



**TEACH
DEMOCRACY**

formerly Constitutional Rights Foundation

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Our Vision

For a society in which all young people become lifelong, knowledgeable, and confident participants in our democracy.

Our Mission

Teach Democracy inspires lifelong civic engagement through interactive programs and resources for teachers and youth because our democracy depends on informed participation by all.

We seek to instill in our nation's youth a lifelong commitment to the principles expressed in our Constitution. We do this by leveraging the commitment of teachers and amplifying the voice of young people. Our civic education resources are interactive and non-partisan with an emphasis on civil discourse. They are research-based and aligned to standards. We aim to engage young people to become active and empowered participants in our democracy.

Teach Democracy is dedicated to removing barriers, especially for underserved communities, to assure equity and justice in access to civic education. We are a nonprofit, non-partisan, national, and community-serving organization. The Board of Directors is comprised of professionals and thought leaders from the fields of law, business, government, and the community. Our staff includes educators, lawyers, community organizers, fundraisers, designers, writers, and editors. They provide technical assistance and training to teachers, coordinate civic participation projects in schools and communities, organize student conferences and competitions, and develop publications in the following areas:

- **Law and Government** programs and materials focus on how groups and individuals interact with the issues, institutions, people, and processes that shape our laws and government.
- **Civic Participation** programs and materials bring to life the rights and responsibilities of active citizenship by challenging young people to explore their community and plan and implement projects that address community needs.

Chair and Vice President Report



Darin T. Beffa
Board Chair

2023 was a year of change. For over 60 years, our organization was known as Constitutional Rights Foundation. We are now officially Teach Democracy, a name that better reflects who we are and what we do.

Through the process of rebranding, our staff and board had opportunities to reflect on our mission and renewed our commitment to teachers, to students, and to the necessity of civic learning in our public schools. We believe that civic learning should . . .

- . . . make content and concepts relevant to students.
- . . . challenge students to grapple with complex issues.
- . . . require students to come to evidence-based conclusions that are their own.
- . . . provide opportunities for collaboration and authentic civic engagement.
- . . . acknowledge students as experts in their own schools and communities.



Keri Doggett
Vice President

We are reminded that our organization has been and continues to be innovative in civic learning. We pioneered project-based learning for student civic engagement in the 1970s and later through Active Citizenship Today in partnership with Close Up Foundation. Working with the Carnegie Corporation of New York, we developed the first multi-disciplinary middle grades civics program.

Teach Democracy worked with Street Law, Inc. and Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago to develop and pilot one of the first deliberation strategies for K-12 classrooms back when discussion wasn't yet something that many educators would recognize as important. Now, we provide the simple and effective Civil Conversation (CivCon) model to thousands of classrooms throughout the country.

We have worked in partnership with researchers for decades to lay the foundation for what "high quality" civic learning means, and we have worked in partnership with thousands of teachers and millions of students to turn theory into practice.

Teach Democracy has a vibrant, diverse, and creative staff who find joy in their jobs. Just as staff members acknowledge students' and teachers' lived experiences, they also bring lived civics to Teach Democracy's programs and curriculum. Many of our staff members were young participants in our programs, including Expanding Horizons Internships, and many came to work here straight from classroom teaching.

This year, we are excited to launch The Democracy Project, in partnership with USC Rossier School of Education and with Civic Engagement Research Center. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education and several foundations, The Democracy Project brings our expertise and experience in student-centered civics to bear with academic pathways to Civic Action Project. Stay tuned for more on this!

All of us at Teach Democracy thank the teachers we work with. Though underpaid and under-resourced, they show tireless dedication to their students. We pledge to continue to provide our programs and resources free to them and their students.

We thank the youth who participate in our leadership programs for their voices, energy, and ideas. We learn from them and pledge to increase opportunities for them to be heard.

We thank public schools for their trust in our capacity to create fact-based curriculum, and we pledge to continue to give careful thought to teaching civics in a non-partisan way.

Thank you to our donors, who continue to allow us to innovate, deepen, and expand our work. Here's to the future. We intend to be around for another 60 years working toward more equality, more justice, and civic learning for all.

A stylized, handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Beffa'.

Darin T. Beffa, Board Chair
Teach Democracy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keri Doggett'.

Keri Doggett, Vice President
Teach Democracy

To learn more about Teach Democracy's programs, scan the QR Code



CIVIC ACTION PROJECT



97% of students said CAP helped them become a more effective citizen.



99% of teachers shared CAP has a positive impact on students' learning and civic engagement.



I learned that everyone has their own opinions and if you don't agree, it's easy to talk it out and reason with each other.



CALIFORNIA MOCK TRIAL



...I have grown so much as a writer, speaker, and student in a way that is incomparable to any other program I've been in.

91.5% of Mock Trial students reported their confidence and self-esteem increased.

COURTROOM TO CLASSROOM

**Special Thanks to
Hon. John Kronstadt**
for making this program a great success!



I liked how we got to be in a real courtroom. It was cool to see how everything works.

EXPANDING HORIZONS INSTITUTE



97% of participants feel that EHI gave them more confidence to work in a professional setting.

"[EHI] really boosted my confidence. I feel so accomplished.

THE DEMOCRACY PROJECT

The Democracy Project promotes student-driven civic learning and targets students from socioeconomically disadvantaged and marginalized backgrounds in California and New Mexico. The key to this project is to ensure nonpartisan, balanced lessons and approaches aligned to proven practices in civic learning.

MEDIA LITERACY

- Identifying bias
- Analyzing and weighing evidence, credibility of sources
- First Amendment: role of media/press
- Developing critical thinking skills

ISSUE-BASED DISCUSSIONS

- Modules containing deliberation and Civil Conversation lessons
- Gun violence, immigration, human rights, hate speech, climate change

U.S. CONSTITUTION

- Lessons on Constitution and Bill of Rights
- Historic/Contemporary Topics
- Free Expression, Equality, Justice

Civic Action Project

99%

99% of teachers believe the curriculum has a positive impact on students' learning and civic engagement.

99%

99% of teachers said they will share this program with their colleagues.



**TEACH
DEMOCRACY**

in partnership with

Funded by the United States
Department Of Education

USC Rossier
School of Education



2023 Statement of Unrestricted Activities

For the Year Ending December 31, 2023

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT			
Annual celebration event, net of expenses of \$74,700	\$ 1,043,966	\$ -	\$ 1,043,966
Contributions and private grants	205,232	708,203	913,435
In-kind contributions	702,588		702,588
Government grants and contract revenue	176,628		176,628
Investment income appropriated for operations	173,052		173,052
Program fees	163,901		163,901
Other income	147,236		147,236
Sales of publications	23,263		23,263
Net assets released from restrictions	537,242	(537,242)	-
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	3,173,108	170,961	3,344,069
EXPENSES			
Program services	2,434,995		2,434,995
General and administrative	471,289		471,289
Fundraising	467,772		467,772
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,374,056	-	3,374,056
CHANGE IN OPERATING NET ASSETS BEFORE OTHER CHANGES	(200,948)	170,961	(29,987)
Investment gain (loss), net	540,265		540,265
Unrealized gain (loss) on beneficial interest in charitable remainder trust		12,450	12,450
Investment income appropriated for operations	(173,052)		(173,052)
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	166,265	183,411	349,676
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	6,018,614	356,877	6,375,491
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$ 6,184,879	\$ 540,288	\$ 6,725,167

A copy of the full financial statement and audited financials is available upon request or at <https://teachdemocracy.org>.



is now



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**TEACH
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Civic participation begins with civic education

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<https://teachdemocracy.org>

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