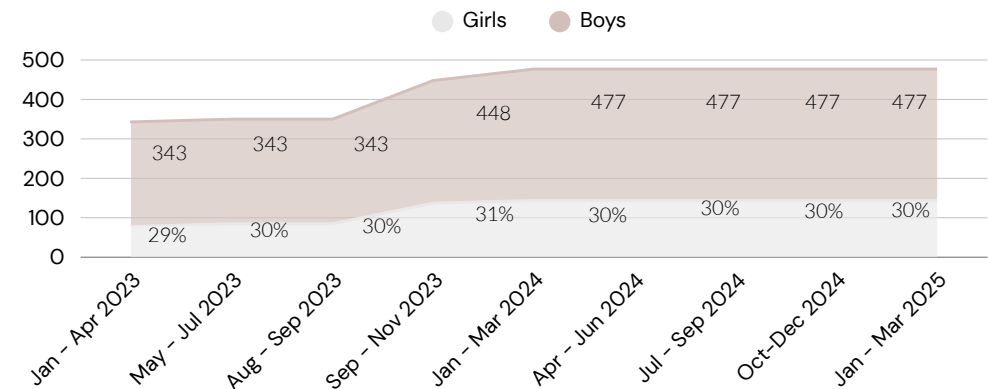


37 Student participation this season

Edu-Skate Classes



Edu-Skate Registrations



477 Total amount of registrations



“If I think positively it will help me land my tricks!”

Student

Classes Organization

Edu Skate lessons are designed to be executed with a Head Teacher and an Assistant Teacher. Classes were organised as follows.

-
- | | | |
|----|------------------|---|
| 01 | Intro | The classes started with everyone sitting in a circle to introduce the life skill of the week. |
| 02 | Warm Up & Tricks | The teachers would proceed with a warm-up exercise for the students before getting into the trick/activity of the lesson through which they would work on the life skill. Students were divided into smaller groups per teacher, so each student got sufficient attention and support from their teacher. |
| 03 | Break | After around 45 minutes into the class, it was break time: the students got some water and fruits in the youth centre and a moment in the shade. |
| 04 | Free Skate | After the break, it is free skate time. The students can skate for themselves, but the teachers are still present to supervise and help students out in case they need help or want to learn something new. |
| 05 | Reflection | The sessions ended with all the students in a circle. The students have a moment here to share their experience of the class, of the life-skill and their accomplishments. |
-

Edu-Skate Youth Programme Schedule

As Concrete Jungle Foundation's core youth programme, the execution of this programme is closely monitored and evaluated. The Edu-Skate programme is delivered via instruction from Project Manager Blake Burnett and Skatepark Manager Nicholas Thompson. Teachers manage organisation, instruction and evaluation of the Edu-Skate classes.

The Edu-Skate classes executed this season is outlined below. Each week either a social skill or a competence-building skill is designed to contribute to positive personal development and paired with a suitable skateboarding activity/ challenge for an immediate practical application of this skill.

Lesson 01	Positive Mentality	To be open to trying new things, open the door to learning.
Lesson 02	Awareness	Being aware of your body and your surroundings.
Lesson 03	Self-Confidence	Building up the belief in their capabilities
Lesson 04	Respect	Exploring what respecting each other and our space is about.
Lesson 05	Perseverance	To never give up.
Lesson 06	Teamwork	By working together, we can get a lot done.
Lesson 07	Cooperative Learning	The students to teach each other a new trick
Lesson 08	Resilience	Learning how to fall, and not let adversity stop you.



“We let some of the less confident students work directly with the more confident ones. That connection seems to strengthen both sides.”

Blake Burnett – Project Manager

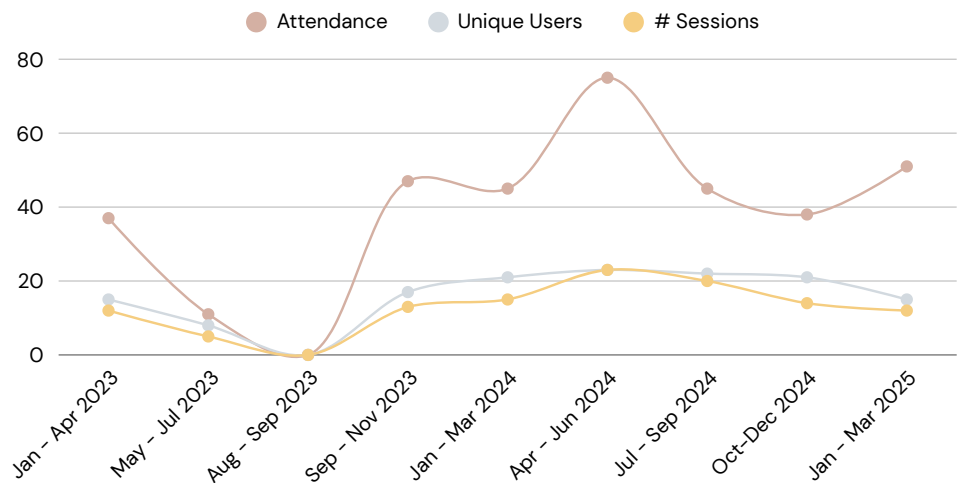
Homework Programme

With a focus on personal development, the skatepark should not be a distraction from the education of the children we engage but rather an amendment. Therefore, an educational support session is organised on a regular basis to support their academic development in a small group setting with the intention of improving personal development and academic outcomes.

The Homework Programme was executed by Icah Wilmot and Jeanelle Irvine this season. Additionally, the programme was supported with snacks for the students by Seprod Foundation.

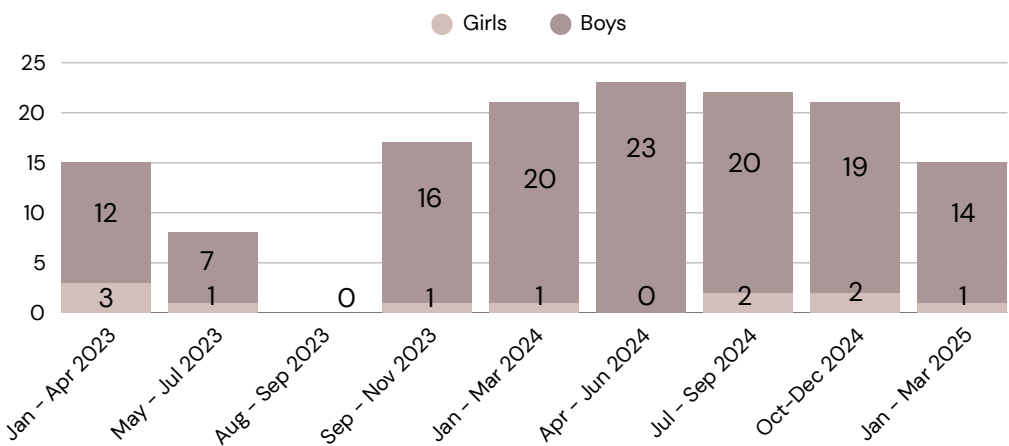


Homework Programme



Homework Programme Participants

Average Age: 13 years old



Homework Programme Activities

12 educational sessions were organised this season, with 15 unique users, and 7% of the participants were girls.

The Homework Programme tried to support the students by reinforcing core educational tutoring in line with the topics of the curriculum that the students were currently covering in their formal and varied educational programmes.



The following subjects were covered in the sessions:

Language Arts (10 sessions)

- Spelling
- Reading & comprehension
- Crossword puzzles – problem solving & vocabulary

Social Studies (1 session)

- Covering school curriculum

Geography (1 session)

- Browsing atlas
- Naming parishes and counties of Jamaica

Arts & Crafts (1 session)

- Valentine's day art work project for library

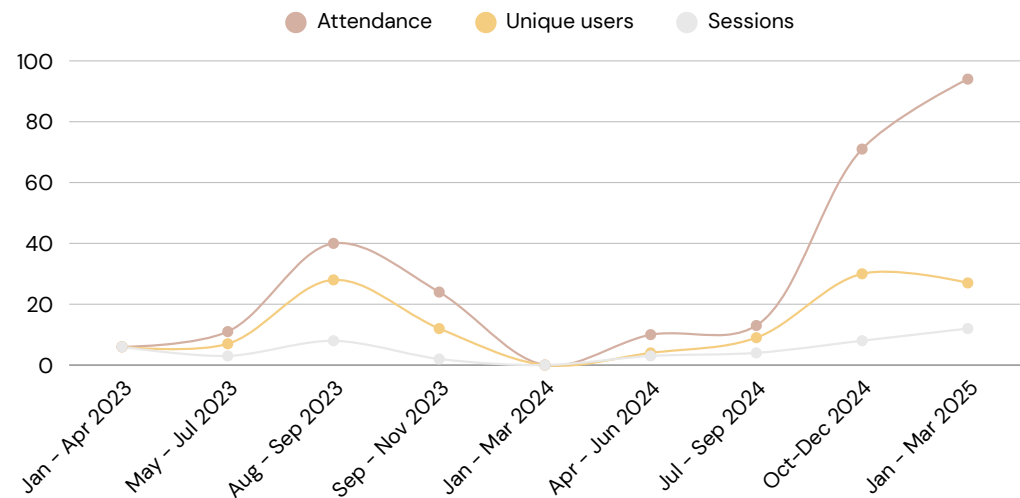
Enrichment Activity Programme

The intention of the Enrichment Activity Programming offered at Freedom Skatepark is to focus on personal development through the introduction of novel disciplines and exploring interests and potential in what lies outside of their school curriculums. The programming is delivered in a workshop style structure by a broad variety of skilled practitioners.

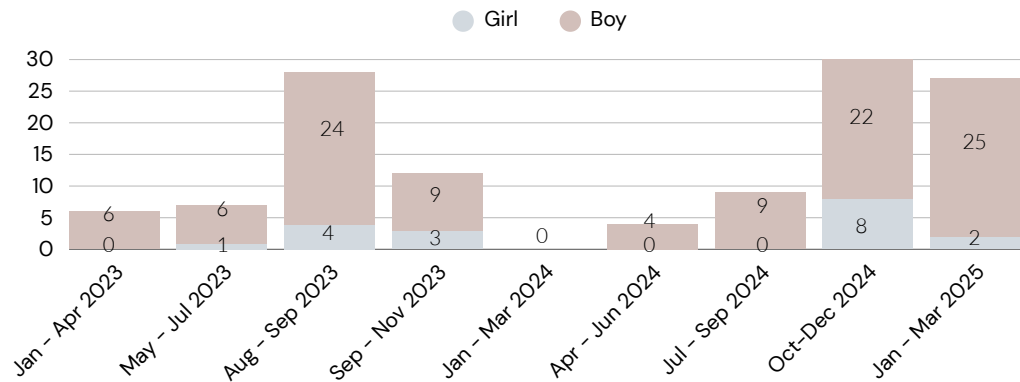
This season the enrichment activities consisted of conflict resolution workshops combined with martial arts and yoga workshops.



Enrichment Programme



Enrichment Programme Participants



Season Highlights



"I need to do some yoga. Sometimes I wake up feeling like a rusty robot."

Student

"When you identify a person's emotions, it is easier to resolve a conflict."

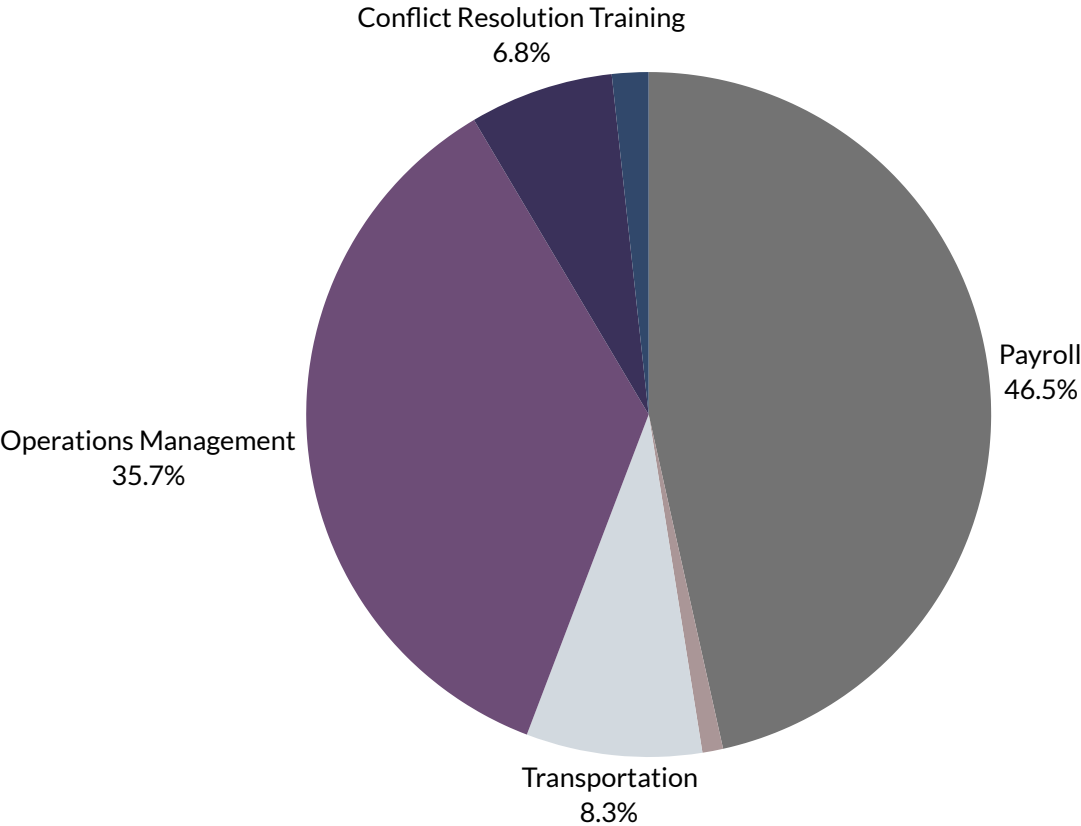
Student



Finances

Programming expenses January –March 2025

The programming expenses are all related to the Freedom Skatepark's programming activities, fully sponsored by HELP Jamaica.



Items	Cost (USD)
Payroll	\$5,475
Water and Food	\$115
Transportation	\$977
Project Management	\$4,201
Conflict Resolution Training	\$800
Other	\$203
TOTAL	\$11,771

Payroll **\$5,475 USD**

Staff were paid every Friday for their services the previous week with the following rates:

- Junior Skatepark Manager: \$15,000 JMD for 3 days
- Senior Skatepark Manager: \$20,000 JMD for 4 days
- Edu-Skate Teacher: \$2,000 JMD per session
- Enrichment teacher: \$3,000 JMD per session

46 weekly pay slips have been paid for a total of \$546,000 JMD

Water and food **\$115 USD**

Water and juice were provided for the students in every skate class. Costs consisted of water, cups and fruits. Lunch was provided for the staff on the Conflict Resolution Training days.

Transportation **\$977 USD**

These costs consisted of the weekly transportation of the children from the organisation Supm Fi Talk Bout between downtown Kingston and the Freedom Skatepark for the Edu-Skate classes + shipping griptape into Jamaica.

Operations Management **\$4,201 USD**

These include the costs of planning, coordination, monitoring, evaluating and learning (MEL) and reporting on the programmes implemented at the Freedom Skatepark. More specifically:

- Designing the programmes that run at the Freedom Skatepark based on the needs and resources available
- Supporting the implementation of the programmes at the Freedom Skatepark
- Collecting data on the implementation of designed programmes
- Evaluating and reporting on the collected data through a seasonal report
- Communication with partners and the Board of Directors

This season the costs consisted of the Project Manager at \$210,000 JMD per month.

Conflict Resolution Training **\$800 USD**

The skatepark management team completed 16 hours of conflict resolution training with PALS (Peace and Love In Society) Jamaica.

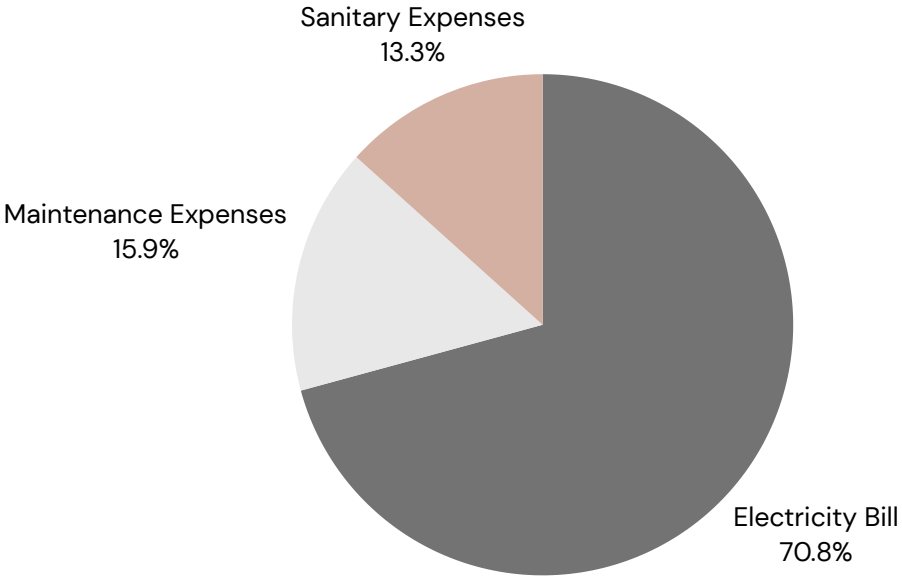
Other **\$203 USD**

The 2 other expenses were a security service payment, and a medical emergency payment for a staff member.

Skatepark expenses January – March 2025

These are the day-to-day maintenance costs of the skatepark: all the costs outside of programming costs to keep the skatepark running.

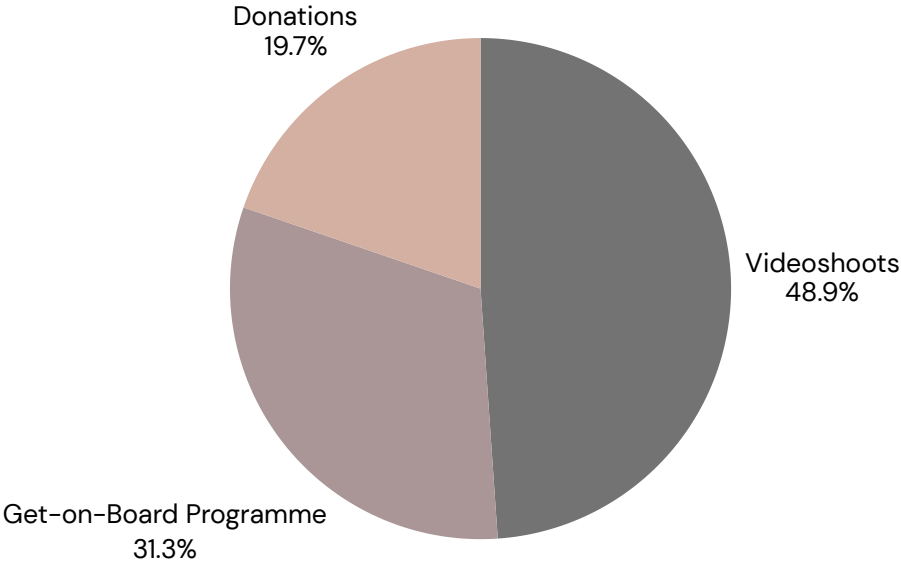
Items	Cost (USD)
Freedom Skatepark Electricity Bill	\$138
Maintenance expenses	\$31
Sanitary expenses	\$26
TOTAL	\$195



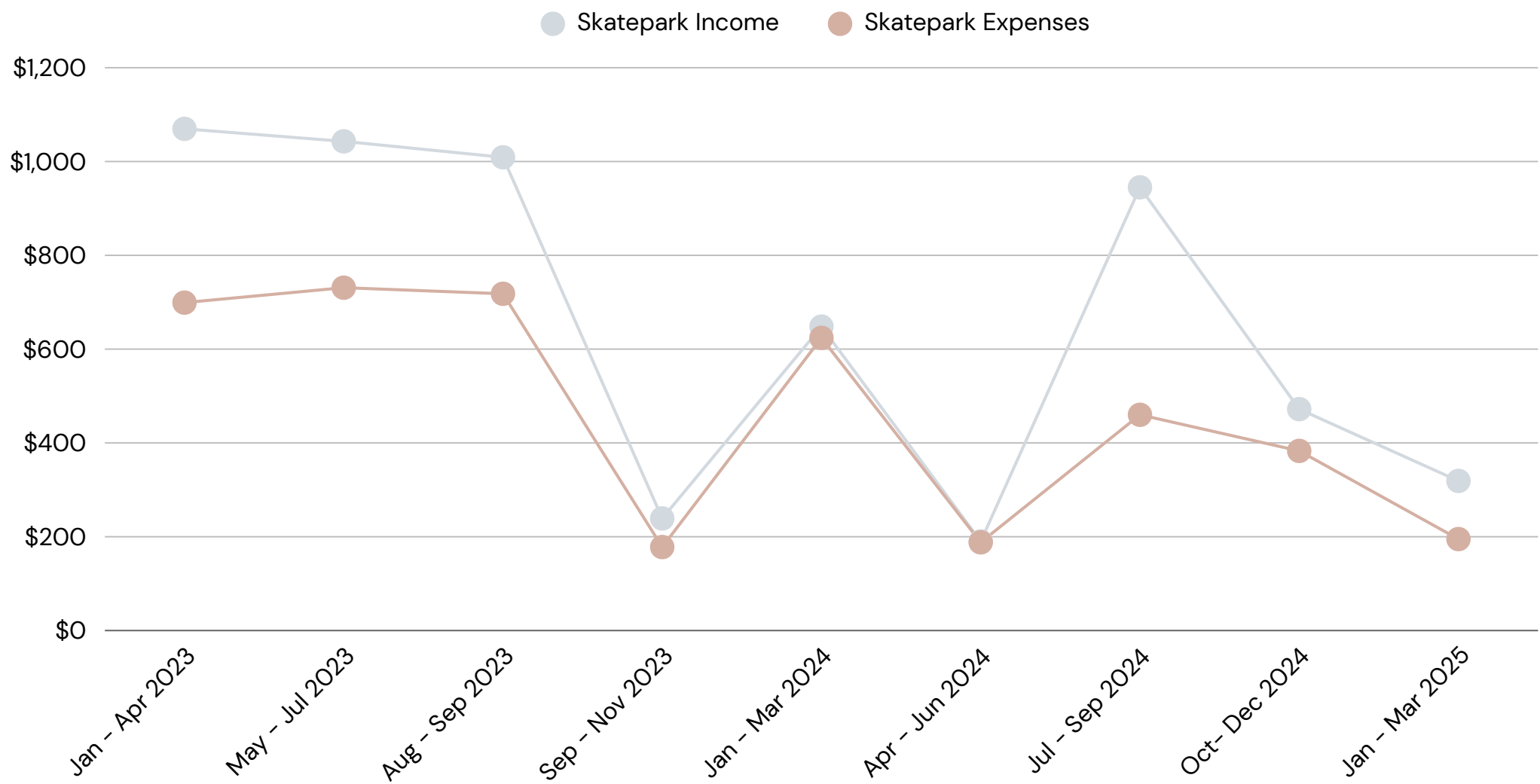
Skatepark income January – March 2025

To support the goal of being self sustaining, the Freedom Skatepark has several income generating activities. All income generated at the Freedom Skatepark has been directly reinvested into the maintenance of the skatepark.

Items	Cost (USD)
Get-on-Board Programme	\$100
Donations	\$63
Video shoots	\$156
TOTAL	\$319



Skatepark Income and Expenses in USD



Recommendations

In the following you find a summary of the recommendations that came forward from this season of programming at the Freedom Skatepark, to improve the working structure for the next seasons.



Recommendation

01	Engagement	Finding programming that benefits more of the older teenagers and community members.
02	Connectivity	Getting the staff and the foundation members to know each other better. Like maybe a yearly function, meet and greet Type of thing.
03	Crisis situation support	Finding more effective support in "crisis situations " that staff doesn't have the expertise to manage.
04	Social skill training	Develop a program that focuses on manners and conduct in social situations. Many of the youth could use some guidance when it comes to how to speak to a member of the opposite sex, table manners, or just common courtesy in society.

Thank you!



Contact details:

Email: freedomskateparkja@gmail.com

Website: <https://freedomskateparkja.org>