

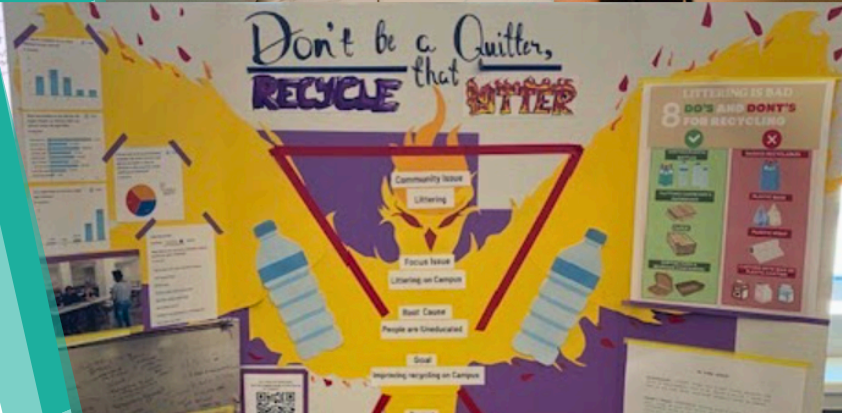
- Welcome
- Generation Citizen
- Opening Remarks - Civics Education
- ~~Keynote Speaker~~
- Gallery Walk
- Generation Citizen Teacher Awards
- Closing Remarks
- Lunch

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

WEST

California and Washington

The Future in Focus:
Youth Leading Change



Letter from Our Executive Director

I didn't major in history or political science or study public policy in college. I didn't teach in the classroom. Instead, I'm here driven by a profound belief in the potential of young people. I do this work to give them voice and agency over their lives, to help them become champions and authors of their life stories, and to inspire them to be civic community leaders.

As I reflect on my education and where I would be if I had a strong civic education in high school, I ask myself this question. Would I have been able to speak up and speak out about the important things in my community? Growing up, I often felt disconnected from the larger issues affecting my community. As a daughter of immigrant parents, civic engagement was something others did, distant and foreign, only for people I didn't look like.

Now more than ever, I think about what it means to be a citizen in the broadest sense. For me, it is about a community's connectedness and the opportunity to lead and enact change for the better, strengthening a democracy we can all stand by. Civic education allows young people to create and build a sense of citizenship in their communities. They aspire to contribute positively and meaningfully, build community, and develop a sense of belonging and human connection in times like this.

What does civic education mean in the 21st century? This is the focus of our work here at Generation Citizen. In partnership with schools, we create opportunities for today's youth to experience civic engagement opportunities that empower them to take a stand and exercise their civic responsibilities. Our students see their potential as community changemakers and understand that their voices are not just important but crucial. I deeply believe that by fostering civic skills, knowledge, and motivation in young people, we are building a stronger, more just, and more vibrant democracy for all. When we equip young people with the means to lead, collaborate, and advocate, we invest in a brighter future for all our communities.

The West Region saw tremendous growth in 2024, expanding school partnerships, engaging more teachers and students in community-based civics, and witnessing inspiring projects embodying our mission. From Washington State to California, our team's dedication and the passion of our teachers and students have driven meaningful systemic change in their communities. We're excited to continue building on this momentum and empowering young leaders in the West, knowing that our civic education work is making a difference.

This report will share more about the inspiring work of our students, teachers, and partners throughout the West. Through our programming, we see GC students actively listening, conducting thorough research on local issues, leading meaningful discussions, and challenging existing systems that may not fully serve their needs. The impact of their participation in a GC classroom illustrates that democracy thrives when student voices are not only heard but also valued. Their passion and perseverance underscore this work's importance, reminding us of its significance. Every student deserves the chance to make their voice heard and to create positive change in their community in the 21st century.

With deep gratitude and appreciation,
Morgan Chong Kim



MORGAN CHONG KIM

Executive Director, West

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What We Do



COMMUNITY-BASED 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 young people 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. Together with our partners, we advocate for funding and support to preserve and strengthen access to civic education. We provide young people with the tools they need to lead through alumni engagement, fellowship programs, and leadership training.



"It's so important for students to know that their thoughts and opinions matter. I love classes like Generation Citizen's because they empower students. They show them ways to participate effectively in our democracy and advocate for policies that matter to them. They teach them how to be civically engaged, which is an important life skill."

- GC Student, West Region

OUR 2023-24 WEST IMPACT

870 middle & high school students engaged

29 teachers delivered GC's curriculum & received training, professional development, and support

at **15 SCHOOLS** across **CALIFORNIA**

OUR 2023-24 NATIONAL REACH & IMPACT

33,570 middle & high school students engaged

544 teachers delivered GC's curriculum & received training, professional development, and support

90% of students in GC's classes were students of color

99% of teachers agree that the GC curriculum supported their ability to develop a democratic classroom culture

98% of GC students showed adoption of civic skills

1,344 STUDENT CIVICS PROJECTS COMPLETED!



Generation Citizen West saw a remarkable **87%** growth in student numbers compared to the previous program year, highlighting the increasing demand for civic education and youth engagement across the state. The program reached **23** middle school classrooms and **70** high school classrooms.

CIVICS DAY OVERVIEW

Generation Citizen hosted **five** successful Civics Days held across **California**, including **three** local Civic Days and **two** district-wide events.

Across all events, students presented impactful projects on pressing community concerns, including:

- Student mental health and well-being
- Youth homelessness
- Fentanyl awareness and drug prevention
- Campus beautification and clean air
- Bathroom safety and hygiene
- Reducing single-use plastic on school campuses
- Elevating student voice in school decision-making



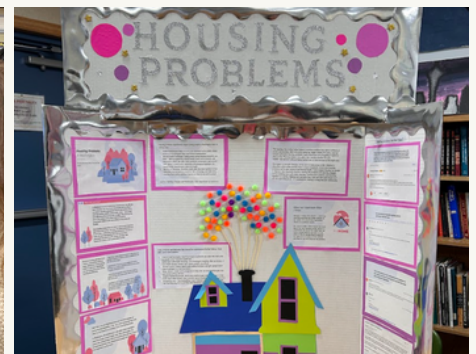
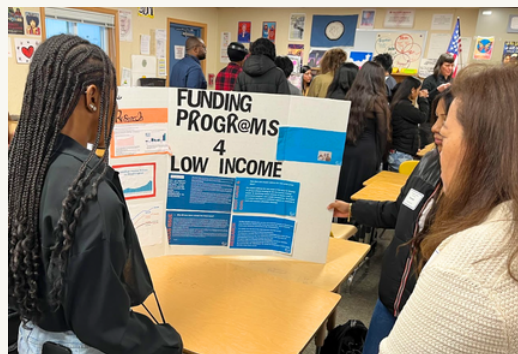
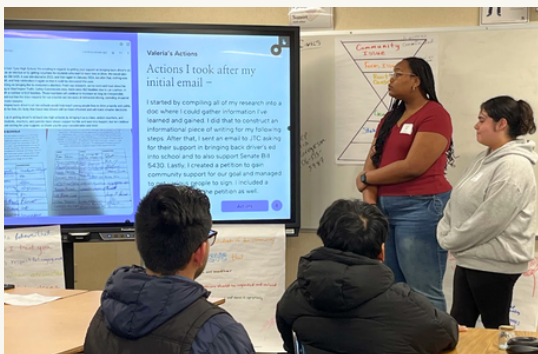
CIVICS DAY SPOTLIGHT

Tyee High School hosted its **first-ever Civics Day in Washington State**, and it was a resounding success. Led by teacher **Ms. Johnson**, senior students tackled two major community issues: **bringing Driver's Education back to high schools and affordable housing**.

Through their Generation Citizen Civics class, students developed **critical skills like research, public speaking, digital communication (including Zoom), and direct outreach to elected officials and city departments**. Their advocacy efforts were met with enthusiasm and respect from community advisors and local leaders.

One student called it their favorite class, having found new self-confidence through civic engagement. Their message was clear: ***"We are the future."***

The day highlighted the power of youth leadership and left a lasting impression on everyone involved. **Community Advisors praised the students' work, recognizing them as the next generation of changemakers and leaders.** Tyee Civics Day wasn't just an event—it was the beginning of a legacy.



LBUSD STUDENTS ADDRESS MENTAL HEALTH, HOMELESSNESS, AND MORE

In its second year of partnership with Generation Citizen, the **Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD)** saw a powerful evolution in civic education. This new cohort of LBUSD teachers is leveraging their first-year experience to mentor and guide their students with increased confidence and impact.

For many, the **GC class** has become a model for what **modern, project-based, student-centered education** looks like. One teacher even uses his GC course as the showcase during classroom observations—**highlighting collaboration, real-world learning, and student voice in action.**

Inspired by last year's advocacy efforts—which included projects on addiction recovery support and peer-led interventions—this year's students are tackling a range of urgent community issues. Their **projects are grounded in research, collaboration, and outreach**, often involving:

- Meetings with elected officials and local leaders
- Community member interviews
- Surveys of their peers

Some of the issues being addressed include:

- Teen pregnancy
- Mental health and trauma support
- Homelessness and food insecurity
- Domestic violence and human trafficking
- Environmental concerns like waste and air pollution

Students are not just participating—they're **showing up with purpose**. Many chose to enroll in GC-led classes because they had heard about the impact from peers who had done it before.

We are seeing a district-wide movement of youth leadership, **driven by passionate students and empowered educators, all committed to building a more just, responsive, and engaged community.**



STUDENTS TAKE CIVIC ACTION TO PROTECT FREE TRANSIT ACCESS

Students at Life Learning Academy in San Francisco took action when they learned that funding for the **Free Muni for Youth Program**—which provides free public transportation for students—was at risk. San Francisco’s ongoing budget and funding challenges meant that this essential program could be reduced or eliminated. For many of these students, public transit is not just a convenience—it’s a lifeline to education, work, and opportunity.

During the fall semester, students conducted research, refined their policy goals, and began advocating to save the program.

Their efforts included meeting with **Supervisor Matt Dorsey**, who responded thoughtfully and was committed to looking into their concerns. His visit was a powerful moment—**proof that their voices were being heard at the highest levels of local government**. Although the semester ended, the students’ dedication did not. They continued their advocacy into the spring. Inspired by their passion and persistence, Ms. Karn hosted GC’s Civics class again in the spring to support ongoing civic engagement.

The students’ campaign wasn’t just about transportation—it **was about access, equity, and community empowerment**. *"It's not just about getting to school,"* Maria, one of the students, explained. *"It's about opportunity, about freedom."*



“

“One of the main changes I have noticed in students’ attitudes toward civic engagement is that they care more about the discussions that affect their lives and want to change the status quo. By status quo, the students would like to see change in the quality of life of their families and their communities that are not thriving...Participation in GC projects has significantly increased students’ critical thinking abilities, especially regarding issues that directly impact their lives and communities.”

*– Elizabeth Karn
Director of Alumni & Transition Services,
Community School Liaison
at Life Learning Academy*

”




Did you know? After completing a project, 92% of GC students report having developed the skills necessary to participate in public life, and—perhaps more importantly—81% report that they believe they can make a difference in the public square.

Advancing Youth Civic Engagement in Albany, CA

Generation Citizen celebrated a major civic milestone in **Albany, California**, which became the **first city in the U.S. to lower the voting age for all local elections** through the successful passage of **Measure QQ**  in the November election. With an overwhelming **64% of voters in favor**, Albany has set a strong precedent for the growing movement to give young people a voice in their local elections. This victory is a powerful example of **grassroots advocacy** influencing public policy and expanding democratic participation.

A key factor in their success was the powerful, firsthand testimony from youth themselves. **Dozens of 16- and 17-year-olds spoke at city council meetings, sharing personal stories about why voting rights mattered to them.** They highlighted the issues that directly impact their lives—like education, climate change, and gun violence—and **expressed frustration at being excluded from decisions shaping their future.** These authentic youth voices brought the issue to life, showing that **young people aren't just ready to vote—they're already actively engaged in their communities.**

Although implementation details are still unfolding, the **Vote16 Research Network** has developed an **Implementation Guide**  to support cities like Albany and others pursuing similar initiatives. Generation Citizen aims to share lessons learned and connect stakeholders to streamline future efforts and help avoid potential drawbacks.

"It shows that even in a political climate where change can be difficult to achieve, grassroots efforts led by young people can make a real impact."

”

– LaJuan Allen
Executive Director, Vote16USA

State-Level Policy & Advocacy Highlights

In **California**, Generation Citizen played an active role in **supporting Senate Bill 1094**, authored by **Senator Monique Limón**. The bill aimed to **embed civic engagement education across grades 1–12**, ensuring that students throughout their K–12 experience would gain the skills, knowledge, and opportunities to become informed and active participants in democracy.

Although **SB 1094 has not passed yet**, **GC remains committed to advocating for its principles**—continuing to track and support legislation that **promotes youth voice, civic literacy, and participatory learning**, and will remain a vocal advocate for future policies aligned with SB 1094's mission.

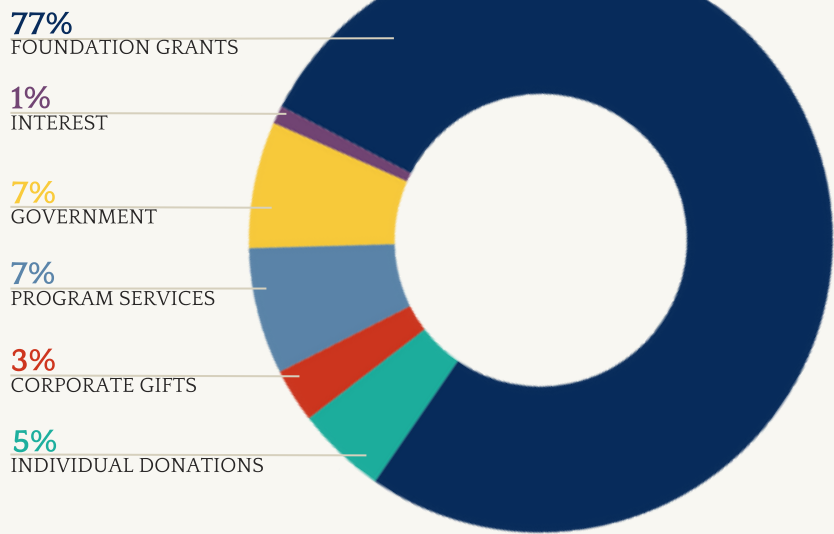
OUR FINANCIALS

In the 2024 Fiscal Year, Generation Citizen raised \$7,424,838.30 and spent \$5,153,515.50.

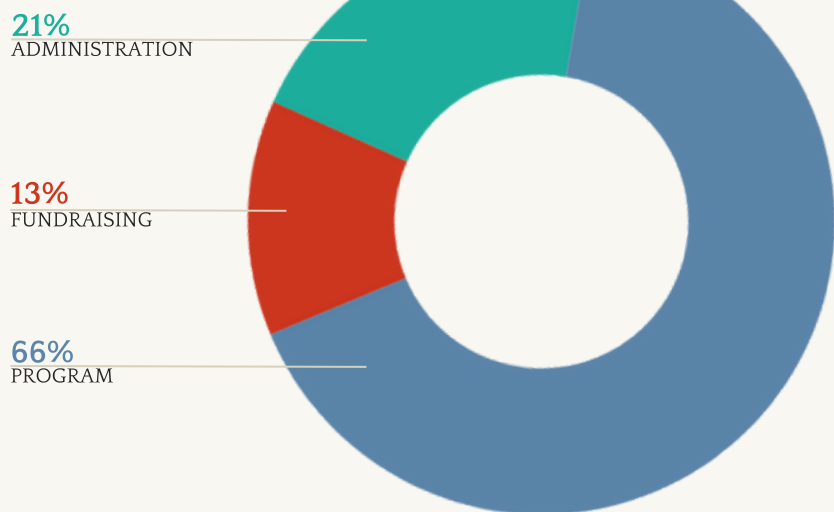
Generation Citizen was able to invest in critical new capacity this fiscal year thanks to generous multi-year gifts from donors, including significant gifts from New Profit and Yield Giving.

Due to these and other generous investments, we brought on additional staff focused on partnership development and program delivery as we grew the number of schools, teachers and students we worked with, and laid the foundation for future growth into new states.

REVENUES



EXPENSES



Many thanks to the generous supporters who made significant gifts during
Generation Citizen's 2024 Fiscal Year.

*Your partnership and commitment are deeply appreciated. Together, we are empowering a
movement of young people prepared to lead and transform our democracy.*

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"Being involved in this class and participating in discussions, debates, and projects has deepened my understanding of how our voices and actions can influence policies, create movements, and ensure that the issues that matter to us are heard."

— GC Student, South Region

"Your voice, your mind, the things that matter to you is what makes education what it is...you have to really think about what are the things that matter to you and your community."

— Dr. Nyshawana Francis-Thompson
Chief of Curriculum & Instruction for The School District of Philadelphia



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"This civics work—this is who I am."

— GC Student, West Region

"Our youth feel empowered when they can potentially make a change and especially to have adults listen to them, and hear them, and have conversations with them about what they think is important, it really does empower them."

— Tristan Williams
Department Head, Social Studies at Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School