



Together in Democracy

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

A Message From Our Chief Executive Officer

2022 has been a year of turmoil, recovery, and resilience.

As we reckon with our country's current trajectory — and the history that led us here — I am so grateful to lead an organization working at the heart of our shared potential.

This moment calls for decisive, collective action, and our report theme is ***"Together in Democracy"*** because we all must do our part to strengthen its foundation in every corner of this country. ***This crucial investment begins in our nation's classrooms.*** Through Generation Citizen's equity-rooted, experiential approach, students realize the power of their own voices and develop a greater sense of belonging in their communities.

Young people are not only the future of our democracy, they are its present. By teaching them how to work together for the common good, we are raising a generation of community citizens invested in an inclusive, multiracial democracy. GC students are eager to be agents of positive change, and we are proud to support them. The projects they chose last year — from mental health and substance abuse, to food insecurity and community safety — reflect the realities of their experiences, and their ideas for a better future.

At the beginning of 2022, we undertook a Strategic Plan Midpoint Review to reflect on our progress since 2020 and our vision through 2025. We invited members of the GC community—teachers, student alumni, staff, Board, and other leaders in the field—to reflect and look ahead. Through this collaborative process, we shaped the work ahead to meet this moment.

Our work is guided by ambitious—*and attainable*—impact goals.


By 2025 we will:

- Provide **60,000 students annually** with access to Community-Based Action Civics, tripling GC's current reach
- Enable over **1 million students to have increased access** to project-based civics annually through state policy and advocacy efforts
- Support **emergent youth leadership** campaigns for democracy and youth voice in education
- Expand the communities we work in through a framework of deepening **belonging and inclusion** and continue to advance **equity in civics** education through our curriculum, research, and coalitions

I am grateful to the teachers, students, staff, and supporters who continue to make this work possible. We are already on track to meet our ambitious goals, and I am energized by the possibilities of where this work will take us, together.

In Gratitude,



Our mission is to build an education movement that equips and inspires young people to transform our democracy.

Contents

What We Do



Community-Based Action Civics

Educators across the country teach GC's project-based, interactive civics curriculum with support from our national and regional program teams. As civics learning comes to life, students become active citizens in their own communities.



Youth Leadership Development & Engagement

The next chapter of our history will be written by today's students. We provide youth with the tools they need to lead through alumni engagement, fellowship programs, and leadership training.



Policy, Advocacy, & Field-Building

Supportive civic education policies and a strong field of experts are more important than ever. Civic education has come under attack in recent years, and together with our partners, we advocate for funding and support in every state to preserve and strengthen access to civic education.

Community-Based Action Civics in the Classroom

Why does civic education matter?

Quality civic education is essential for a strong, participatory democracy: It builds trust in institutions, understanding of the political process, and a strong public discourse that helps keep our elected officials accountable.

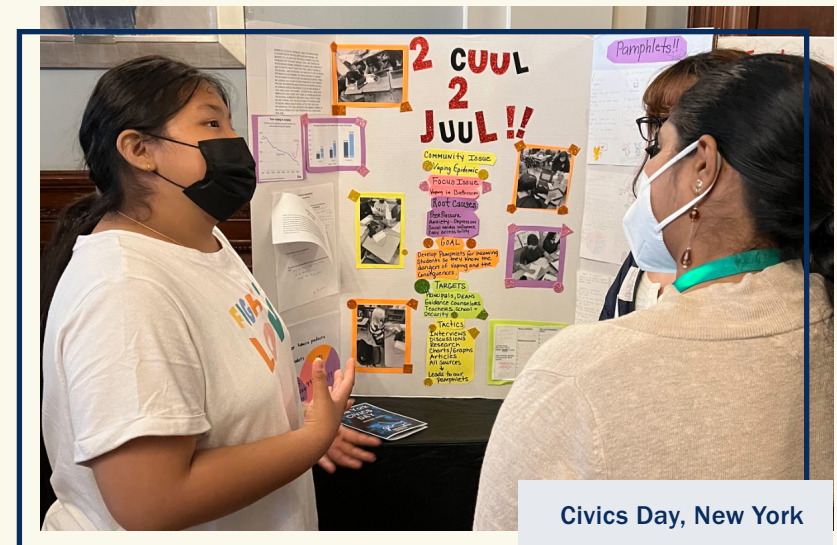
Yet nationwide, while \$54 is spent per student on STEM subjects, only five cents per student is spent on civic education.

Barriers to accessing quality civic education persist, and are most pronounced among communities of color: White students are three times more likely to achieve a proficient score in civic assessments than Black and Latinx students.

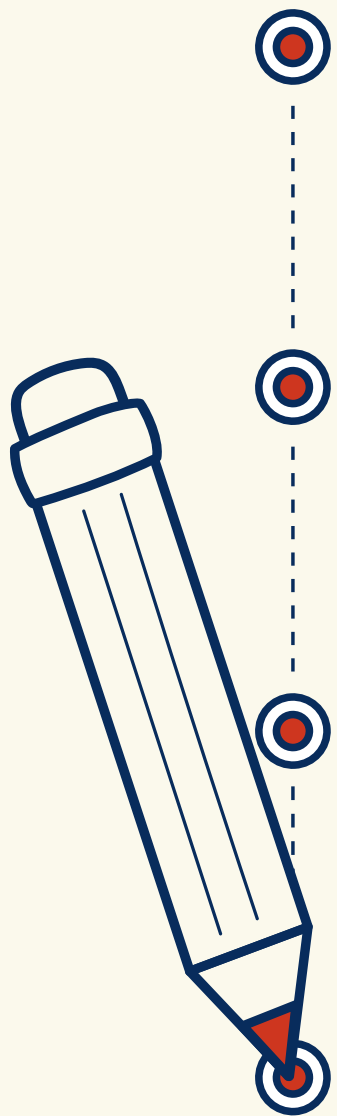
These challenges have been compounded by a growing movement to outlaw nuanced teaching of our nation's past and enduring systemic inequities. Currently, 11 states have proposed legislation that would limit civic education, and states like Oklahoma, Texas, Florida, and North Dakota have already passed limitations.

How does community-based action civics work?

GC students learn how to be active in their communities, and identify community assets before community issues. We partner with middle and high school teachers to implement a semester-long Action Civics class where students identify and engage with a social issue impacting their community.



Civics Day, New York



Critical Thinking

In our project-based Action Civics curriculum, students learn through inquiry and active participation.

They discuss what issues matter to them, and choose a focus for semester-long community projects, then research the root causes of those issues and create plans to take action.

Connection

At a time when students are experiencing high rates of mental health challenges, Action Civics teaches students to come together.

As teams work within their communities, they learn to listen to one another, discuss issues with respect, and build common ground.

Knowledge, Skills, & Mindset

Students learn the fundamentals of local government and civic engagement, and then practice a host of skills through their projects, ranging from gathering community input with surveys and interviews, to building relationships with leaders in their school and broader community.

Confidence

A recent study showed that Action Civics had a positive impact on student participation in their non-civics classes, and teachers often share stories of less engaged students becoming civics class leaders. Students learn what they're capable of, and take that confidence to other parts of their lives.

Civics Day

Civics Day is the end-of-semester celebration for students. Like a science fair, students present their projects to peers, community members, and local leaders. It is an opportunity for students to take pride in their projects, advocate for their issues to a local audience, and collect feedback.

TOP ISSUES STUDENTS EXPLORED:



**Mental & Physical
Health**



**Environmental
Issues**



**Community Safety &
Violence Prevention**



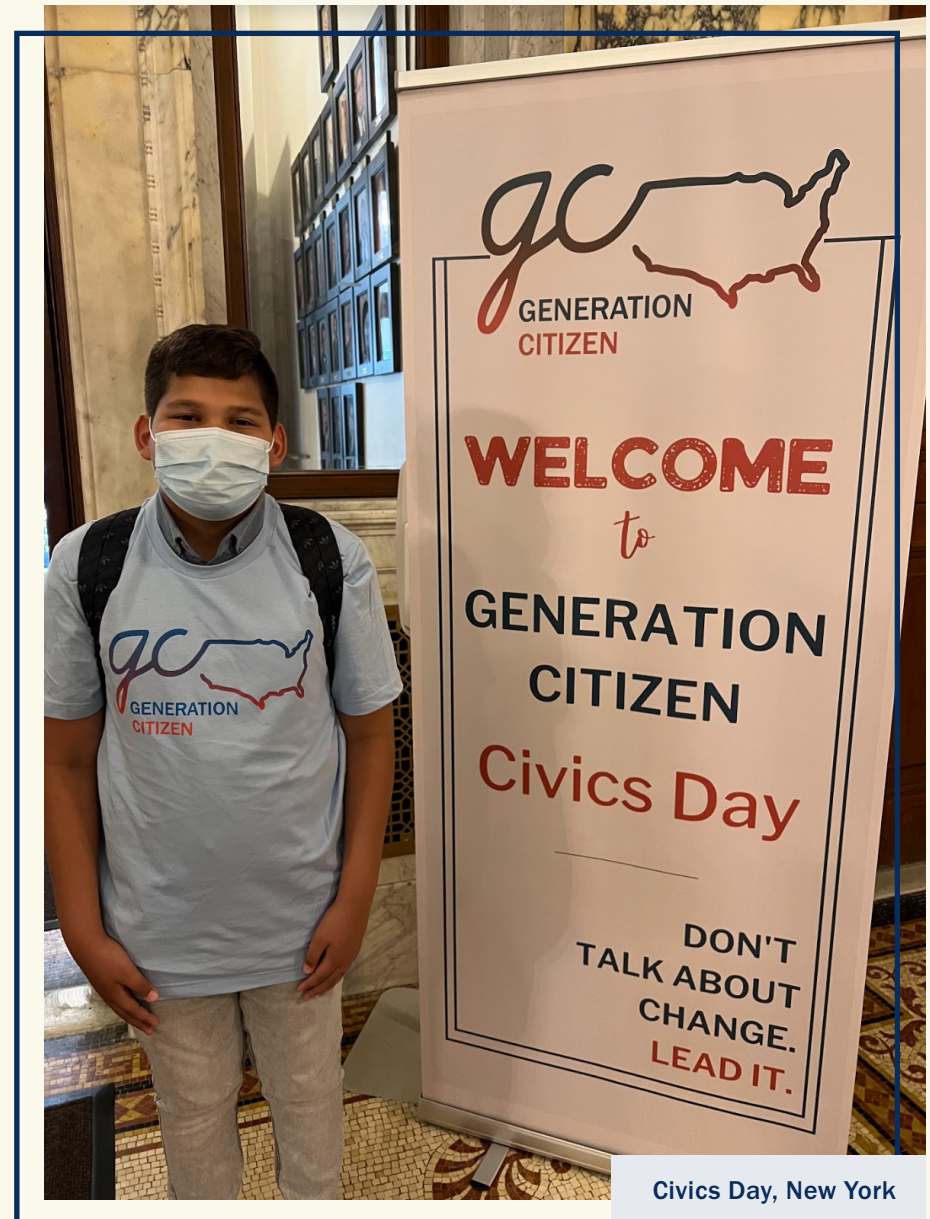
**Combatting
Inequality**



**Education &
Student Voice**



**Economic
Opportunity**



Civics Day, New York

Our Reach

Generation Citizen is working across the country to expand and strengthen equitable access to civic education, both through our Action Civics curriculum and through policy and advocacy work.

POLICY & ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHTS



MARYLAND

Collaborated with the MD Civic Education Coalition and the Vote16 research network to strengthen civic education and youth leadership



KENTUCKY & OKLAHOMA

Through advocacy and coalition building, preserved access to civics education in both states



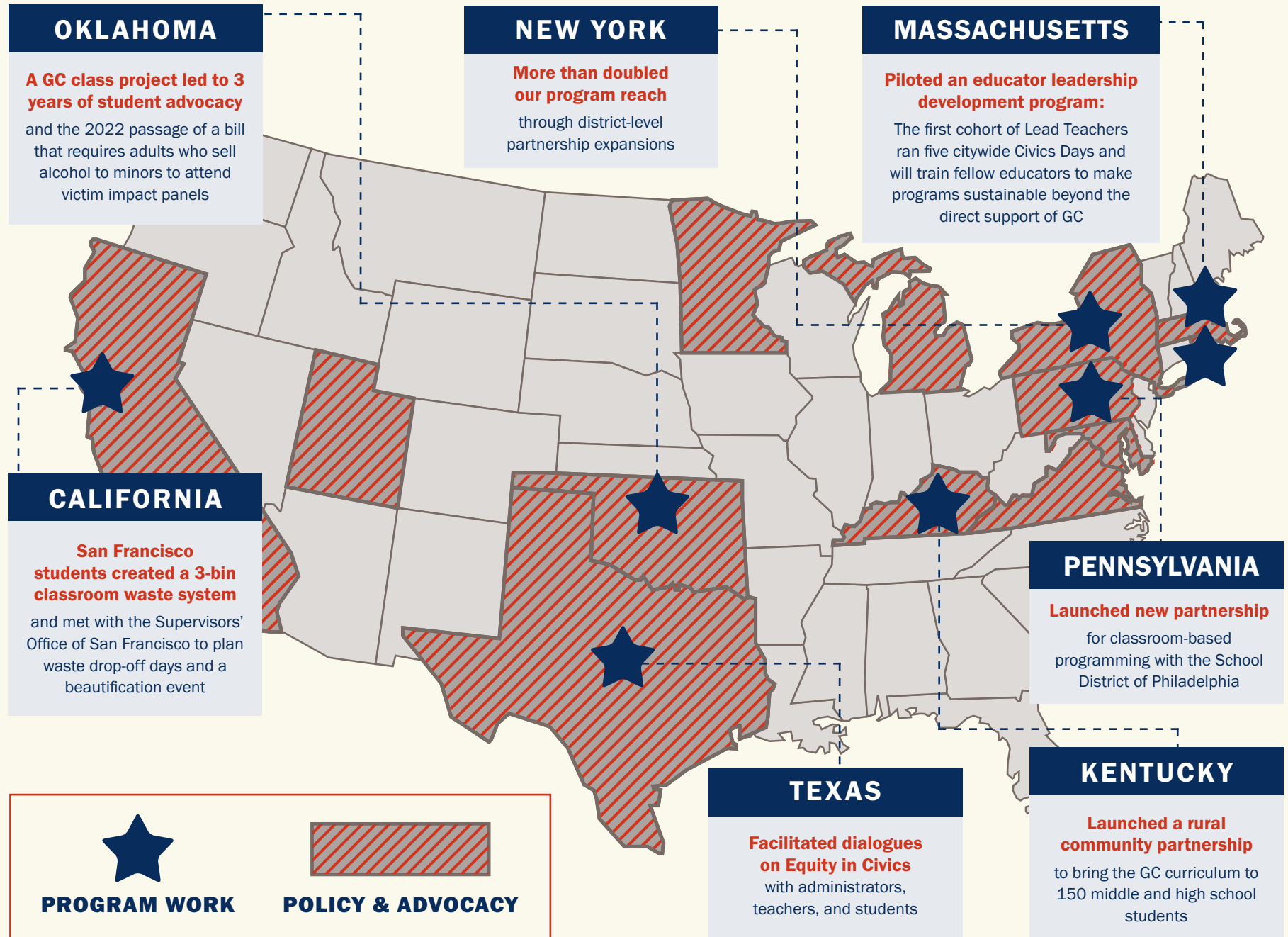
MINNESOTA

Worked with in-state partners to advance a civic education and personal finance bill to House Conference Committee stage



RHODE ISLAND

Youth Voice Fellow Athena Holloway accepts the 2022 John Lewis Youth Leadership Award from Rhode Island Lt. Governor Sabina Matos and Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea



Civics Day Spotlight:

Robinson Middle School Lowell, Massachusetts

"As a class, we dedicated our project to substance abuse in our community for many reasons. While giving our presentation at Civics Day, we had the opportunity to connect with our superintendent, Dr. Boyd. He, and the other Community Advisors, opened up to share personal experiences. I was shocked that the superintendent shared his personal experience too.

I was shocked that he would share that with a bunch of kids he had never met before. What I took away from this was don't judge people straight away. You don't know what has happened to them and what they've been through."

— Keziah R., Changemaker Award recipient



OUR IMPACT

28,135

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
were educated in classrooms through GC's Action Civics curriculum this year

442

TEACHERS DELIVERED CURRICULUM
& received training, professional development, and support

73%

of students in GC's classes were **STUDENTS OF COLOR**

76%

GRADE LEVEL SATURATION
among partnerships

152

SCHOOLS

7

STATES

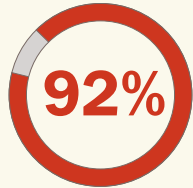
1,123

ACTION CIVICS PROJECTS COMPLETED

Project-based learning is a pedagogical approach rooted in extensive research.

We see its power in our student outcomes, both in traditional academic measures and social emotional learning.

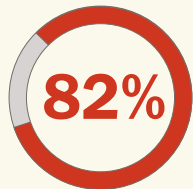
STUDENT EXPERIENCE



of students showed
**CONFIDENCE IN
CIVICS SKILLS**

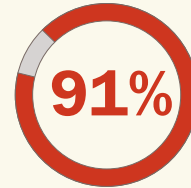


of students are confident in their ability
**TO CREATE A PLAN TO
ADDRESS A PROBLEM**

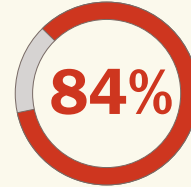


of students feel they
**LISTEN CAREFULLY TO
OTHER POINTS OF VIEW**

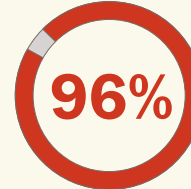
TEACHER EXPERIENCE



of teachers agree or strongly agree that the GC
**CURRICULUM IS CULTURALLY
RELEVANT TO THEIR STUDENTS**



of teachers “agree” or “strongly agree” that
having Action Civics at their school led to new
**OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENT
VOICE TO BE HEARD AT SCHOOL**



of teachers felt confident in
**FACILITATING A DEMOCRATIC
CLASSROOM CULTURE**

New Research Study

For a deeper understanding of our impact, in 2022 we partnered with the University of Southern California and the University of Chicago on a randomized control trial that will be facilitated in the coming year. This trial will measure the impact of GC’s curriculum on students’ critical thinking, civic knowledge, and voting behavior.

“It can be easy for some students to feel like social studies is just a teacher talking at them, and the grade is dependent upon how much they can recite what the teacher just told them,” said GC California teacher Eugene Kim. “The more you can get students involved in discovering their own answers, not just being told what’s right or wrong, you’ll find that they learn so much more by being involved in the process. If you care about what happens to young people, you’ve got to help them do something with their convictions.”

Civics Day Spotlight:

Emerson South Mid-High School Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Mr. Gallegos, a GC teacher, presented the Student Changemaker award to America G. for a project on preventing gun violence, and praised her leadership:

"I nominated this student because she is a natural born leader. She exhibits the passion, bravery and resilience every great leader demonstrates. Throughout this project she was the most outspoken and motivated student in our class. She constantly offers solutions and ideas to move our project forward. She exhibits two traits that I would like to see in all of my students: flexibility and the willingness to listen to others...Whatever her future holds I know it will be a bright one. One that she will take charge of and do everything she can to help as many people as possible."



America thanked her teacher as she accepted the award:

"Thank you for honoring me with this award. And, thank you to Mr. Gallegos for supporting me and my peers as we learned what to do to create a safer environment in our school...It is amazing to have a program where young voices are heard. It shows us there are people willing to hear us out and help us make our future a better place. Experiences like this help us know we have support. I hope everyone here today continues to advocate for change so our future becomes a better version of our present."

Civics Day Spotlight:

Woodside Intermediate School 125 Queens, New York

To ensure food access for more students, one class researched and wrote a compelling case for halal food and healthier school lunch options overall.

With the support of NY City Council Member & Education Committee Chair Rita Joseph, students testified at a New York City Council Education Committee hearing. Their proposal is now under consideration!

“How would you feel if you had nothing to eat for seven hours because your school doesn’t provide the food you’re able to eat? This is how Muslim students feel on most schooldays. It has come to our attention that many Muslim students of I.S. 125 don’t eat school lunches due to the fact that our school does not serve halal food. Therefore, we the students of class 742, agreed as a community that the school cafeteria should start serving halal food.”

— Students’ letter to their school’s principal



“Learning civics in school helped me understand how to work together and make a big difference within diversity; in Texas it’s especially challenging because of the variety in politics, race, and in what schools think is best for their students. In this particular project, we were able to think for ourselves instead of having adults make decisions for us. I believe young voices speaking up is essential to democracy because it gives a new perspective on the world and pushes students to make their own opinions instead of going down the path that society usually channels them.”

—High School Student in Bastrop, TX

Youth Leadership Development and Engagement

Our commitment to youth leadership starts with our own organizational governance.

The GC National Board welcomed three new alumni this year, for a total of five alumni board members who bring valuable insights from recent classroom experiences.

We asked Board Member Ishrat Jahan, former GC participant and current New York University student, what qualities are crucial to an effective, equitable civics education:



Spotlight:
Ishrat Jahan

I think the beauty of America in general is that we are so diverse in opinion, thought, culture, and background. When I think of civics education, especially in my experience as a GC student, it was the organization that was bringing us those resources to show us what we can do and how we could impact change by X, Y, and Z. But a lot of classrooms don't have those resources, so I would say the very first aspect is definitely resources.

The second is empowerment: empowering people, empowering youth, showing them that civics education

can really, really make a difference in their lives. In fact, when I was in my civics classroom, so many students had so many opinions about the way their city should be run and the issues that they were seeing in their communities. You know that the passion is there, you know that they feel a way about the issues that are happening right in front of them. The only part of the puzzle that was missing was the opportunity to do something about it. So just empowering students, showing them they too can be a part of this conversation, whether that's in a classroom, at an organizational level, anywhere.

Rhode Island Youth Voice Fellows

The Rhode Island Youth Voice Fellowship was launched in the fall of 2021 by the RI Civic Learning Coalition (RICLC), convened by GC. This cohort of six fellows participated in workshops, co-facilitated coalition committee meetings, and led advocacy efforts for stronger civic education policies in their state.

Their accomplishments were extraordinary:

- Proposed a **\$1.5 million civic education budget** to the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE)
- Drafted and testified on proposed amendments related to the **RI Civics Literacy Act**, which several fellows helped draft and pass in 2021
- A Youth Voice Fellow became **the first youth leader** to sit on the hiring team for a newly funded RIDE position



RI Deputy Secretary of State and Director of Administration, Lammis Vargas; Abigail Lee, RICLC Youth Research Fellow; Ashanti Gonzalez, RICLC Youth Voice Fellow; Deren Sozer, RICLC Youth Voice Fellow; Justin Medeiros-Potter, RICLC Youth Voice Fellow; Kristina Pires, GC

“Youth voice is a very important part of the coalition, both in theory and in practice. I think the coalition does a really good job of melding youth voice in with adult experience and expertise. There were many ideas that came from us that went into the final budget proposal, and when we were drafting the amendments we proposed for the secondary regulations, that was very much a youth-involved process.”

—Deren Sozer, RICLC Youth Voice Fellow

Equity in Civics

GC is working on several fronts to create a civic landscape that educates and empowers all students.

“Equitable civic education makes the aspirations of multiracial, inclusive democracy feel real, actionable, and attainable—stand-alone civics and civics integrated into other disciplines uniquely brings students, teachers, and community members together to do these things.”

**– Andrew Wilkes,
GC’s Chief Policy & Advocacy Officer**

**Generation Citizen CEO Liz Clay Roy
talks with Educator, Writer, and Activist
Brittany Packnett-Cunningham**



EQUITY IN THE CLASSROOM

GC recently piloted the Civics for Youth Changemakers curriculum, an updated version of our Action Civics program that places a greater focus on engaging students in courageous conversations around identity and power, alongside root cause analysis of how local history impacts current issues. Teachers found this approach to be effective: Students were eager to participate, and also showed greater empathy and interest in community.

EQUITY IN THE CIVICS FIELD

GC leads the Equity in Civics (EIC) steering committee, a national roundtable of researchers, educators, and advocates for student and youth voice. Everyone has a part to play in this effort, so we created ways to get involved in advocacy for democracy education, including toolkits for educators, community members, and funders, and the Equity in Civics pledge to demonstrate public support for educators. Our EIC website includes a host of resources, from research papers and classroom materials like a how-to guide on discussing equity with supportive and skeptical audiences, to event recordings and civics policy news across the country.

EQUITY IN CIVICS COMMUNITIES

We bring members of the field together to build community and provide important public information on civic education in the face of willful misinterpretations and attacks. Throughout the year, we hosted Fireside Chats featuring guests such as the President of the Children's Defense Fund Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson, Atlanta School Board Candidate Royce Carter Mann, and GC alum Julian Vivisecas.

The Darcy Elaine Richie Teacher Courage Award

We're honored to launch an award recognizing a civics, US government, or history teacher who has demonstrated courage and excellence in equity-rooted civics education. We hope to honor teachers who are meeting the challenges of our times.

This award is dedicated to the memory of Darcy Elaine Richie, the Chief Program and Impact Officer at Generation Citizen, who passed away in April 2022. Darcy was tenacious in her belief in the power of young people and their teachers. Throughout her career, she was a classroom teacher, principal, professor for first-year teachers for 13 years, and key member of the Generation Citizen team whose leadership inspired thousands of teachers and students. Darcy was steadfast in her commitment to justice and equity, and always full of genuine encouragement for everyone in her life. She is deeply missed.

Policy, Advocacy, & Field Building

Relevant, action-oriented civic education will strengthen confidence in our public institutions, reweave the fabric of our democracy, and activate the ingenuity of young people in solving public problems.

Civics Day Spotlight:

Hoover Middle School San Francisco, CA

Mr. Brown's 8th grade class was curious about the impact of COVID-19 on the city's unhoused population. As part of their research, State Senator Scott Weiner spoke to the class about housing in California and approaches the legislature is considering. The class decided to advocate for the passage of Project Homekey, which would convert unused hotels into housing.



Vote16USA

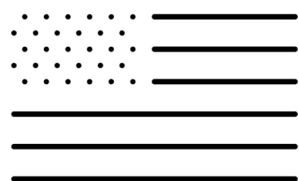
Vote16USA is a GC-led national campaign to extend voting rights to 16-and 17-year olds at the state and local levels. This year, we supported and partnered closely with local Vote16 coalitions in four states.

GC also launched a three-year partnership with The Body Shop, as part of the Be Seen, Be Heard campaign. Support for Vote16USA provides opportunities to collaborate on communications and grassroots advocacy initiatives, amplify the Vote16 message with a national audience, and mobilize newly engaged advocates.

50x2026

Launched by Generation Citizen in the fall of 2020, 50x2026 is a multi-year campaign focused on elevating civics education standards in all 50 states by 2026, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

This year, 50x2026 worked on legislation expanding civics in the classroom – including introducing a bill in Minnesota, preserving access to civics education in Kentucky and Oklahoma in 2022, and helping to pass legislation in New Jersey and Rhode Island in 2022. We are also supporting local leaders pushing back on anti-civic legislation and building a community of allies.



50x2026

Research

We are partnering with Encore and Millennial Action Project, within the New Pluralist funder collaborative, to conduct an analysis of 50 civic organizations that are working to cultivate cross-generational relationships. This research will share best practices on cross-generational civic collaboration and relationship-building.

PARTNERSHIPS & COALITIONS

Through our partnerships, we are able to listen deeply, participate meaningfully, and advocate together for stronger civic education policies to support an intergenerational movement for a truly participatory democracy.



NEW ENGLAND

Massachusetts and Rhode Island continue to be leaders in civic education thanks to strong coalition work. The Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition, led by GC, successfully campaigned for an increase to \$2 million in funding for professional development and curriculum design. In Rhode Island, both the Civic Literacy Act of 2021 and this year's campaign shaping its implementation were the result of major advocacy by the GC-led Rhode Island Civic Learning Coalition.



OKLAHOMA

In Oklahoma, Generation Citizen is leading civic education expansion in the face of difficult political challenges. Led by GC, the Oklahoma Civic Learning Coalition, in partnership with over 20 organizations and 50+ individuals, advocated against limits to civic education and held an Interim Study to brief legislators in the State House Higher Education and Career Tech Committee. This was a critical step toward equitable access to civic education for all Oklahoma students.



NEW YORK

GC New York is a leading participant of the New York State Civic Readiness Initiative and Task Force, which is working to create a civics-oriented pathway to high school graduation. GC is providing technical assistance, forging new district partnerships, and conducting policy advocacy through the DemocracyReady NY coalition to make sure as many students as possible can earn the Seal of Civic Readiness as they graduate.



TEXAS

Although Texas has faced major policy challenges to civic education, our partnerships with districts and organizations have deepened. This year, GC worked with the Austin Independent School District on their Equity Action Plan, and with allies like the Children's Defense Fund-Texas and the Intercultural Development Research Association to continue advancing civic education efforts in a difficult political climate.

Field-building Through Thought Leadership: GC In the News

**We're bringing civic education to the forefront
in national and regional media coverage.**

A Message from GC's Board of Directors

2022 has been a momentous year for GC as we continue to work towards strengthening the future of our democracy.

As the national landscape continues to threaten our democratic institutions, with states restricting what can be discussed in classrooms and local communities facing an erosion of trust, it can be daunting to pinpoint where to take action. But as with any transformative change, the best place to start is in our communities, alongside our neighbors.

We are proud of the fact that GC teachers emphasize that democracy doesn't start at the ballot box – it starts in our everyday lives. These are the lessons taught every day in GC classrooms: Experiential, community-based civic education helps students build an understanding of the tools they have to impact their surroundings, to collaborate, and to build community.

GC continues to be a leader in providing high quality civic education where students learn by doing: In addition to delivering our curriculum to more than 28,000 students this year – an increase of more than 8,000 from last year – we continue to adapt our approach to ensure access to quality civic education, no matter where students live. Our team built new partnerships at the local level and grew the Equity in Civics and 50x2026 coalitions across the country.

Centering those most impacted by the issues we're tackling is foundational at GC, and we were thrilled to welcome three GC alumni to our National Board of Directors this year.

As we look forward to a new year, we're deeply grateful to our GC teachers, our students, and our supporters – you are critical partners in the crucial work of building a stronger, more inclusive democracy.



Julie Hudman, Chair



Jane Lo, Vice Chair

Thank you to all who make our work possible.

We are grateful to the teachers, students, community members,
and board members who help us bring civics to life.

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Thank You!

**Many thanks to the
generous supporters
who made significant
gifts during GC's 2022
Fiscal Year.**

Your partnership and commitment
is deeply appreciated. Together,
we can activate a movement of
young people prepared to lead and
transform our democracy.

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\$250,000+

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The Assembly

Thank you very much to our founding members of The Assembly, a community of forward-thinking, impact-driven individuals and philanthropic partners committed to GC's mission and purpose.

Brent Henry &
Minnie Baylor Henry

Dan Tangherlini

Kunal & Anita Modi

Leon & Brenda Brathwaite

Lisa Isroff

Lynette & Leslie (Skip)
Griffin

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\$500 - \$999

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Andrew Browning
Andrew Swanson

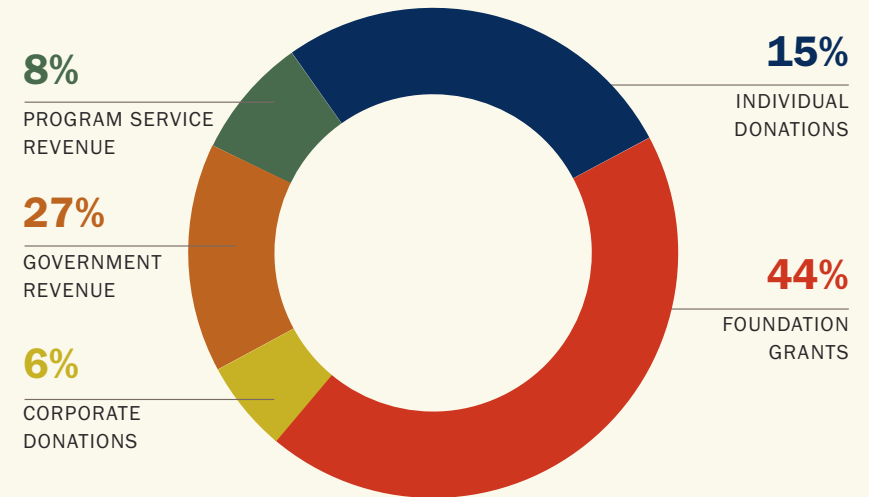
Betsy Shimberg
Bill Stone
Brent Felitto
Brian & Cara Doyle
Brown University
Christian Hoffmann III
Christine Khetarpal
Colin Murphy
College of the Canyons
Corey Maillette
Fritz Buerger
Hanna Rodriguez-Farrar
Harry Shippis
Ira Schreck
Jeff Alexander & Jocelyn Bailin
Jeffrey Freedman & Marie Boylan
Jennie Goldstone
Jo Coleman
Karl Palasz
Kathy Uitvlugt
Laurel Bliss
Lillian Kivel
Matthew Jose
Matthew Karpas
Melissa Vail
Patricia Hixon
Patrick Compton
Peter Kuliesis
Rachel Black
Rishi Bhandari
Sam Reidt
Sanjyot Dunung
Schauenberg Family Fund
Schwab Charitable Fund
Scott Warren
Spencer Crawford
Wendee Wolfson

Our Financials

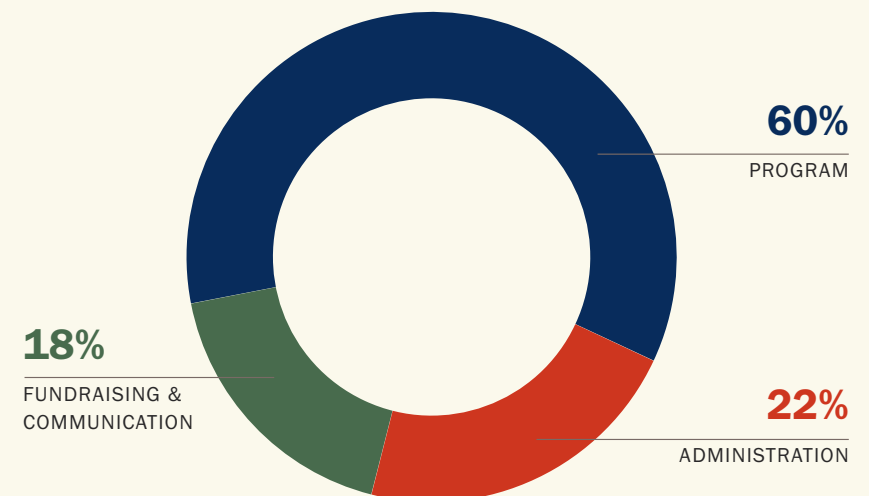
In the 2022 fiscal year, Generation Citizen raised \$4,736,553 and spent \$3,782,323.

Generation Citizen made key investments in program development, communication, policy & advocacy, and strategic planning to enable sustained growth and increased impact over the next three years. We secured multi-year, philanthropic investments in support of our strategic growth plan, ending the year with over \$1 million in assets received for future years.

REVENUES



EXPENSES



Take Action with Generation Citizen

Solutions are only possible when we work together. Join us to prepare the next generation to be the leaders for tomorrow. Here's how you can lead change with Generation Citizen:



Attend a Civics Day (Virtual or In-person)



Become a Community Advisor



Host a virtual GC gathering

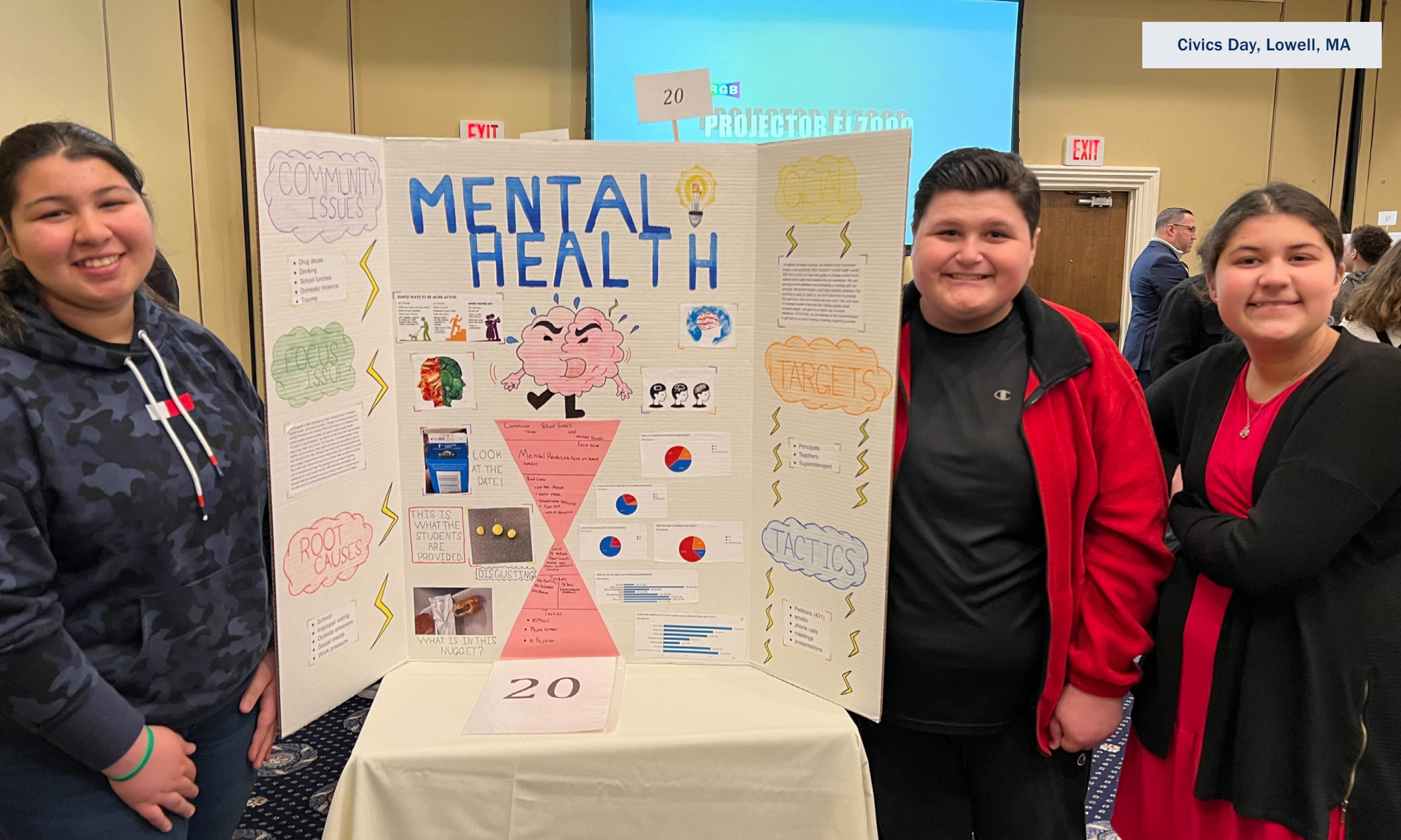


Join a GC Board

To learn more, please email: info@generationcitizen.org



Civics Day, Oklahoma City



Together in Democracy

2022 ANNUAL REPORT