

# 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT



**CIVICS  
LEARNING  
PROJECT**

BUILDING CIVIC SPACES  
**TOGETHER**

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Dear Friends and Supporters,

What a year it has been for Civics Learning Project! With your support, we saw another record breaking year. Through our professional developments, curriculum, and experiential programs, we impacted over 173,000 students. That's 25,800 more students than we reached last year!

**Your generosity was critical to deepening our reach** across the state and achieving some BIG wins, including:

- **Another National Title for Oregon's We the People teams, won by Grant High School.** Our state champions, Lincoln High, also placed in the national top ten. This is the seventh national title that one of our Oregon teams has won in the last 14 years!
- **Both Roosevelt High School in Portland and Cascade Middle School in Bend earned the highest honors for their advocacy projects at the Project Citizen national showcase.** Roosevelt High School students highlighted the impacts of Title IX policies in Portland Public Schools, and Cascade's middle schoolers spotlighted greater awareness of the ecological impacts of pet owners.

- **6,313 students engaged in the Courthouse Experience Tours, one of our most popular programs.** This initiative provides an authentic opportunity to learn about the justice system by observing real cases and court procedures in county courthouses across the state including Deschutes, Jackson, Lane, and Multnomah counties.
- **CLP welcomed over 500 students around the state for our annual Law Day conferences** in Metro/Portland, Southern Willamette Valley, Southern Oregon, and Central Oregon regions. Dozens of volunteer speakers including elected leaders, prominent judges, and issue experts from around the state discussed an array of topics to inspire students on the opportunities and challenges in the legal field.
- **Over 125 participants attended our annual 2023 Oregon Civics Conference for educators, featuring Oregon legislators, government and policy speakers, and a keynote by Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum.** The teachers from around the state who attended this event brought their new content knowledge, teaching strategies, and community connections back to the approximately 23,000 students they teach.

**All told, you helped us reach almost one out of every three students in this state!**

We are especially proud to report that support for rural communities grew by 35%, impacting nearly 14,000 more students in rural communities than in the 2022-'23 school year



Overall, CLP’s program managers doubled professional development opportunities and tripled classroom consultations for educators!

**We could not have done this work without your support.**

Your support and commitment to our young people is more important than ever. Your generosity inspires thousands of young people to believe that they can build stronger communities and a stronger democracy. On behalf of the Civics Learning Project staff and board, thank you so much for all that you do.

Gratefully,

SAM KANG  
Executive Director, Civics Learning Project

# BUILDING CIVIC SPACES TOGETHER

In 2023-24, Civics Learning Project (CLP) continued its mission of empowering students and educators across Oregon to actively shape the future of our democracy.

With over 173,000 students engaged in CLP programs, the learning was dynamic, hands-on, and deeply engaging. Students didn't just learn about democracy; they lived it. Whether they were debating critical issues, understanding the legislative process, or participating in simulated congressional hearings and mock trials, they gained firsthand experience in what it means to be informed and active participants in society.

This year wasn't just about learning—it was about a deep recognition that in a democracy, all voices are important, and voting isn't the only way to make changes in our community. In classrooms across Oregon, students discovered that their voices matter, that their actions influence change, and their rights always come with responsibilities. They learned that their roles in their communities hold the power to create lasting impact, and that our democracy flourishes when everyone gets involved.

As we reflect on the year, the importance of these lessons stands out. The work we accomplished in 2023-24 laid the groundwork for a more engaged, equitable, and resilient future for our educators and students in Oregon. We're proud to continue leading the charge in civics education, empowering every student in Oregon to take their rightful place in shaping our democracy.



1,200  
STUDENTS

Number of students who attended the Annual Law Day conferences in regions across Oregon

Number of students engaged  
in the Courthouse Experience Tours

**6,313**  
STUDENTS



## ABOUT CIVICS LEARNING PROJECT

*Civics Learning Project is a non-profit organization of individuals, educators, lawyers, and civic leaders working to equip students with the knowledge, essential skills, and motivation to participate in our democracy.*



CLP support growth across  
Oregon's rural communities

**35%**  
GROWTH

# THE WORK IN ACTION

# CIVICS EDUCATION

*Since 1983, Civics Learning Project has offered a wide variety of **interactive learning programs** for both students and teachers all over Oregon.*

## COURTHOUSE EXPERIENCE TOURS

One of our most popular programs provides an authentic opportunity to learn about the justice system by observing real cases and court procedures. In addition to providing in-person tours in Multnomah County, we held tours in Lane and Jackson Counties this year, reaching 1,336 students.

## CURRENT EVENTS

Each week during the school year, Civics Learning Project delivered timely, well-curated content and resources on up-to-the-minute topics to 873 teachers, reaching over 104,000 students! These well-established, flexible resources supported learning in classrooms in almost every Oregon county.

## MOCK TRIAL

This year, sixty teams representing over 1,500 students competed in Mock Trial competitions in all four regions of Oregon. In addition, dozens of teachers participated in professional development opportunities to implement the program within their classroom curriculum, giving students direct experience with the workings of our justice system. Thank you to the hundreds of volunteer judges and coaches who helped make this program a success.





## WE THE PEOPLE

Both an in-class curriculum and an extracurricular competition, *We the People: The Citizen and The Constitution* is an active learning program designed to foster a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the institutions of government. Besides the dozens of students who engaged with this curriculum in their classrooms, 575 students participated in our annual Oregon competition, and Oregon’s Grant High School won the National Competition, with the Lincoln team placing in the top 10 national teams.

## LAW DAY

CLP held engaging student conferences in Jackson, Deschutes, Lane and Multnomah Counties this year. Over 500 students interacted with professionals from a wide variety of legal, law-related and civic organizations, gaining valuable career education in addition to hearing from inspirational presenters.

## STREET LAW

This curriculum educates young people about the ways in which the law applies to their everyday lives. Students from Lewis & Clark Law School are trained by CLP to team teach legal topics in local high schools. This year, 23 law students, 12 classroom teachers, and 450 students participated in this program.

| OREGON CONTACTS BY REGION FY 2023-24 |                     |                     |                        |                        |                          |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                      | Individual Teachers | Individual Students | Total Teacher Contacts | Overall Student Impact | Percentage of Our Impact | Percentage of Oregon Population |
| Metro                                | 414                 | 49,356              | 547                    | 67,200                 | 29.85%                   | 42.89%                          |
| Northwest                            | 64                  | 4,678               | 82                     | 6,344                  | 2.82%                    | 6.02%                           |
| Valley                               | 502                 | 59,219              | 723                    | 59,710                 | 26.52%                   | 25.89%                          |
| Central                              | 245                 | 35,634              | 338                    | 39,182                 | 17.40%                   | 7.04%                           |
| Southern                             | 194                 | 27,061              | 288                    | 38,532                 | 17.12%                   | 13.69%                          |
| Eastern                              | 114                 | 9,669               | 156                    | 14,163                 | 6.29%                    | 4.48%                           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>1,533</b>        | <b>173,184</b>      | <b>2,134</b>           | <b>225,131</b>         |                          |                                 |



## COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT

Students develop the collaborative skills to identify local issues of concern, engage with appropriate civic leaders and stakeholders, and propose solutions. This highly interactive curriculum culminates in a showcase, and provides students with the opportunity to share their policy proposal, often with local decision makers. Two Oregon CAP projects, one from Roosevelt High School and one from Cascade Middle School (Bend) earned the highest honors at the Center for Civic Education's National Showcase. We offered CAP professional development to 53 teachers across the state, impacting approximately 5,000 students who will be exposed to this important civic program.





## OREGON CIVICS CONFERENCE FOR TEACHERS

This annual conference, supported by the Oregon Legislature and the Department of Education, offers teachers the opportunity to engage with officials from all levels of government. As we returned to Salem after two virtual conference years, 78 teachers participated in sessions, engaged with legislators, and learned from their peers. They shared the benefits of this day with over 12,000 students.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

In addition to the formal programs we offer, CLP works directly with educators, meeting them in their classrooms and in a variety of training settings. We're proud to be a trusted resource for teachers, and this school year we consulted with over 400 teachers, who took the benefits of this engagement to 32,373 students.



# RAVES & OVATIONS FROM OUR SUPPORTERS

*Civic-minded Oregonians share what CLP means to them.*



"Civics education is more than just teaching a class; it is a pathway to elevating equity and an opportunity for giving voice to the multiple perspectives existing in our community spaces."

— **AMY K. FIFTH-LINCE**  
**2024 CIVIC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR**

"{The 2023 Oregon Civics Conference} impacted me substantially. I am always a teacher, and I teach because I love the pursuit of knowledge, yet I myself rarely have the privilege to sit in the chair of a student. To sit in on the breakout sessions made me feel as if I was back in grad school, which was invigorating. It also gave me a new appreciation and respect for my own profession to see so many educators and government employees gathered in this common effort."

— **TEACHER**  
**TAFT HIGH SCHOOL**



**“Civics Learning Project showed me I had the power to make change in my community** [and has] helped me learn to write effective arguments, do research, work in tight knit teams, [and] present policy proposals... I know I will use all of these skills throughout the rest of my life.”

— **AILI DEIBERT, ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL  
2024 RIDGLEY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

“It was bittersweet leaving the class for the last time—the {high school}students were so grateful and sad to see me leave, which was really heartwarming. I’m going to miss watching them wrestle with new concepts and getting to know each student’s personality and learning style. It was such an amazing challenge to develop a teaching style that worked for my class, and now that it’s over, I’ll miss utilizing the skills I fostered. I’m left feeling so grateful for and fulfilled by this experience.”

**STREET LAW STUDENT  
LEWIS AND CLARK LAW SCHOOL**

“Mock Trial broke my shell, and most importantly, helped me find my voice. “It was bittersweet leaving the class for the last time—the {high school}students were so grateful and sad to see me leave, which was really heartwarming. I’m going to miss watching them wrestle with new concepts and getting to know each student’s personality and learning style. It was such an amazing challenge to develop a teaching style that worked for my class, and now that it’s over, I’ll miss utilizing the skills I fostered. I’m left feeling so grateful for and fulfilled by this experience.”

— **OREGON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT**



# THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

*Thanks to the support of the Oregon business community, foundations, and individual gifts, Civics Learning Project is the leader in preparing youth to become informed participants in democratic society.*

## INDIVIDUAL GIFTS

### DEMOCRACY BUILDERS

**\$50,000 AND ABOVE**

Robb & Julie Ball  
Peter & Leslie Richter  
Robert & Marilyn Ridgley,  
Classroom Law Project  
co-founders  
Mara & Rob Shlachter

### SOCIETY BUILDERS

**\$30,000 TO \$49,999**

Jean & Rich Josephson  
Jean Kerr Maurer

### COMMUNITY BUILDERS

**\$15,000 TO \$29,999**

Margaret Kirkpatrick & Earl  
Blumenauer  
Peter Koehler Jr. & Noel  
Hanlon  
Jollee & Stuart Patterson  
Joan P. Snyder DAF  
Randy Weisberg/Mitzvah  
Fund/OCF  
Merri Souther Wyatt

### CLASSROOM BUILDERS

**\$5,000 TO \$14,999**

Thomas A. Balmer & Mary  
Louise McClintock  
Robert & Nell Bonaparte  
Jim & Julie Carter

W. Michael Gillette & Toni  
T. Boone  
William Howe  
Steve & Lenore Johansen  
Lisa Kaner  
Hon. Sue Leeson  
Jack Lundeen  
Kimberly McGair  
John McGrory  
Katherine & Daniel Nguyen  
Jay Nusbaum & Karla Zirbes  
U.S. District Judge Michael  
H. Simon & Congresswoman  
Suzanne Bonamici  
Steven Wilker & Lainie Block  
Wilker  
Anonymous



An unforgettable evening! We honored Governor Barbara Roberts with the *Jonathan Newman Legal Citizen Award* and featured a fireside chat with Dave Miller, aired statewide on Oregon Public Radio. Huge thanks to our first-ever presenting sponsor, Underdog Law Office, for making it all possible! — **Sam Kang**

# ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT

## CIRCLE MEMBERS

### President's Circle

American Board of Trial  
Advocates, Oregon Chapter  
Lewis & Clark Law School  
Maurer Mediation  
Miller Nash LLP  
Oregon State Bar  
Oregon Trial Lawyers  
Association

### Jefferson Circle

Bambuzza Hospitality Group  
Bradley Bernstein Sands LLP  
Cosgrave Vergeer Kester LLP  
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP  
Dunn Carney LLP  
IMS/Tsongas Litigation  
Consulting  
Lane Powell PC  
Markowitz Herbold PC  
Perkins Coie LLP  
Schwabe Williamson &  
Wyatt PC  
The Standard  
Stoel Rives LLP  
Tonkon Torp LLP  
Umpqua Bank

### Madison Circle

Buchalter  
Buckley Law PC  
NW Natural  
Stoll Berne

## LEGAL CITIZEN OF THE YEAR SPONSORS

**Champion Sponsor (\$25,000)**  
Underdog Law Office

**Advocate Sponsors (\$5,000)**  
Rep. Earl Blumenauer &  
Margaret Kirkpatrick  
Cable Huston LLP  
Friends of Geoff Stuckart

**Supporter Sponsors (\$2,500)**  
Angeli Law Group LLC  
McEwen Gisvold LLP  
Buchanan Angeli Altschul &  
Sullivan LLP  
SphereMD  
Jason Trombley  
Jim Carter and Rich  
Josephson  
ECO Northwest  
Becker Capital  
Management

**Ally Sponsors (\$1,000)**  
Chief Justice Meagan Flynn  
and Dan Keppler  
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici &  
Hon. Michael Simon  
Menashe Properties  
Port of Portland  
Peter Wolochow  
Larkins Vacura Kayser  
Foster Garvey  
Hilltop Public Solutions

## FOUNDATIONS

ABOTA Foundation  
Ben B. Cheney Foundation  
Carpenter Foundation  
Cow Creek Umpqua Indian  
Foundation  
Elwood Foundation  
Ford Family Foundation  
Herbert A. Templeton  
Foundation  
Jackson Foundation  
Maybelle Clark MacDonald  
Fund  
Miller Foundation  
MJ Murdock Trust  
Oregon Community  
Foundation  
Oregon Law Foundation  
Oregon State Capitol  
Foundation  
Randall Charitable Trust  
Reser Family Foundation  
Rose E. Tucker Charitable  
Trust  
Roundhouse Foundation  
RW Naito Foundation  
Saling Foundation  
SN Charitable Foundation  
Spirit Mountain Community  
Fund  
State Farm Community  
Grants  
Weyerhaeuser Giving Fund

## JOIN OUR COMMUNITY OF SUPPORTERS

Your support helps us reach students and teachers throughout Oregon. We rely on volunteers and donors to keep our programs going.

The gift of your time and financial support makes it all possible.

**SCAN THE QR CODE TO DONATE**



# FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

With comparative totals as of June 30, 2024

| Assets                                       | 2024                | 2023               |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents                    | \$ 376,040          | \$ 599,582         |
| Grants and contributions receivable          | \$ 170,854          | \$ 200,730         |
| Pledges receivable, net                      | \$ 61,380           | \$ 90,450          |
| Investments                                  | \$ 310,342          | \$ 264,632         |
| Prepaid expense                              | \$ 8,655            | \$ 7,116           |
| Property and equipment, net                  | \$16,222            | \$19,979           |
| Operating lease right-of-use assets          | \$ 134,464          | \$ 183,179         |
| <b>Total assets</b>                          | <b>\$ 1,077,917</b> | <b>\$1,365,668</b> |
| <b>Liabilities and net assets</b>            |                     |                    |
| Accounts payable                             | \$ 16,976           | \$ 43,710          |
| Accrued payroll and related taxes            | \$ 19,283           | \$ 22,789          |
| Operating lease liabilities                  | \$ 133,673          | \$ 189,733         |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>                     | <b>\$ 169,932</b>   | <b>\$ 256,272</b>  |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                            |                     |                    |
| Without donor restrictions                   | \$ 160,000          | \$ 160,000         |
| Board designated for Oregon Reach Initiative | \$ 386,189          | \$ 425,154         |
| Available for operations                     | \$ 546,189          | \$ 585,154         |
| With donor restrictions                      | \$ 361,796          | \$ 524,242         |
| <b>Total net assets</b>                      | <b>\$ 907,985</b>   | <b>\$1,109,396</b> |
| <b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>      | <b>\$ 1,077,917</b> | <b>\$1,365,668</b> |

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

With comparative totals for the year ended June 30, 2023

|   | Without Donor Restrictions | With Donor Restrictions | 2024                | 2023                |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Revenues and other support</b>   |                            |                         |                     |                     |
| Corporate and individual contributions                                    | \$ 320,506                 | \$ -                    | \$ 320,506          | \$ 280,710          |
| Foundation support  | \$ 113,151                 | \$ 242,502              | \$ 355,653          | \$ 613,417          |
| Government grants and contracts   | \$ 134,429                 | \$ -                    | \$ 134,429          | \$ 126,072          |
| Legal Citizen event, net of costs of \$44,159 and \$50,348, respectively. | \$ 181,403                 | \$ -                    | \$ 181,403          | \$ 120,765          |
| Program revenue   | \$ 35,764                  | \$ -                    | \$ 35,764           | \$48,167            |
| In-kind income  | \$ 5,630                   | \$ -                    | \$ 5,630            | \$ 1,400            |
| Other income  | \$ -                       | \$ -                    | \$ -                | \$ 24               |
|   | <b>\$ 790,883</b>          | <b>\$ 242,502</b>       | <b>\$ 1,033,385</b> | <b>\$ 1,190,285</b> |
| Net assets released from restrictions                                     |                            |                         |                     |                     |
| Satisfaction of purpose restrictions                                      | \$ 389,948                 | (\$ 398,948)            | \$ -                | \$ -                |
| Satisfaction of timing restrictions                                       | \$ 15,000                  | (\$ 15,000)             | \$ -                | \$ -                |
| <b>Total revenues and other support</b>                                   | <b>\$ 1,195,831</b>        | <b>(\$162,446)</b>      | <b>\$ 1,033,385</b> | <b>\$ 1,190,285</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>   |                            |                         |                     |                     |
| Program services  | \$ 729,180                 | \$ -                    | \$ 729,180          | \$ 794,191          |
| Supporting services   |                            |                         |                     |                     |
| Management  | \$ 381,052                 | \$ -                    | \$ 381,052          | \$ 261,066          |
| Fundraising   | \$ 171,078                 | \$ -                    | \$ 171,078          | \$146,772           |
| <b>Total expenses</b>   | <b>\$ 1,281,310</b>        | <b>\$ -</b>             | <b>\$ 1,281,310</b> | <b>\$ 1,202,029</b> |
| <b>Change in net assets before changes in investments</b>                 | <b>\$ (85,479)</b>         | <b>\$ (162,446)</b>     | <b>\$ (247,925)</b> | <b>\$ (11,744)</b>  |
| Net investment income   | \$ 7,417                   | \$ -                    | \$ 7,417            | \$ 12,193           |
| Realized and unrealized gains/(loss) on investments                       | \$ 39,097                  | \$ -                    | \$ 39,097           | \$ 9,081            |
| <b>Changes in net assets</b>  | <b>\$ (38,965)</b>         | <b>\$ (162,446)</b>     | <b>\$ (201,411)</b> | <b>\$ 9,530</b>     |
| Net assets, beginning of year   | \$ 585,154                 | \$ 524,242              | \$ 1,109,396        | \$ 1,099,866        |
| <b>Net assets, end of year</b>  | <b>\$ 546,189</b>          | <b>\$ 361,796</b>       | <b>\$ 907,985</b>   | <b>\$ 1,109,396</b> |

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS & STAFF THANK YOU

## BOARD OFFICERS

**Darin Sands**  
Chair

**Hon. Martha Walters**  
Vice Chair

**Richard Josephson**  
Treasurer

## BOARD MEMBERS

Hon. Steffan  
Alexander

David Anderson

Amber Bevacqua-Lynott

Bruce Cahn

Jim Carter

Crystal Chase

Colin Cochran

Chad Colton

Sarah Crooks

Laura Dominic

Marjorie Elken

Hon. Meagan Flynn

Eric Foster

Noah Glusman

Hon. Karin Immergut

Misha Isaak

Olivier Jamin

Steve Johansen

Margaret Kirkpatrick

Peter Koehler

Josephine Kovacs

Katherine Lam

Mike McLane

Layla McLean

Beth Merrill

Jay Nusbaum

Teresa Osborne

Jollee Patterson

Kat Rosenbaum

Hon. Michael H.  
Simon

Jason Trombley

Steven Wilker

Kate Wilkinson

## STAFF

**Beth Cook**  
Deputy Director

**Amanda Coven**  
Director of K-12 Partnerships  
& Engagement

**Eabha Fitzsimons**  
Office Administrator

**Chris Hughes**  
Senior Manager, Community  
Engagement

**Timaree Joe**  
Southern Regional Program  
Manager

**Sam Kang**  
Executive Director

**Abby Laufman**  
Senior Northwest Program &  
Competition Manager

**Chris Parrucci**  
Director of Programs

**Amy Sabbadini**  
Regional Program Manager

**Jen Talik**  
Program & Event Coordinator





1300 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 190  
Portland, OR 97201 | 503.222.4424  
[www.civicslearning.org](http://www.civicslearning.org)

## FOLLOW US!

-  [Instagram @civicslearningproject](#)
-  [Facebook @civicslearningproject](#)
-  [LinkedIn Civics Learning Project](#)
-  [YouTube Civics Learning Project](#)

Non-Profit Org  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Portland, OR  
Permit # 3664

# ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

Celebrating over **40 Years** of Civics Education in Oregon