



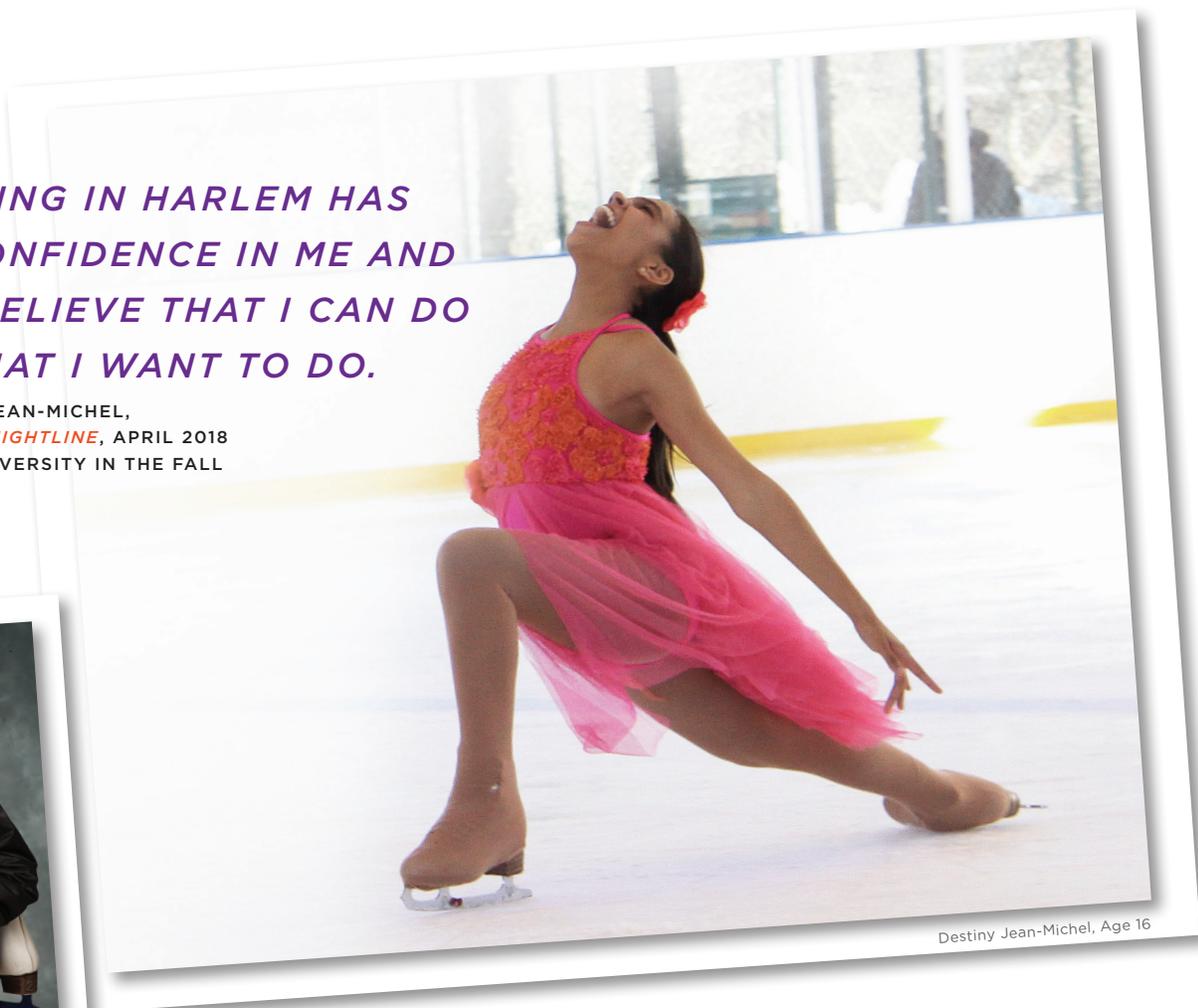
# WHAT CAN YOU BUILD ON A FOUNDATION OF ICE?

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



**FIGURE SKATING IN HARLEM HAS INSTILLED CONFIDENCE IN ME AND HELPED ME BELIEVE THAT I CAN DO ANYTHING THAT I WANT TO DO.**

— FSH SENIOR, DESTINY JEAN-MICHEL,  
AS FEATURED ON **ABC NIGHTLINE**, APRIL 2018  
ATTENDING TEMPLE UNIVERSITY IN THE FALL



Destiny Jean-Michel, Age 16



Destiny Jean-Michel:  
2nd year at FSH, Age 7

**FIGURE SKATING IN HARLEM** is the only organization for girls of color that combines the power of education with access to the artistic discipline of figure skating to build champions in life.

**OUR MISSION** is to help girls transform their lives and grow in confidence, leadership and academic achievement.

**OUR VISION** is to empower every young girl with the foundational academic, social and leadership skills to achieve her dreams. She will be a powerful speaker, effective leader, live a healthy lifestyle and be a global citizen.

# MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

Nelson Mandela said *sport has the power to change the world*. We agree.

At Figure Skating in Harlem we are committed to harnessing the power of sport *and* the power of education as a vehicle to change lives and promote female leadership. We create an entry point for hundreds of girls of color across two cities to participate in the graceful and challenging sport of figure skating. Along with engaging, rigorous academics, this sparks a re-imagination of their lives and possibilities.

The FSH community – students, families, staff, volunteers, Board and donors – is to be congratulated for an outstanding year in New York City and a successful inaugural year in Detroit. More than **900 hours** of innovative programming resulted in measurable improvements in our girls' core academic competencies, physical coordination, and self-image.

Nowhere was this more evident than at our inspiring spring ice show. The audience witnessed a marriage of skating and academics that came to life brilliantly through our new **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) initiative.

The excitement of the Olympics inspired a record-breaking gala and greater recognition of our accomplishments with a presence for our girls in more than 60 media outlets. This included an in depth profile broadcast in prime time on **ABC Nightline** and a feature on **ESPN's Undeclared**.

And when **Beyoncé** wanted to make a statement about female empowerment, she announced her support of our Harlem skaters globally on Vogue.com, and showcased them through their skating and poetry in a cutting-edge video.

Looking forward, we will aim even higher to ensure that every young girl who glides through our doors knows that she can become a strong, capable and caring leader in her family, her community, any beyond. Together we do have the power to change the world.



**Sharon Cohen**  
Founder & CEO



**Ellen Lowey**  
Chair of the Board

## FIGURE SKATING IN HARLEM'S THREE PILLARS



### OPPORTUNITY

Skating Instruction, Competition, Health, Fitness and Nutrition



### EDUCATION

Academic Classes, Tutoring and College Prep



### LEADERSHIP

Self Advocacy, Conflict Resolution, Mentoring, Career and Cultural Trips

# HARLEM PROGRAMS



## OPPORTUNITY

Learning to figure skate is difficult. Traditionally inaccessible to girls of color, 91% of this year's Winter Olympians were Caucasian. In FY18, FSH offered over 900 hours of in-depth SKATING, EDUCATION and LEADERSHIP programming for hundreds of girls ages six to 18. Our **I CAN EXCEL** afterschool program and **SUMMER DREAMS CAMP** engaged students in rigorous year-round learning on the ice and at our 5,000 square foot Academic Center on 125th Street.

*All I need to be happy are skates and a soundtrack. Figure Skating makes me feel beautiful but more importantly the opportunity to skate with FSH makes me feel loved.*

— Kemisa Doumbia, FSH student for 10 years.  
Attending SUNY Albany in the Fall



Terry Conners Synchronized Skating Competition



Synchronized Skating Team Dress Rehearsal

## FIGURE SKATING IN HARLEM INSPIRES:

- Grace, resilience, and perseverance in a safe and fun environment
- Physical and artistic development with skating instruction and off-ice yoga, dance and fitness classes
- Teamwork and discipline through 3 synchronized skating teams competing across the East coast, the only teams in the country made-up solely of girls of color



Ice Show 2018 (Prince Program, Purple Rain)

*THE ICE SHOW WAS SPECTACULAR! The theme was the best one yet, and the music, the costumes, and the personalities that showed up on the ice were awesome!*

— Samia Roper, FSH Parent

Figure Skating in Harlem took audiences on a journey celebrating *Black Ice: A Retrospective of Black Movement Through Time* in its 21st annual Ice Show. From tribal dance to jazz to hip hop, our girls explored the physical and metaphorical history of black movement using music and skating to tell a powerful story. More than 3,000 parents, family members, donors and community members joined FSH in supporting our girls at events this year.



## EDUCATION

*I love learning about financial literacy and saving for college because it helps me dream about my future.*

— Briann Anderson, FSH Student, Age 10



FSH gives students an edge on their studies with individualized learning plans and daily one-on-one and group tutoring sessions. Academic progress is measured using a computerized assessment tool and report cards. Weekly classes *in writing, public speaking, financial literacy, and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math)* ignite our students' intellectual interests and help them hone their skills. All students make a commitment to aim for an 'A' average in school, are in good standing with a 'B' and receive additional support with a 'C.'

Workshops help students gain admittance to competitive New York City public, parochial and independent schools and prepare our high schoolers with the tools and strategies to navigate the college admissions process. Our robust College Access program has ensured that 100% of our graduating seniors will attend four-year colleges in the fall.

### BY THE END OF THE SEASON:

- 92% of students improved their overall competency in STEAM subjects
- 28% of students achieved an 'A' average in school, while 84% reached a 'B' or above
- 81% of students made an overall improvement in one or more core subjects



### STEAM: WHERE ACADEMICS MEETS THE ICE!

This year, FSH added the 'A' to STE(A)M, with an added arts component. In their weekly classes, students super-charged their hands-on coding project; using LED lights and Arduino software coding lights and soldering and sewing them onto their ice show costumes. It came to life at our Spring ICE SHOW when skates, costumes and props illuminated the rink wowing the audience of more than 1,200.

Watch the STEAM inspired ICE SHOW performance on our website!



## LEADERSHIP

*The most important lessons I've learned so far are to encourage others and to never give up. When you really want to try something you should go ahead and do it, especially if it's your dream. Your friends and your FSH family will always support you!*

— Gloria Hernandez Diaz, FSH Student, Age 8



2018 Awards Ceremony

Our newly adapted Leadership & Self Advocacy classes teach middle and high school students that their voices matter. Through a safe and open classroom setting the girls discuss topics of identity, social justice and community. Learning extended beyond the classroom with Cultural Trips and Career Week visits. High achieving students delivered compelling speeches at our 21st Annual Awards Ceremony to an audience of more than 500 community members.

92% of students reported that they will use lessons of self-advocacy in their every day lives

84% of students reported feeling positively self-aware



Coach Tania, FUNshops

### LOUD AND PROUD: COACH TANIA TAKES COMMUNICATIONS TO NEW HEIGHTS

Through “FUNshops” Tania Gilpatrick, a former Canadian skater and corporate executive, brought her exceptional coaching skills to our middle school girls. Focusing on self-identity, public speaking and research, our girls were inspired to find their own unique voices by telling stories about their everyday lives. Girls left feeling more confident and ready to lead.

### CAREER WEEK: EXPANDS STUDENT HORIZONS

One of the exciting stops during Career Week was a visit to the northeast corporate headquarters of UPS and their tarmac at Newark Airport, where FSH students learned all about careers in STEAM and business and received insights on breaking into those fields as women of color. Girls also explored careers in finance at PIMCO, advertising at DDB Health, small business ownership at Annie & Co., and beauty and fashion with Facets of Beauty.



Career Week, 2018

# BEYONCÉ'S IVY PARK AND FSH JOIN FORCES TO SHINE A LIGHT ON GIRLS' EMPOWERMENT

*When I skate, something inside of me just lights a fire, and my soul just starts burning and all the blood rushes to my fingers and my toes and I just express what I feel. The ice is my canvass, the blades are my paintbrush, I am the artist.*

— Shamyah Williams, FSH Student, Age 16

Pop-star and icon, Beyoncé, shares the same values as Figure Skating in Harlem: Confidence, Determination and Girls Empowerment!

Beyoncé's clothing brand Ivy Park showcased our girls in a 1-minute video with narration by FSH student Shamyah Williams. The collaboration was promoted internationally on Vogue.com and Time.com.

Watch on our website!



# DETROIT CHAPTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES FIRST YEAR OF PROGRAMMING

*I admire how Figure Skating in Detroit puts a laser focus on education and then provides the support to be successful in the classroom and beyond.*

— Barb Reichert, U.S. Figure Skating Association

FSH's first chapter outside of New York City, Figure Skating in Detroit, began its first year of programming with the **DREAMING WITH EYES WIDE OPEN** summer camp for 68 girls at the Detroit Skating Club. In addition, more than 50 students participated in the school year-long **I CAN EXCEL** program, following the FSH model of academics, skating and leadership. Classes in health, nutrition, dance, academic tutoring, mentoring and on-ice instruction were inspired a new generation of Detroit girls. Projects and workshops promoted self-esteem, sisterhood, community and career.

95%

of students demonstrated improvements in math and reading scores and a dazzling Ice Show showcased their progress in skating.

*I like Figure Skating In Detroit because I've made a lot of friends and I just get to be myself...I have learned that I am brave, beautiful, and confident just like Oprah.*

— Ariel Moore, Age 11

Hundreds from the Detroit community embraced FSD and showed their enthusiasm at the **Champions for Life Reception** honoring our partners, the Michigan Women's Foundation, Skating Club of Detroit and Elizabeth Punsalan and Jerod Swallow, with a thrilling performance by original member of The Supremes, Mary Wilson, a supporter of the Harlem program for more than 20 years. Olympic champion Meryl Davis and international competitive figure skater, Alissandra Aronow co-chaired the event hosted by WDIV Anchorwoman, Kimberly Gill.



Mary Wilson

Meryl and Alissandra remained champions and advocates of the program throughout the year garnering partnerships with ivivva by lululemon, spearfunding a successful GoFundMe Campaign for our girls' figure skating helmets and giving skating seminars and tips to students throughout the season.



Dreaming with Eyes Wide Open Summer Camp On Ice



Winter Blast at Campus Maritus Park



Dreaming with Eyes Wide Open Summer Camp Academics (Meryl Davis with student)

# ALUMNAE STORIES: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## AWA HENDERSON

I remember as a child watching the Olympics and saying to myself, I wish I could learn how to ice skate. My mom was a single parent though and the cost of participating in such a sport just made it seem impossible. However, with one trip to Figure Skating in Harlem my dream became a reality.

The beautiful thing about ice skating is that it teaches you to get up after falling and to try and jump again and again and again but not only on the ice but also throughout life.

Today, I am a recent law school graduate who will be sitting for the New York Bar Exam this summer. I am so grateful for my FSH journey because it has taught me that growth is on the other side of fear and overcoming adversity demands persistence, confidence, and the will to remain hopeful.



## FLORENCE 'FLO-JO' NGALA

I am a proud daughter of West African immigrants, a proud Harlem native, and a proud alum of this amazing organization where I discovered my first passion in life, skating. Skating made me want to push myself and work harder both physically and mentally. At a young age I found words like perseverance, discipline, and willpower integrate themselves into my vocabulary. This was not just on the ice but off the ice as well. With the help of FSH's emphasis on education, I was motivated to keep my grades up as I knew I would have to maintain a certain grade

average to get skating time. Years later, I am now a proud college graduate, having completed my degree cum laude in Advertising at the City College of New York.

Today, with my new passions for photography and creative direction, I have built relationships with clients like Atlantic Records, Reebok, and Vice, and my work can be seen on platforms such as Vogue.com, BuzzFeed, and Essence to name a few.

# CHAMPIONS IN LIFE BENEFIT GALA BREAKS ALL RECORDS



*When I walked in the room immediately tonight I could sense there was a special feeling and warmth and attitude that everyone was here to have a good time because they so fully support and enjoy this amazing program and the results of it.*

— Elaine Wynn, 2018 Honoree



*FSH students will be equipped to succeed in whatever path they choose to take in their lives.*

— Jessica Betts Dreyfuss, 2018 Honoree

Our **Champions in Life Benefit Gala** on May 1st at Pier Sixty, Chelsea Piers, was a glorious evening promoting female empowerment! The gala raised more than \$1.2 million for FSH in support of sports, education and leadership programming for FSH girls.

The Gala celebrated two extraordinary women who were met with equal power by the young girls in our program. Philanthropist, Elaine Wynn, and Chelsea Piers executive and former figure skater, Jessica Betts Dreyfuss were praised for their dedication to youth development, while our current students and alumnae shared their own personal stories of confidence, determination, and resilience.

Gala Co-Chair, Tina Lundgren introduced 2018 US Olympic Figure Skating Team members, Maia and Alex Shibutani, Nathan Chen, and Karen Chen. Olympic and world champion figure skaters from past and present included Michelle Kwan, Meryl Davis, Sarah Hughes, Paul Wylie, Tim Goebel, Emily Hughes, JoJo Starbuck and Scott Allen.

NBC’s Andrea Joyce, a longtime friend and supporter of FSH, served as the evening’s emcee and FSH Founder & CEO, Sharon Cohen, Board Chair Ellen Lowey and Board Member Candace Matthews inspired prominent guests from the worlds of sports, television, business, fashion, among others. The gala’s co-chairs included Ellen Lowey, Tina Lundgren, Diana L. Taylor, and Vera Wang.

*To see these amazing girls, become amazing women, and do wonderful things for all of us, is incredible.* — Mike “Coach K” Krzyzewski



Sharon Cohen and Mike “Coach K” Krzyzewski



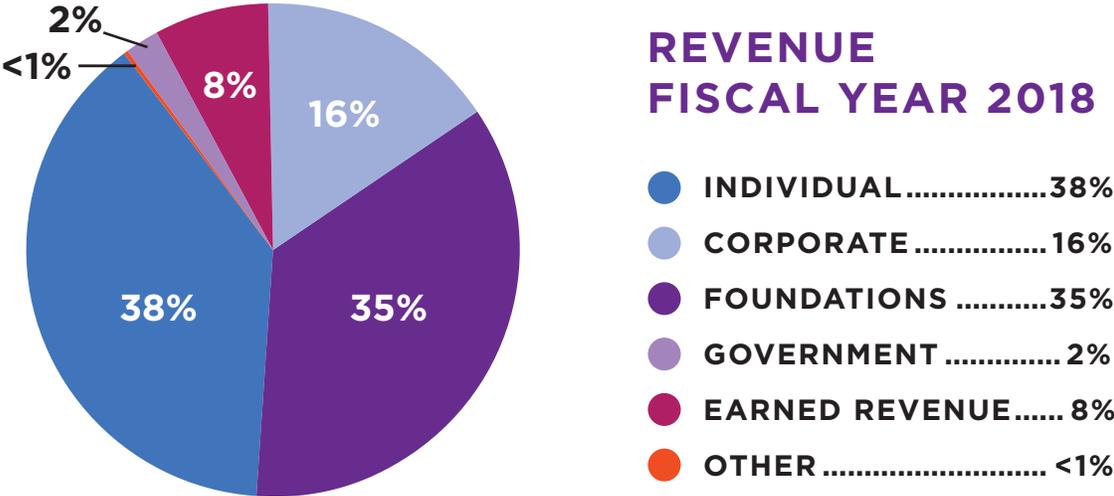
Tina Lundgren with the 2018 U.S. Olympic Team Maia and Alex Shibutani, Nathan Chen and Karen Chen



Angela Thompson, Maia and Alex Shibutani, Ellen Lowey, Candace Matthews and FSH Students

# FINANCIAL REPORT

Figure Skating in Harlem continued to thrive in New York City, as we added a full complement of services in Detroit. Our Financial Report reflects this. Revenue increased by \$200,000 over last year. FSH’s signature gala beat all expectations and significantly raised our profile among corporate and individual donors. As we enter our 22nd year, we will continue to grow in a responsible and sustainable manner.



## SUPPORT AND REVENUE FISCAL YEAR 2018

Contributions	2,231,201	89%
Government	55,000	2%
Earned Revenue	188,791	8%
Other	10,913	<1%
<b>TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,485,905</b>	

### EXPENSES

Program Services	1,809,803	78%
Support Services, General, and Administrative	244,018	10%
Fundraising	273,065	12%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>2,326,886</b>	

<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>159,020</b>
<b>NET ASSETS END OF YEAR</b>	<b>1,305,826</b>

# FIGURE SKATING IN HARLEM DONORS

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the supporters who responded so generously to help continue to build Figure Skating in Harlem and Figure Skating in Detroit so that we can give our girls the opportunity, education and leadership skills needed to succeed.

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Sareen Pearl  
*Chief Operating Officer*

Antwuan Walker  
*Director of Leadership*

Tifané Williams  
*Chief Program Officer*

Nikita Stewart  
*Administrative Assistant*

Kayla Stuart  
*Alumna Intern*

## DETROIT STAFF

Geneva Williams  
*Detroit Leader*

Nina Herron  
*Director of Skating*

Ashley Robinson  
*Administrative Assistant*

Kayana Sessoms  
*Director of Education*

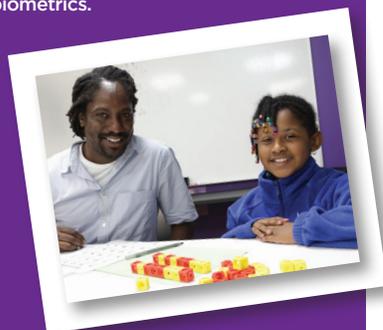
Lori Ward  
*Program Director*

## KARIOKI CROSBY

### WINNER OF THE 2018 MICHELLE ALTURA AWARD FOR EDUCATOR EXCELLENCE

Karioki Crosby is a STEAM Teacher and Tutor at Figure Skating in Harlem. This year, he won the Michelle Altura Award for Educator Excellence. His creative code and physical computing curriculum centers around health and biometrics.

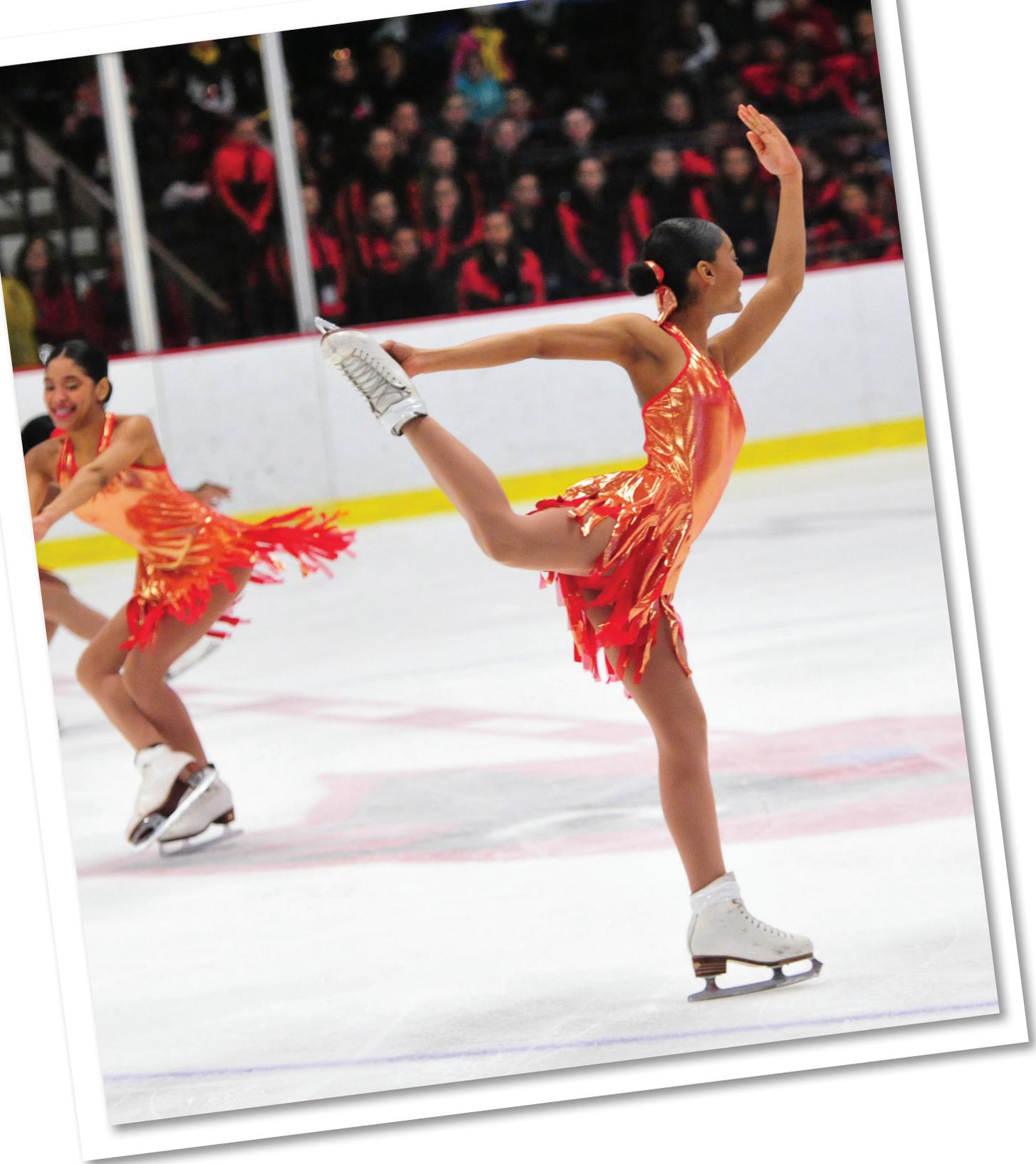
He recently developed a two player computer game for FSH students in which they attached a heart rate sensor to their index fingers, jogged in place, and as their hear rate was sensed, a character in the computer game was triggered to move.



**Photo Credits:** Sue Coflin, Ed Forti, Robyn Roth Moise, Pam Perry, Simon Russell, Derrick Salters, Judy Schiller

**Design by:** Paula Cyhan

For a complete list of Educators, Skating Coaches, Social Workers, Tutors, Counselors, and Volunteers visit [www.figureskatinginharlem.org](http://www.figureskatinginharlem.org).



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