



These are groundbreaking times for Mikva Challenge.

During the past year, we widened our reach and served a record number of youth in Action Civics programs in Illinois, Washington, DC, and California, fostering pathways to greater participation of young people in our democratic fabric. This year we celebrate with pride Mikva's 20th anniversary. We look forward to an even stronger future, ever guided by the principle central to our founders, Abner and Zoe Mikva: the best way to learn democracy is to do democracy.

Students involved in Mikva Challenge are demonstrating that they want to be at the table; they want to have a say. As you will see in this Annual Report, we are one of the few programs in the country that is shifting students' civic attitudes and skills and showing that young people can engage thoughtfully and responsibly in our democratic process. Further, we have found the consequences for young people to be transformative - to their sense of identity, their motivation to serve one's community, their academic and social lives, and their development of active, informed citizenship and leadership.

Yet, far too few students have access to this kind of learning, particularly in under-resourced communities of color. This year we officially launched the Mikva Challenge National Strategy: focused efforts to expand Mikva's Action Civics curricula and programs to youth in localities with limited opportunities. This kind of involvement in civic affairs always has been fundamental to promoting a just and equitable society. The deep rifts rocking this nation remind us that making space for informed dialogue and thoughtful participation is just as important today. Now more than ever is the need for the kind of work we do.

We want Mikva Challenge always to present the very best in innovative and best practices. Even as we expand to new sites and partner with larger numbers of teachers, school administrators, and community leaders in the Mikva movement, we hold ourselves to the highest standards in what we offer. We worked hard to earn our strong reputation. We strive to maintain it.

Will you partner with us? We cannot do this work without your support. If you, like us, are inspired by the hope for our communities and nation that these youth represent, please consider a gift to Mikva Challenge. As always, thank you.

Lauren Jones Young

Chair, National Board of Directors

A Brief History of Mikva Challenge 1995-2006

2000

100 students representing 9 schools campaign in the Iowa Primary for President. Executive Director O'Grady brought her 6 week old baby and many board members chaperoned this ambitious trip.

First fundraiser held—a roast of Jack Marco, CEO of the Marco Consulting Group and former Mikva campaign manager/staffer. Almost 200K was raised and a bold trip to the Iowa Caucus was planned.

2001

Mikva launches the Summer Government and Leadership Institute (now Summer Fellows), placing rising seniors in internships with public officials at the city, county, state, and federal level.

Mikva leads a public policy trip to lobby for elections reform in Springfield.

Mikva also launches the Mikva Club and students become staples on CAN-TV with their political talk show.

First Young Women's Leadership lunches are hosted, inviting women leaders and public officials to converse with young women.

Mikva awards \$1000 Mikva college scholarships.

2000-01

Brian Brady is hired as Executive Director and brings a youth development lens to Mikva programs.

Student Election Judges program launches.



Mikva students travel to Springfield to advocate for improved school funding and help host a rally for thousands of students.



2005

Mikva wins Service Learning Agency of the Year award.

Mikva's annual operating budget surpasses

Mikva receives grants from the Kellogg Foundation and Surdna Foundation to launch Citywide Youth Councils to provide city institutions with youth voice and expertise – the inaugural council advises Arne Duncan, CEO of Chicago Public Schools and provide youth innovation grants to student activism projects.

Ab Mikva retires as White House Counsel and his remarkable career at the upper echelons of all 3 branches of government.

First Executive Director, Laura O'Grady is hired. 4 teachers in 2 Chicago public high schools pilot the Mikva program. The goal was simple: get students studying the issues and candidates in an election and volunteering on campaigns.

40 students from Kelvyn Park and Bowen High Schools volunteer as campaign interns.

Former Mikva staff member, Ken Adams watches the funeral service for Congresswoman Barbara Jordan. Saddened that Jordan did not get the recognition she deserved in her lifetime, Adams begins brainstorming with former Mikva staff members about creating a lasting tribute to the public service careers of Ab and Zoe Mikva before it was too late for them to appreciate it.

Mikva Challenge is incorporated. Founded by Ab and Zoe Mikva, with their friends (Ken and Anita Adams; Dick and Joan Wolff; Dick and Judy Meltzer; Sandy and Joan Horwitt), to mark the Mikvas' remarkable public service legacy. The goal: inspire Chicago city youth to participate in democracy through real-life electoral experiences.



2002

Student Voices program brings classroom activism and electoral participation to 30 new high schools. Mikva students advocate for election reform in wake of Florida recount.

2003

Mikva moves into its own office space. Mikva receives a W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant to start the Youth Innovation Fund (YIF), a youth philanthropy group that funds youth civic engagement and activism in Chicago.

2004

Campaign trips to the New Hampshire Primary and Iowa Caucuses during presidential election years transform how student participants see their role as citizens and future voters. Every candidate clamors for photo ops with the "Mikva kids."

McCormick Foundation supports Mikva in expanding its Student Election Judges program—partnering with the Chicago Board of Elections to recruit and train teens to serve as polling place judges, eventually becoming a national model.

Mikva receives a 3-year \$500,000 grant from the Annenberg Foundation to implement "Student Voices" project, now the Issues to Action program. Youth take action on the issues they care about, sharing them at the annual Action Civics Showcase.

A Brief History continued: 2007-2019

2007

Peace & Leadership Councils are launched at 3 schools in high-violence communities, bringing Mikva's program model to anti-violence issues.



2011

Mikva hosts the 9th Annual Civics Fair. Over 120 students present their action projects on issues facing Chicago communities. Mikva hosts the Youth Voices Mayoral Candidate Forum with 250 students on Chigago Tonight.

2010

Mikva launches the Center for Action Civics to provide professional development and curriculum to educators in Chicago and eventually nationwide.

Ron Huberman, CEO of CPS, funds the Student Advisory Council's recommendation to pilot Student Voice Committees in 5 CPS Schools.

Citywide Youth Councils expand — now focusing on Health, Juvenile Justice, Education, and policies of Chicago Mayor.



2012

Mayor Rahm Emanuel approves the Mayoral Youth Commission's recommendation to pilot the CTA Free Fare program for low-income students in 5 schools

Mikva hosts the first ever Youth Solutions Congress. Over 400 youth gather to discuss and vote on the top 15 solutions to improve health, education, employment, safety and recreation in the city of Chicago. Mikva launches the Juvenile Justice Council to provide youth input on policies and programs involving young people and the criminal justice system.



Mikva Challenge celebrates 20 years of empowering youth with the skills and opportunities to be active and informed leaders. Mikva continues to grow its partnerships with schools nationwide.



Mikva's annual operating budget surpasses \$3M.

Mikva is awarded a \$1M capacity-building grant from the MacArthur Foundation.

Mikva develops initiatives with cities, counties and school districts around the country using Mikva's Action Civics curriculum. Two new initiatives. Action Civics WI and Action Civics MI, launch to increase our capacity to partner with local school districts to deliver authentic, transformative civic engagement to youth across the nation.

Soapbox Nation brings Mikva's signature public speaking competition across the country with over 25 school districts participating from Hawaii to New York.





2009

Mikva youth attend the Inauguration of President Barack Obama in Washington, DC.

Mikva celebrates its 10th anniversary with a gala fundraiser.

Project Soapbox program is launched to help youth develop their public speaking skills, the foundation of becoming strong public advocates on their issues.

2014

The New Civics Convening is held in Chicago with nearly 200 teachers from across the country raising Mikva's profile and gaining the attention of national funders.

The Emerging Leaders Board is founded.

201

Youth Safety Advisory Council is formed to advise the Superintendent of Chicago Police on issues concerning youth safety.

2008

Mikva youth travel to lowa, New Hampshire, Colorado, Minnesota, Indiana, and Wisconsin to campaign during the 2008 Presidential Election season. Mikva Student Elections Judges number 2,539, comprising nearly 20% of all election judges in the City of Chicago.

First expansion outside of Chicago happens at Barrington High School, creating a model for school district partnerships.

2014-2015

Action Civics LA and Mikva Challenge DC are launched to serve teens with Issues to Action and Project Soapbox programs.

Michelle Morales is hired in Chicago, becoming Mikva's first female and Latina ED.

Abner and Zoe Mikva Legacy Campaign is announced to raise support for the founding program, Elections in Action.

2016

Judge Abner J. Mikva passes away on July 4, 2016. He is memorialized by hundreds of friends, colleagues, and Mikva Challenge alumni that August. Speakers include his mentee, Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan.

Mikva Challenge 20 years at a glance

100,000+

Students participated in our programs in 22 cities/counties throughout the country. Tens of thousands more are impacted by our curricula that is being used across the country in all 50 states.

Our Chapter cities in DC, Illinois, and Southern CA continue to grow and innovate. DC and CA chapters have doubled the number of students participating in the past year, and Mikva Illinois has added new youth councils supporting young adults in our most challenged communities.

"Action Civics and Mikva have given me a voice that I initially thought had not mattered and has encouraged me to step into the "real world" with confidence that I can make a difference."

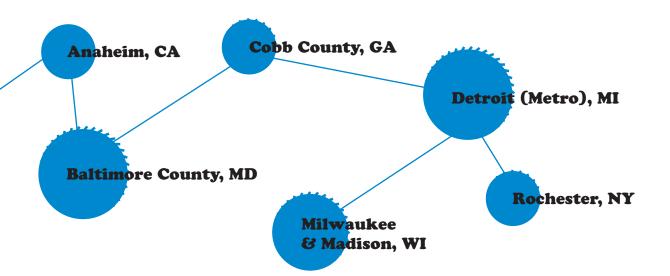
Jazmin, Action Civics CA student

Akron, OH





Mikva Challenge is now training and supporting Action Civics efforts in 7 new cities and regions.



Mikva took the winners of our Soapbox Nation digital speech competition to speak up on the issues that matter to them on Capitol Hill.



At Mikva Challenge's 2018 Action Civics Summer Institute, we convened over 160 educators and administrators from 14 school districts to learn strategies to engage young people in meaningful civic action and implement Mikva curricula in their classrooms.



The Action Civics Summer Institute brings together hundreds of educators from across the country to learn strategies to engage young people in meaningful civic action.



Mikva Challenge National

A note from Brian Brady, President of Mikva Challenge:

Mikva Challenge believes young people learn democracy by doing democracy and envisions a nation where youth enliven and improve our civic systems with their ideas and idealism. Mikva's national goal is to serve as a catalyst for bringing high quality, Action Civics to school districts around the country. By equipping marginalized youth and under-resourced schools with our youth empowerment program model, Mikva helps awaken civic identities and strengthen communities. While Mikva's 3 Chapters serve as our model sites and innovation hubs, our new partner site model provides Mikva curricula, training, and strategic supports to school districts around the country. A key to our national work is our annual Action Civics Summer Institute—we convene educators from all of our chapters and partner sites to learn and share best practices in Action Civics. Another core building block to our national strategy is bringing our trademark Project Soapbox initiative to schools nationwide to foster youth voice and civic action.

"It is a place for people to speak on issues they care about. Draw breath, have fun, speak truth." – Studentin Madison, WI, Project Soapbox

300+ teachers engaged

2018 Impacts

15,000+ number of youth served

150+ school partners





Soapbox Nation, a partnership between Mikva Challenge and Facebook Education, takes the transformative power of Mikva's Project Soapbox curriculum to the next level: young people from around the country speak up about the issues facing their community, share their Soapbox speeches digitally, and compete to win a trip to present in Washington, DC.

"People should know that
Project Soapbox isn't
just another academic
requirement, and the extra
work shouldn't stop them
from trying it out. It's a
way to express yourself
and make your voice
heard, which in our society
currently, is very difficult
for youths. People will listen,
and support you. The energy
is amazing. The whole
thing is an amazing and fun
experience."

- Student, Madison, WI, Project Soapbox

"The focus on student voice is powerful and I'm inspired to help create spaces in schools and communities where students can be empowered in meaningful ways."

Mikva Challenge locations:

Chapters:

Southern California, CA Chicagoland area, Aurora — IL Washington D.C.

Partner sites:

Milwaukee, WI Madison, WI Detroit (Metro), MI

Emerging partners:

New York City, NY
Akron, OH
Prince George's County, MD
Baltimore County, MD
Wilmington, DE
Cobb County, GA
Marquette, MI



Our Elections in Action program engages youth in campaign work, voter registration, and election judging — transforming students' attitudes toward the political process. This year, over 2,800 students served as election judges. Through our Mikva Summer Fellows program, over 60 students were placed in paid internships in more than 43 elected officials' offices.



Mikva Challenge IL

A note from Michelle Morales, Chief Executive Officer of Mikva Challenge IL:

2018 proved to be an exciting year for Mikva Challenge Illinois. Civics is in urgent demand and the movement to make civics more than just a class is growing. Our unique mix of positive youth development, Action Civics and citywide events are the perfect ingredients for providing a platform for empowered, confident and activated youth — youth who are changing the world around them. This year, our chapter provided in-school services to 185 middle and high school teachers in Chicago, Aurora & the Northwest suburbs, impacting over 10,000 youth annually. Through our Citywide Youth Councils, 110 youth directly impacted major city institutions — this year adding the Chicago Police Department. Lastly, our Elections in Action program recruited and placed more than 2,200 high school juniors and seniors as student election judges this past election cycle! Mikva Challenge not only makes space for youth, centers youth voice, and builds their skills, but we also provide real-world employment & problem solving opportunities — where youth see themselves as the change agents that they are.

"Mikva for me woke that part of me that society tried to keep quiet and it gave me back that confidence.... It gave me that awareness to say, 'hey just because you're a student doesn't mean you're not entitled to having a voice." — Youth Participant

Direct democratic experiences offered to youth:

62 interns placed in

campaign trips

elected offices

2,200+

stu<mark>dents served as</mark> election judges





Issues to Action (ITA) is our curriculum rooted in Action Civics. Each year over 8,000 students identify community issues and learn about local government through research, analysis, and the creation of solutions-based action plans. This year, we saw our work take root overseas — community partner Fleire Castro held the very first Action Civics Showcase in the Philippines!

"Mikva Challenge has helped me connect with the constituents that matter most to me and my office — students. Listening and working with Mikva youth leaders has helped me implement policies and programs that truly center youth needs."

— Dr. Janice Jackson, CEO, Chicago Public Schools

2018 by the numbers:

III school partners

185 teachers engaged 10,200 youth served

Community action projects completed:



Nicholas Senn High School is a divers community that develops motivated, creatithinkers who are actively responsible glocitizens.

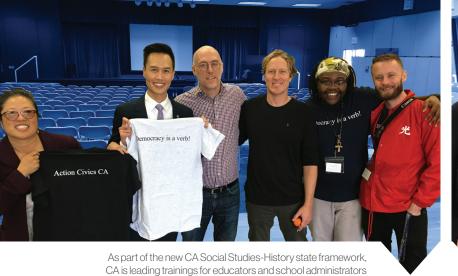
StuCo Vision

Election to the Student Council brings many res Students committed to representing the concern classmates. The Student Council provides students of of communication to the school administration, it every student's noted as me tim any any possible, council makes school a place where students acturable than obligated to be by providing the stude opportunities to be academically and socially success

The Senn Student Council (StuCo) Schol:

it's transrable for undocumented students to even apply to come come from macher country; we have to learn English; we advertify; and we still graduate from high school and apply it would be a better candidate for a scholarship; If we get just a I think with become some of the strongest students and in people, I don't see us as risks; I think of us as smart investments.

undeconnected students at Seem to further their or way-year floory-or-college. The Sander-Coolour students who are not eligible for legal finantic programs to ratio more program to the created year program to ratio money through a survey was program to ratio money through a survey which you have been first on the more programs to survey the program to ratio money through a survey of the program of the programs of the light most programs of the programs of the programs of the l





Action Civics

statewide on Action Civics pedagogy and curricula.

CA

A note from Sheila McMullin, Site Director of Action Civics CA:

In the most populous state in the U.S., Action Civics CA empowers California educators with Action Civics curriculum that equips youth to promote a just and equitable society having impacts nationwide. In just four short years, we are proud to have expanded our work from a small pilot program serving 1,200 young people with one staff member to now working with educators statewide. Currently, we are serving over 4,000 young people through 24 Action Civics program schools in Orange and Los Angeles Counties with 3 staff members and teacher cohort of 56.

"I am human. I have rights. I have feelings. I can see when things are wrong and they need to be fixed. We need to stand up when things are wrong and make them right. OUR VOICE MATTERS!"

— Angela, 8th Grade, Project Soapbox

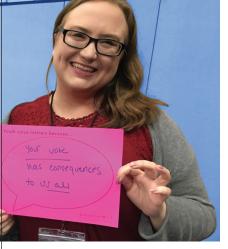
24 schools partnered

4,000 youth served

2,852

Project Soapbox speeches performed!

56 teachers engaged





Councilmember David Ryu sponsored the 2018 Action Civics CA's Civics Showcase — students from across participating schools convened to present their civic leadership, research, and projects. Through this event, youth advocate for a local issue and network with peers and adult allies to coalition build.

"I've seen the students really blossom from being shy and hesitant, to being passionate about their beliefs. But the more significant piece for me is putting that passion into action."

— Carla Barrera-Ortiz, Principal, S.T.E.A.M. Legacy High School, Issues to Action





The Mikva Summer Fellows program provides the opportunity for students to participate in paid internships in the offices of local, state, and federal elected officials during the summer.



Mikva Challenge DC's signature work is our Issues to Action program in which local teachers implement a curriculum that equips students with the skills, knowledge, and dispositions to be informed, empowered, and active civic leaders.

Mikva Challenge DC

A note from Robyn Lingo, Executive Director of Mikva Challenge DC:

Mikva DC began as a small pilot program 4 years ago, working with 200 students at four schools. Today, we are making a real citywide impact, reaching 1,200 local students at 33 schools across our city and have expanded our reach by 500% since our pilot year.

By integrating Mikva's signature Action Civics curriculum into the core curriculum for DC Public Schools, we have helped changed the way US Government and DC History courses are taught throughout the school system. And we have ensured that EVERY 6th through 12th grade student in DC Public Schools gets the chance to write and deliver our signature "Project Soapbox" speech. Meanwhile, we have trained hundreds of youth leaders to engage in local and national politics by registering their peers to vote, hosting candidate forums, canvassing for candidates and serving as Poll Workers on Election Day. As one of our key partners at DC Public Schools says,

"Mikva DC is the name of the game when it comes to civic engagement and action civics in DC!"

Number of direct democratic experiences offered to youth:

in person meetings with elected or appointed officials







direct political participation experience to young people even before they reach voting age.

"More than anything, I feel inspired because I believe that I am, truly, the future. I am capable of igniting a fire inside of individuals around me because of Mikva and my experience."

— Lekabel, former Mikva DC Summer Fellow and current freshmen at the University of Notre Dame



increase since 2014

"True leaders know when to follow. I will follow these students who organized the best political forum of the year!"

- DC Attorney General Karl Racine, at our Youth Led Candidates Forum in May 2018

2017-18

2018-19

community action projects completed in 2017-18. Up from 23 in 2016.

30 Teachers engaged 40+

of Schools

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Financial Letter

Mikva Challenge Grant Foundation, Inc. Statement Of Financial Position

Mikva Challenge is proud to report a strong financial position at the end of FY18. We ended FY18 with a surplus, due to strong foundation partnerships and successful special events. Our generous corporate and individual donors provided critical general operating support for our youth voice programming. We are excited about the Mikva model taking root in more communities and schools across the country. Thank you for your support of Mikva Challenge.

June 30	2018	2017 (As restated)	
Assets			
Cash	\$1,240,805	\$1,025,675	
Investments	\$1,240,285	\$1,147,446	
Grants and pledges receivable	\$1,064,090	\$1,046,686	
Other receivables	\$170,730	\$57,987	
Prepaid expenses and deposits	\$124,379	\$116,993	
Property and equipment, less accumulated depreciation and amortization of \$148,927 and \$129,752 as of June 30, 2018 and 2017, respectively	\$71,228	\$24,783	
Total assets	\$ 3,911,517	\$ 3,419,570	
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Liabilities:			
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$213,564	\$ 157,344	
Deferred rent	\$54,140	\$6,408	
Deferred revenue	\$82,833		
Total assets Total assets	\$350,537	\$163,752	
Net assets:		•	
Unrestricted:			
Board-designated endowment funds	\$1,452,860	\$1,345,702	
Undesignated	\$684,662	\$529,321	
Total unrestricted	\$2,137,522	\$1,875,023	
Temporarily restricted	\$1,423,458	\$1,380,795	
	·	-	
Total net assets	\$3,560,980	\$3,255,818	
Total liabilities and net assets	\$3,911,517	\$3,419,570	

Mikva Challenge Grant Foundation, Inc. **Statement Of Activites**

Years Ended June 30	2018			2017 (As restated)				
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total		
Revenue and support:								
Foundation and corporate grants	\$533,550	\$1,391,272	\$1,924,822	\$470,800	\$1,664,941	\$2,135,741		
Individual contributions	\$342,003	\$179,590	\$521,593	\$315,600	\$338,018	\$653,618		
Special events:								
Gross proceeds	\$832,667		\$832,667	\$1,140,852		\$1,140,852		
Expenses	\$(114,988)		\$(114,988)	\$(103,215)		\$(103,215)		
Contract services revenue	\$866,616		\$866,616	\$601,742		\$601,742		
Interest and dividends	\$32,511		\$32,511	\$28,648		\$28,648		
Net realized and and unrealized loss on investments unrealizedloss on investments	\$(46,105)		\$(46,105)	\$(37,730)		\$(37,730)		
Other income	\$20,182		\$20,182	\$2,697		\$2,697		
Net assets released from restrictions:								
Satisfaction of restrictions	\$1,528,199	\$(1,528,199)		\$1,191,442	\$(1,191,442)			
Total revenue and support	\$3,994,635	\$42,663	\$4,037,298	\$3,610,836	\$811,517	\$4,422,353		
Expenses:								
Program services	\$3,035,896		\$3,035,896	\$2,713,803		\$2,713,803		
Management and general	\$345,291		\$345,291	\$263,944		\$263,944		
Fundraising	\$350,949		\$350,949	\$456,648		\$456,648		
Total expenses	\$3,732,136		\$3,732,136	\$3,434,395		\$3,434,395		
Change in net assets	\$262,499	\$42,663	\$305,162	\$176,441	\$811,517	\$987,958		
Net assets, beginning of year	\$1,875,023	\$1,380,795	\$3,255,818	\$1,698,582	\$569,278	\$2,267,860		
Net assets, end of year	\$2,137,522	\$1,423,458	\$3,560,980	\$1,875,023	\$1,380,795	\$3,255,818		

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