
THE

POWER

OF OUR

NETWORK



Over the past few years, it's sometimes felt like the only constant has been change—and 2022 only reaffirmed that feeling.

From Russia's brutal and unprovoked war in Ukraine, to the weakening of well-established democracies, to the flood of disinformation online and the rollback of freedoms that many had taken for granted, more and more of our bedrock values are under assault.

These are complicated, intractable problems without easy answers. But Michelle and I will always believe that there are solutions—and they start with all of us. Because if we're going to rebuild a stronger democratic culture and a more durable set of democratic institutions for the future, we all need to lead by example.

That's what the Obama Foundation is all about. Our goal is to inspire, empower, and connect people so they can change the world. And we're doing it by giving emerging leaders the tools they need to become active citizens—and inspire others to do the same.

We still have a lot of work to do, but we're proud of the progress we made in 2022.




Last year, we connected Chicago high school students with local leaders so they could explore different careers as part of our Futures Series. We founded the Voyager Scholarship in partnership with Brian Chesky and Airbnb to support college students interested in public service and give them the chance to travel and learn more about the world.

We announced the Leaders USA program that will help 100 changemakers across the country build new skills and grow their networks. We hosted the first-ever Obama Foundation Democracy Summit that brought our growing network of changemakers together to tackle some of the biggest challenges facing our world—from climate change and economic inequality to disinformation. And we watched as the Obama Presidential Center—which will serve as a permanent home for the Foundation’s mission—began to rise from the ground on the South Side of Chicago.

Our network is strengthening democracy, protecting our planet, supporting communities, telling stories that need to be told, helping women fight for their fundamental rights, changing the conversation about race, and much more.

These leaders keep me going, and I hope they inspire you, too. Because in the end, it’s the promise, passion, and persistence of people like them that will determine the fate of democracy around the globe and help create a brighter future for us all.

That’s the power of this network, and it’s why we do what we do. Thanks for being on the journey with us.



President Obama greets Voyagers.



A Conversation with

Valerie Jarrett

Read chief executive officer Valerie Jarrett's reflection on the impact of our work in 2022 and her vision for the future, as told to Obama Foundation staff.

Valerie Jarrett joins a conversation with President Obama and Obama Foundation Scholars at the University of Chicago.

Valerie Jarrett visits
Hyde Park Academy for
a Futures Series session
with students.

Q: Our mission is to inspire, empower, and connect people to change their world. What are you looking forward to as we continue to grow and expand?



Over the past few years, we've weathered a global pandemic and its impact on our lives and our jobs, witnessed the erosion of core pillars of democracies here in the United States and around the world, endured the increased polarization of our discourse, and growing uncertainty in our daily lives. It has been a challenging time for us all.

That's why it is so critical to lift up those who are unwilling to accept the status quo as impossible to change, but who are instead committed to turning their ideas for positive change into action.

Empowering the next generation of changemakers has become the cause of my life.

We are building a network of leaders who are eager to learn from us and one another in order to tackle the most pressing challenges of our time. Their stories inspire me to do my part each day. That changemaking spirit is what I'm most looking forward to nurturing—as we expand our programs and find creative new ways to support our growing network of leaders.

Q: 2022 was another year of progress for the Obama Foundation, from expanding our programming to making progress on the construction of the Obama Presidential Center. To what do you attribute our success?

When I first met Michelle Robinson and a young Barack Obama, they told me that they wanted to use their skills and talents to give back to their community. Over three decades and two presidential terms later, the Obamas are committed to the work of the Obama Foundation to help the next generation lead.

I have the privilege to be at the helm of an organization that makes the impossible inevitable.

Even in the most challenging times, we continue to raise the bar. Our success is a product of what happens when we help ordinary people come together in community to do extraordinary things. As CEO, I'm honored to be a part of an organization with such an extraordinary team of dedicated staff who uphold our mission and are committed to creating lasting change around the world. I'm proud of their values, work ethic, and selfless dedication to fulfilling our mission.

Q: The theme of this year's report is "the power of our network." We're showcasing that together, our leaders, builders, and supporters are creating positive change in their communities around the world. What does that mean to you?

I believe everyone has the power to make a difference—that's something the Obamas have taught me over and over since the first day we met. We are all capable of being a mighty force for good, especially when we work together.

Our progress is visible across our programmatic work and at the site of the Obama Presidential Center. I'm thrilled that over the last year we have furthered our mission and continued to invest in the next generation of leaders and support their growth. Our impact in Chicago, across the country, and around the world is a team effort! It is the power of our network that makes it possible for us to create a lasting change back home in the communities where we and our leaders live and work.

Yes, there's still plenty to be done, but I am proud of the strides we have made together for the next generation. I can't wait to see what the future holds.

Valerie Jarrett tours the site of the Obama Presidential Center with Foundation staff and construction workers.





Valerie Jarrett connects with Beverly Ndifoin Niyang at the Obama Foundation Global Leaders and Girls Opportunity Alliance convenings in Athens, Greece.

Q: What is your greatest hope for the Obama Presidential Center?

As a proud Chicagoan, I'm thrilled that the Obama Foundation will have a permanent, physical home at the Obama Presidential Center on the South Side. The Center will be an economic engine for the city, a laboratory for positive change, and a beacon of hope for residents of Chicago and around the world.

Ultimately, the Center will be a place where future generations will be inspired, empowered, and connected to change the world.

Q: How can people get involved and support the Foundation?

We are doing a lot—but that's what we do.

Check out the new and improved [Obama.org](https://www.obama.org)! Engage with our programs on all social media platforms and donate to empower the next generation of leaders. We couldn't do any of this without your support. I hope the stories you read in the pages ahead inspire you to join our journey.

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President and Mrs. Obama created the Obama Foundation to

INSPIRE, EMPOWER, AND CONNECT PEOPLE TO CHANGE THEIR WORLD.

Everything we've accomplished since 2017 has been made possible by the power of our network: the leaders, artists, supporters, builders, makers, and movement shapers who are constantly taking action to create positive change.

Rooted in the values-based leadership that shaped the Obamas' journeys, our network is guided by a simple yet profound belief that change only comes when individuals

TAKE ACTION, REMAIN ENGAGED, AND UNITE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

OUR

GLOBAL NETWORK

REACHES

152

**COUNTRIES AND
TERRITORIES
WORLDWIDE**

In the pages ahead, you'll see the power of our network through action—the work to build the Obama Presidential Center, the leadership committed to defending and strengthening democracy, and so much more.

**STRENGTHENING
DEMOCRACY**

Our democracy is so much stronger than our differences.

Right now, democracy is currently facing challenges everywhere. We see this in instances of conflict, weakening democratic systems, and the rise in polarization and disinformation affecting discourse, culture, and elections in numerous countries, including the United States.

The Obama Foundation and President Obama are dedicated to building and strengthening democratic culture in the United States and around the world by developing the leaders and organizations who represent the democratic values and work so essential to democracy.

As the war in Ukraine rages on and disinformation continues to spread online, President Obama spoke in 2022 at [Stanford University](#) about the leaders in our network addressing the issue and shared a new North Star vision for the Internet—and how we can all be a part of it.



We need to build democracy for the future, not the past. And what gives me hope is the promise and potential of the next generation of leaders who are coming up, young people who understand that the future of democracy, and in fact, the very planet that we live on, hangs in the balance. These young people are ready to do the work, and many of them are already deeply engaged in the project of rebuilding our democracies.”

—President Obama



President Obama speaks on a panel with Europe Leaders Selviqe Mustafi, Tudor Bradatan, and Federica Vinci at the Copenhagen Democracy Summit.

[During the Copenhagen Democracy Summit](#)

in April 2022, President Obama delivered closing remarks and joined a panel discussion with three of our European Leaders: Tudor Bradatan, Selviqe Mustafi, and Federica Vinci. In his remarks, he underscored the importance of a positive vision for democracy. In his conversation with Leaders, the Leaders demonstrated the promise of the next generation to chart a better course.

He also laid out four key ways that we can all act to protect and strengthen democracy:

- Developing models for economies that are more equitable and work better for more people.
- Revitalizing our political institutions so that people believe participation is worth the effort.
- Building a democratic culture.
- Detoxifying our discourse to address disinformation, conspiracy theories, and hate.

Building a democratic culture is an underlying current through all of our programs and the leaders we serve who have the values, vision, and willpower to continue this urgent work.

To close out the year, we hosted the first [Obama Foundation Democracy Forum](#) in New York City, in partnership with Columbia University and the University of Chicago, to bring together hundreds of emerging leaders from across our programs, supporters, leading experts, and practitioners who shared with us, and each other, evidence-based strategies to strengthen our institutions and protect democratic values.

President Obama's remarks highlighted the state of democracy around the world, curbing disinformation, and the importance of a new generation of leaders to safeguard institutions and build a more sustainable future. He then joined leaders from our network—Doussouba Konaté, Natalia Herbst, Landisang Kotaro, and Nick Antipov—to hear their perspectives and the work they're doing to expand and strengthen democracies.

We are proud to have spent another year listening to the dedicated leaders in our network, showcasing the progress our network is making on some of the most challenging issues we face, and exchanging ideas and solutions to bring change home.



Pictured clockwise from top:

Selvije Mustafi,
2022 Leaders Europe

Doussouba Konaté,
2022 Leaders Africa

Vidhya Ramalingam,
2020 Leaders Europe

Pavel Kounchev,
2018-2019 Columbia
University Scholar

Dr. Austin J. Shelton,
2019 Leaders Asia-Pacific

President Obama sits down with students and Obama Foundation program participants to discuss disinformation and challenges to democracy at Stanford University's Cyber Policy Center.



**OBAMA
PRESIDENTIAL
CENTER**

Obama Presidential Center Workforce

Sharika Harris

“ I’m so honored to be in this position—helping to cement the physical legacy of President and Mrs. Obama.

I am a plumber and a part of the team constructing the Obama Presidential Center. I trained for the role through Chicago Women in Trades, a local organization that trains women to become successful tradespeople on construction projects across the city. My team is currently installing ejector pumps inside the parking garage.

My first time voting was for President Obama in 2008. So to be a part of a team that is building the Obama Presidential Center for the community fills my heart with joy. I hope the Center does what it set out to do: inspire a community that desperately needs it. It’s going to be great for the city, and I can’t wait for my son to experience it.”

Sharika Harris stands at the site of the Obama Presidential Center.



The Obama Presidential Center represents a historic opportunity to build a world-class cultural institution and campus that celebrates democracy and tells the story of our country through the lens of our nation's first African American President and First Lady. The decision to build the Center on the South Side of Chicago was an intentional one, intended to connect with the community that forever shaped the lives, values, and beliefs of President and Mrs. Obama.

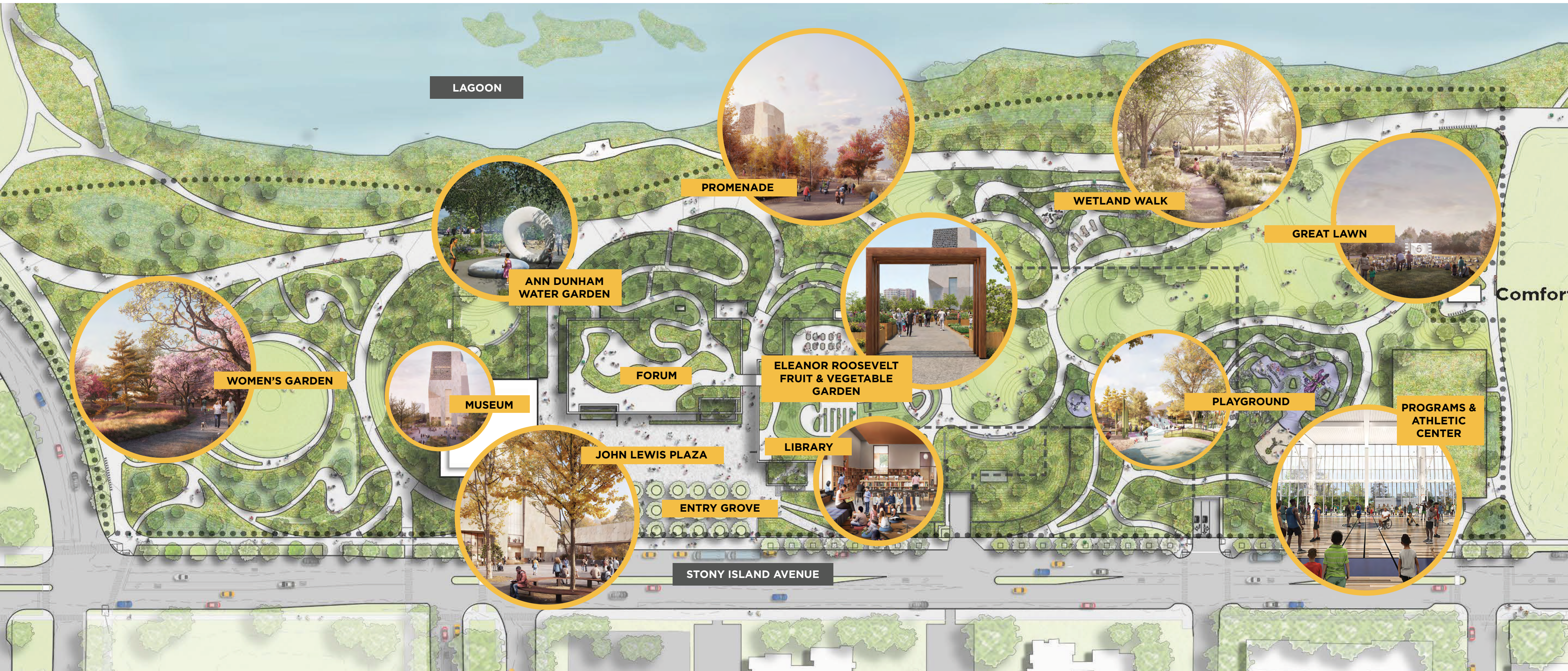
It will be a physical manifestation of our mission and it will be a place where our neighbors from across the street or around the globe can come to reflect, grow, connect, and create a better future.

The Center will invite visitors to find their own purpose and discover their collective ability to make their communities and the world as it should be through action.



The Obama Presidential Center Plaza and Museum building.

The Center is an invitation for all of us to bring change home.



Thanks in part to the generosity of our donors, we're naming key spaces throughout the Center after civil rights activists, trailblazers, local Chicago historic figures, and others on whose shoulders we stand. Our intention is that these [named spaces](#) will also motivate visitors to find new inspiration to make change in their own communities.

An aerial view of the site of the Obama Presidential Center.



A CLOSER LOOK

Oh, What A Glorious Task

The exterior of the Museum building will feature words taken from President Obama’s speech marking the 50th anniversary of the civil rights marches from Selma to Montgomery, in which he reflected on the power and promise of our democracy—citizens having the opportunity to take part in the “glorious task” of improving our democracy, and through that work, our communities, our nation, and our world.

The building will serve as a historic landmark in Jackson Park, welcoming visitors to the South Side of Chicago and to the rest of the Center’s campus.

Inside the Museum, dynamic exhibits across four floors will highlight the events, policies, challenges, and accomplishments of the Obama Presidency. Rooted in the larger, complex discussion about democracy and the role of our nation’s government since its founding, exhibitions will highlight the historical predecessors “on whose shoulders we stand”—those who made President and Mrs. Obama’s stories possible. The exhibits will also feature the stories of today’s leaders to inspire visitors to push for change within their own communities.

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

Pictured:

A close up of the text that will appear on the exterior of the Obama Presidential Center Museum. The text draws from President Obama’s speech marking the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery marches.

Building on Progress

In 2021, we officially broke ground on the Obama Presidential Center, designed by Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects + Partners. As construction continues in Jackson Park, passersby can now see the Museum Building rising above the treeline, along with other structures and foundations. When the campus is finished, it will be home to a sustainable landscape, designed by Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates and brought to life with native plants and energy-saving technologies.

The South Side campus is being built by the [Lakeside Alliance](#), a joint venture of Turner Construction Company, one of the biggest construction managers in the country, and four Chicago-area firms: Powers & Sons Construction, UJAMAA Construction, Brown & Momen, and Safeway Construction, which are some of the most established and well-respected Black-owned general contractors in the city.

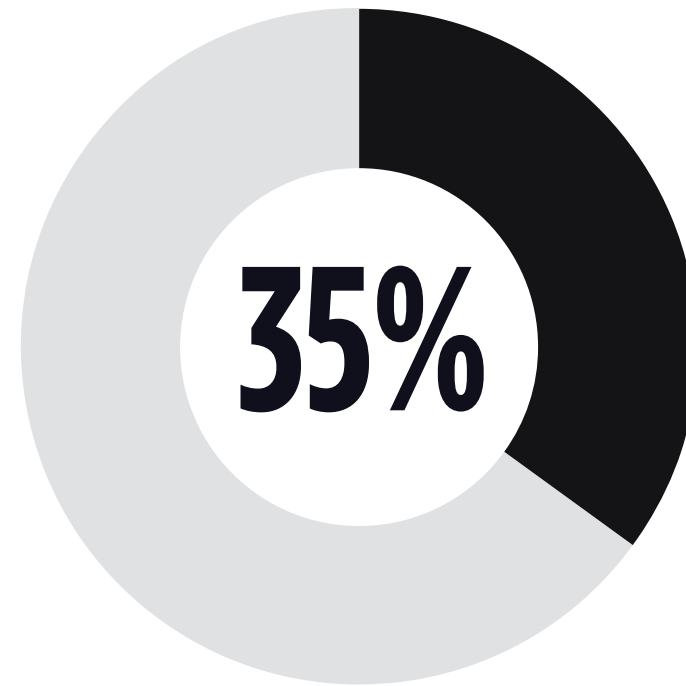
And because we want the project to be built by people as diverse as the community the Center is a part of, we created the We Can Build It consortium. The group is made up of some of the best workforce development organizations in the city and includes Chicago Women in Trades, Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 134, HIRE360, Revolution Workshop, and St. Paul Community Development Ministries.

We Can Build It is creating a pipeline of diverse talent that is not only equipped to build the Obama Presidential Center, but is also prepared to participate in future projects across the city.

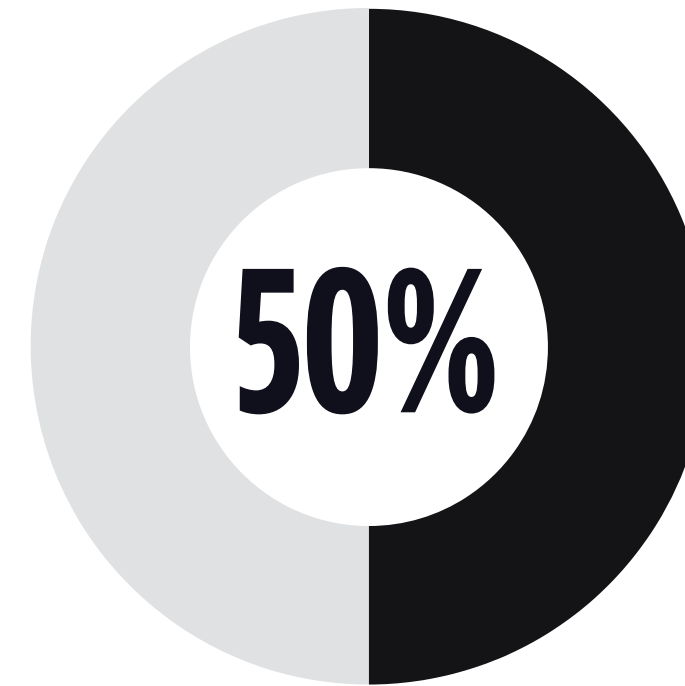


President Obama walks the site of the Obama Presidential Center.

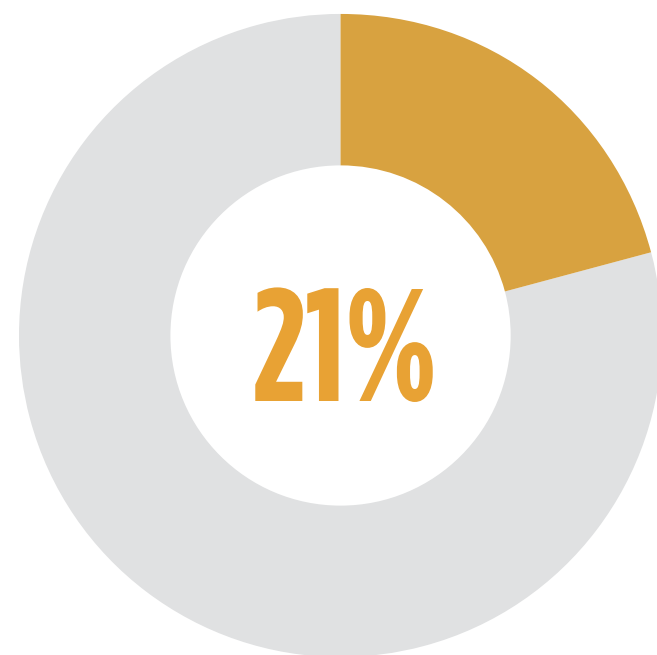
We have committed \$1.35 million to train 536 new pre-apprentices from the South and West Sides of Chicago.



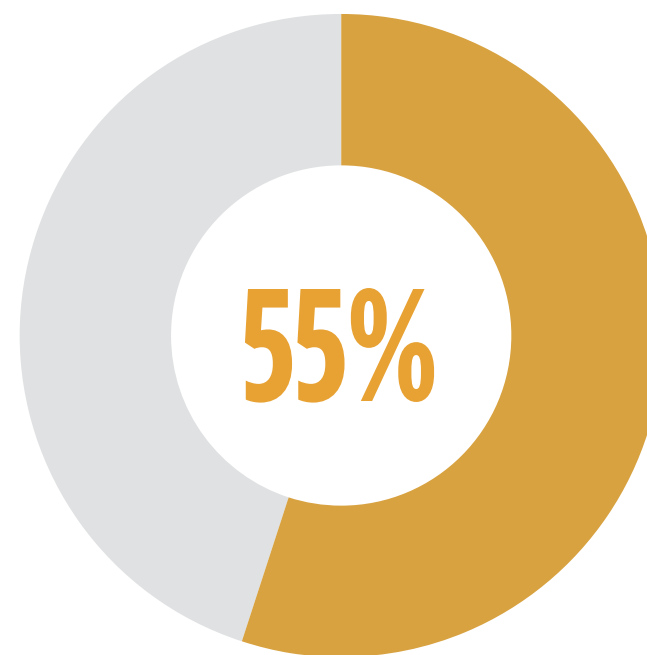
Of the construction workforce hours on the project will come from underserved South and West Side communities



Of the construction spend shall be with diverse vendors



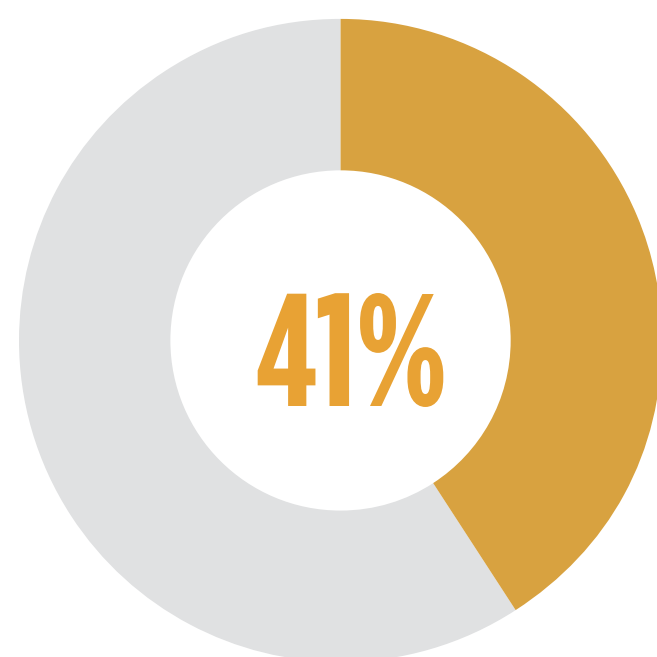
of Total OPC construction costs spent through December 2022



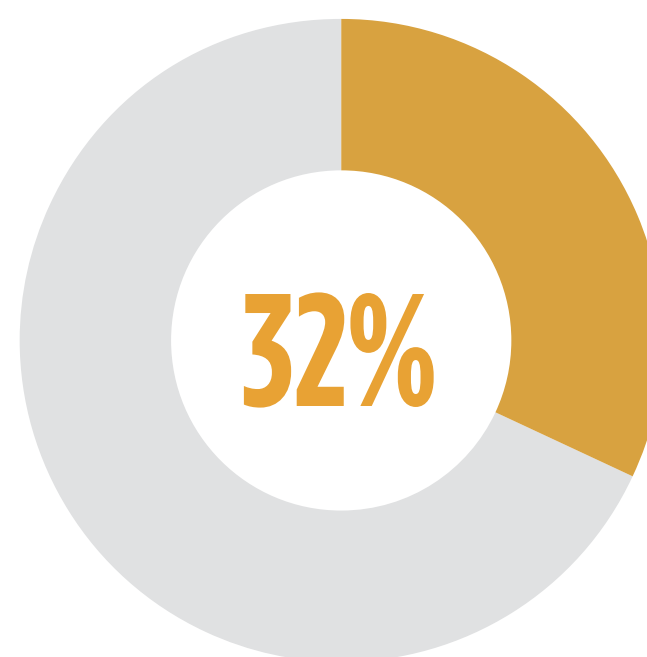
Construction contract amounts committed to diverse vendors

64

Contracts awarded to date



Hours performed by city residents



Construction workforce hours performed by South and West side residents

158

Candidates placed in jobs across the city

We have ambitious workforce goals and a vision to be a model of innovative, inclusive construction practices, and we're making it a reality.



A CLOSER LOOK

The Programs & Athletic Center

No project inspired by the Obamas would be complete without a place to shoot some hoops and get active.

With the help of our builders, Elevate Design Builders Group and Moody Nolan, the largest Black-owned architecture firm in the United States, we are building the Programs & Athletic Center. The space will be a community anchor with additional areas for recreation and community programming, providing safe space for physical activity for young people during after school hours and in

summer months while also offering space for community organizations and people of all ages throughout the year to gather, exercise, and play. The recreational hub anchors the south end of the Obama Presidential Center campus, sitting just north of the new Jackson Park track and field and adjacent to the South Side YMCA, Jackson Park Field House, and Hyde Park Academy.



Pictured from top:
A young community member plays a tennis court during an Obama Presidential Center Roadshow focusing on youth sports and wellness in Chicago. The Programs & Athletic Center. Young mentees from BUILD, Inc. Chicago play flag football.



The Obama Presidential Center with the excerpt from President Obama's speech marking the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery marches.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

In 2022, we made significant strides toward expanding our global network of leaders.

In spite of the seemingly insurmountable obstacles in 2022 and recent years, young leaders are still on the frontlines creating positive change. The promise of this generation is fundamental to strengthening democracy and safeguarding the values that help us all live up to our ideals, which is why our global programming continues to focus on providing emerging changemakers with the tools, values-based training, and connections they need to accelerate progress.

From every corner of the globe, our program participants are working together to address some of the biggest challenges of our time—from renewing our democratic institutions, protecting LGBTQ+ rights, fighting climate change, and so much more.

Pictured clockwise from top:
Neel Mcneill, 2021-2022
UChicago Scholar
John T. Sarboah, Jr., 2022
Leaders Africa
Ria Zapanta, 2022 Obama Scholar
Hannah Feng, 2022 Voyager
Omotunde Odedeyi, 2022-2023
UChicago Scholar



Inaugural Voyager

Elizabeth Williams

“ Before receiving the 2022 Obama-Chesky Voyager Scholarship for Public Service, I’d never been on a plane or left Michigan. I’m currently doing my Summer Voyage in Copenhagen, Denmark—interning at BLOXHUB, the Nordic hub for sustainable urbanization, studying how built and natural environments impact people and vice versa.

I hope to redesign American cities in ways that are equitable, financially, environmentally, and socially sustainable. I’m studying Environmental Studies and Sustainability with a minor in Economics at Northern Michigan University.

The Voyager Scholarship gave me and 99 of my peers financial aid to alleviate the burden of college debt, meaningful travel experiences to expand our horizons, a network of mentors and leaders to support us, a \$10,000 stipend, and free Airbnb housing to pursue a six-week summer work-travel experience.”

Elizabeth Williams, 2022 Voyager, during a Q&A with President Obama and Brian Chesky, co-founder and CEO of Airbnb.





Aïssatou Seck, 2022 Leaders Africa, joins a roundtable with President Obama at the Democracy Forum.

Expanding our Programming

President Obama and Co-Founder and CEO of Airbnb Brian Chesky teamed up to welcome the first class of Voyagers who received the Voyager Scholarship for Public Service. The scholarship provides 100 college students with financial aid to alleviate the burden of college debt, meaningful travel experiences to expand their horizons, and a network of mentors and leaders to support them.

[Get to know the inaugural class. >>](#)

On the stage of our first-ever Democracy Forum hosted in the Fall of 2022, President Obama unveiled [Leaders USA](#), the newest region to join the Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Europe Leaders program. The leadership development program offers 100 US-based leaders the opportunity to learn new skills and tools to expand their impact in their communities, and strengthen the nation's democracy. We look forward to welcoming them to our network!



A CLOSER LOOK

Stories of Connection

Our leadership programs allow changemakers from around the world to connect and collaborate so they can make an even bigger difference in their communities.

Take Lineo Matlakala and Demeatreas Whatley, who participated in the Obama Foundation Scholars program at Columbia University and the University of Chicago.

The Scholars program gives rising leaders the opportunity to take their work in their community to the next level through an immersive leadership and academic curriculum. Lineo and Demeatreas are from different continents, but their work focuses on breaking cycles of violence in their hometowns.

Since graduating from the program, their collaboration has helped them make a greater impact in their communities. Demeatreas launched a program, Men on the Rise, to provide community-centered, evidence-based mentoring for at-risk youth in three Chicago neighborhoods. Soon after, Lineo's organization, the Barali Foundation, launched its own version of the program: Men on the Rise Lesotho, which provides social support structures for young men and boys. Lineo and Demeatreas continue to stay in touch as they refine and expand their initiatives in Chicago and Lesotho, respectively.

Pictured from top:

Demeatreas Whatley, 2021-2022 University of Chicago Scholar, during a Scholars meeting with President Obama in Chicago.

Young men from Men On The Rise Africa during a hike.

Lineo Matlakala, 2021-2022 Columbia University Scholar, during a Scholars meeting with President Obama in New York.

Hope in Action

Members of the Leaders program, which connects cohorts of regional changemakers to accelerate positive and lasting change in their communities and throughout their region, are already doing incredible work to bring our hope to action values to life. These changemakers hail from over 100 countries and territories and work on a wide range of issues, but they have all found connection, support, and inspiration from their fellow Leaders.



Payzee Mahmood (center), 2022 Leaders Europe, with fellow Europe leaders in Copenhagen.

Confidence Staveley

AFRICA



Confidence Staveley has already reached millions of Nigerians to inform them about cybersecurity hygiene. As the founder and executive director of CyberSafe Foundation, a non-governmental organization dedicated to improving inclusive and safe digital access in Africa, she believes that Africans should not only have access to technology but should also be equipped with cyber risk and mitigation strategies. Confidence recently facilitated CyberSafe's collaboration with the UK Government to implement a cybersecurity intervention in response to the heightened cyber attacks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Landisang Kotaro

ASIA-PACIFIC



Global Program participants got the chance to connect across cohorts and programs at our Democracy Forum event. The Forum was a transformative experience for many Global Programs participants, as they networked with their peers and heard from inspirational speakers like 2022 Obama Leader Landisang (Landi) Kotaro.

Landi, who was a part of the Asia-Pacific cohort, is the chief of staff at the Office of the President of the Republic of Palau—the youngest person and first woman to serve in this role. During the Forum, she shared her passion about steering Palau through the challenges of being a new democracy and her commitment to being a part of continued change.

Payzee Mahmood

EUROPE



One of the 2022 Leaders in the Europe cohort, Payzee Mahmood is also creating meaningful change for her community. Payzee works with a charity that provides advice and support to Middle Eastern, North African, and Afghan women and girls living in the UK who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing all forms of “honor” based abuse like forced marriage, child marriage, female genital mutilation, and domestic abuse. Payzee was named the 2021 UK Parliament Volunteer of the Year for her advocacy work, and she received special recognition at the UN Women UK Awards 2020.

Our Programming Impact

Using a values-based leadership curriculum, in 2022 we successfully completed three international Leaders Program cohorts in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Europe. In a recent survey,* **90 percent** of program participants felt that as a result of their cohort experience, they have a clear sense of a path forward to create change and build bridges in their communities.

Upon completion of the program, Leaders and Scholars reported a notable shift in the way they view themselves and their leadership styles.

**As of 2021, our team works with a third-party vendor who serves as an embedded external design, monitoring, evaluation, and learning partner and oversees data collection, analysis and reporting for our leadership programs.*



President Obama meets with the 2022 Leaders Europe cohort in Copenhagen.



Valerie Jarrett and Obama Alumni during a Happy Hour event in Los Angeles, CA.

Where Hope Goes from Here: Our Alumni Community

We know that none of the work you've read about so far would be possible without the thousands of volunteers, campaign staffers, and public servants who transformed an unlikely campaign rooted in hope into one cemented in history, making President Obama's journey to the White House possible.

We're proud to amplify their stories as they continue to make a difference in their communities and are finding opportunities to connect this community to the current program participants as they pass the baton onto the next generation.

As we continue to welcome emerging leaders into our programs, we've been adding our program alumni into the vibrant and diverse community that has accomplished so much.

Upon completing their leadership programs, participants now become a part of the Obama Leadership Network, connecting them to one another so that they can learn from each other, share challenges and best practices, and ultimately expand their impact.



A CLOSER LOOK

They Said This Day Would Never Come

On January 3, 2008, then-Senator Barack Obama won the Iowa caucuses—a historic victory that shocked the political establishment and ultimately set him on the road to the White House. To mark the formative moment, President Obama sat down with six former organizers to reflect on the experience and how they’ve continued to make change in the 15 years since.

[TAKE A LOOK >>](#)



Pictured:

To commemorate the fifteen-year anniversary of the Iowa Caucus victory in 2008, President Obama joins a roundtable discussion with a group of former Iowa Field Organizers at the Obama Foundation office in Chicago.





CHICAGO YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Futures Series

In 2021, when Mrs. Obama met with young people from Hyde Park Academy—the high school located right across the street from the site of the Obama Presidential Center—to talk about the students' career aspirations and what they need to succeed, it sparked the idea for the Futures Series. The series was such a success that Mrs. Obama joined students again in 2022.

This ongoing collaboration with Hyde Park Academy brings speakers from all types of fields to share their career journeys with the students. The program speaks to our commitment to inspire, empower, and connect people to change their world. And it's initiatives like this that will be the core of our work at the future Center.



Mrs. Obama meets with Hyde Park Academy students at the Obama Foundation office in Chicago, IL.



Empowering Chicago Youth Today for a Brighter Tomorrow

SPEAKERS FROM THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR INCLUDED:

Dion Dawson

Dion's Chicago Dream

Marty Nesbitt

The Vistra Group and Chairman of the Obama Foundation Board of Directors

Darnell Reed

Luella's Southern Kitchen

Melvin Rodriguez

Mielle Organics

Muholi Zanele

Artist

Hebru Brantley

Artist

Dr. Selwyn O. Rogers

University of Chicago Medicine Trauma Center

Pictured clockwise from top:
A student from Hyde Park Academy attends the Futures Series

Dr. Selwyn O. Rogers, University of Chicago Medicine Trauma Center

Nolita Pore, Associate Director of Content Strategy at Mielle Organics

Two students from Hyde Park Academy attend the Futures Series

Chef Darnell Reed, Luella's Southern Kitchen



Chicago youth enjoy lunches prepared as part of the Local Lunchbox program.

Local Lunchbox

Local Lunchbox was originally founded in Chelsea, Massachusetts, by the Shah Family Foundation, an organization that supports transformative work in education, health care, and the community.

The program connects nonprofits, schools, and other community organizations that serve young people with local chefs to serve delicious, healthy, and culturally relevant meals to kids and teens 18 and under.

Together with our partners, we are proud to be the first organizations to bring the healthy food program to the city of Chicago, which is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. In 2022, we served 75,000 meals to over 1,000 young people across the city.

[WATCH: Inaugural Local Lunchbox Program](#)

WE'RE THANKFUL TO OUR PARTNERS WHO MADE OUR 2022 CYCLE A SUCCESS:

- After School Matters
- Gary Comer Youth Center
- YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago
- Cajun Cafe Chicago
- H&B Catering
- Latin Plate Catering

Obama Youth Jobs Corps

The Obama Youth Jobs Corps is yet another way we're partnering with a standout organization, Urban Alliance, to help high school students prepare for a promising future. In the 2022-2023 school year, we welcomed six new interns to our offices.

And because learning always goes beyond the office or classroom, when Urban Alliance celebrated its 25th anniversary in October, Corps alumni Imani P. Muse and Austin Washington led a panel discussion with President Obama at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.



President Obama speaks at Urban Alliance 25th anniversary alongside Imani P. Muse and Austin Washington.

**MBK
ALLIANCE**



I AM MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

For nearly a decade, the My Brother's Keeper Alliance has led a cross-sector national call to action focused on building safe and supportive communities for boys and young men of color where they feel valued and have clear pathways to opportunity. In 2022, the MBK Alliance worked to drive impact on the [six MBK Milestones](#) by designing immersive experiences for youth, as well as supporting the local systems leaders from our network of nearly 250 MBK Communities. Our network serves thousands of young men of color.

My Brother's Keeper participants during a Shadow Day Pilot at McDonald's Headquarters in Chicago, IL.

A Summer of Safety is a Summer of Freedom

Summer is a challenging time for boys and young men in our communities. With school out of session, they have more time to fill. That's why the MBK Alliance created Freedom Summer, an initiative to support local organizations that are working to provide safe and productive places where our young people can learn and have fun.

The 2022 program cycle provided \$1 million in small grants to 51 grantees in Chicago and across the country that are expanding spaces and programming where boys and young men of color are free from violence, [one of the key milestones](#) that guides the Alliance's work. Thanks to a growing network of backbone entities, we've helped reach 8,000 young people.




Young boys play basketball in Oakland, CA.

A Path to Success, On and Off the Court

Teaming up with Ravensbourne University London and Vault49, MBK Chicago gave a group of young men an opportunity to celebrate basketball culture and expressive art through a cultural exchange program. In a trip of a lifetime, the Chicago-based youth received advice from college-aged students, toured popular sites, and more. Guided by one of our MBK Milestones, this effort delivered apprenticeship opportunities that supported the young men's career aspirations.

Welcoming the London-based young men to Chicago next, the group sat down with fashion designer Don C., visited the Chicago Bulls, toured the Wilson Basketball Offices, and explored other areas of Chicago.

Take a look at what your support made possible:

 **WATCH:**
[My Brother's Keeper Alliance travels to London](#)

MBK Alliance program participants also touched down in Houston, Texas, to spend the week at the NCAA Men's Basketball Final Four tournament. The young men got a behind-the-scenes look at how tournaments like these are produced, from media coverage to operations and logistics.



Young men with My Brother's Keeper Alliance in London.



Pictured from left to right: A young boy participates in Chicago Maritime, a Freedom Summer recipient that teaches young men about water and boat safety. Urban Male Network hosts a summer block party. My Brother's Keeper Alliance and Girls Opportunity Alliance youth participate in a Shadow Day Pilot at McDonald's Headquarters in Chicago, IL.

A Digital Home for the MBK Leadership Network

To be more deeply involved in the work of the My Brother's Keeper Alliance, we invited communities and organizations to become involved in the MBK Leadership Network via our online learning management platform. The platform ensures communities can complete the My Brother's Keeper [certification process](#) and build community with fellow leaders.

Community leaders are also paired with a My Brother's Keeper Community Coach for individual consultation and small group coaching by region and/or milestone affinity. Through the online platform, the My Brother's Keeper Alliance is the standard-setter that provides tools, resources, and opportunities designed to bolster the network of MBK Communities.



A CLOSER LOOK

Protecting our Mental Health

The MBK Alliance hosted a two-part series in response to the growing mental health crisis impacting communities of color, with a focus on boys and young men of color. The conversations addressed the shared experiences of communities of color with mental health and offered helpful resources and testimonies to an audience of MBK communities.

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

Young boys create posters at Black Family Development in Detroit, MI.

**GIRLS OPPORTUNITY
ALLIANCE**

The Girls Opportunity Alliance began in 2018 with the goal of empowering adolescent girls around the world through education.

Today, we're doing that and more.

In 2022, we expanded our reach by providing funding support through our Girls Opportunity Alliance Fund to 21 new grassroots organizations in 14 countries. This includes organizations from five new countries: Mexico, Colombia, Nepal, Thailand, and Mozambique. We also grew our Network of grassroots leaders by 300, for a total of 4,100 global members. The Girls Opportunity Alliance Network provides opportunities for grassroots leaders around the world to connect, share, and collaborate as they strengthen and scale their work.

To-date, the Girls Opportunity Alliance Fund has supported 70 grassroots projects for girls' education and empowerment in 25 countries like India, Malawi, Cambodia, and Peru. This work is made possible by contributions from more than 10,000 individual donors from all 50 states and 40 countries.

When we work together to get every girl to the place she wants to be, we create a better world for us all.

Maria Florinda Meletz Chumil
and Vilma Saloj speak at
the Girls Opportunity Alliance
Get Her There campaign event.





Pictured from top:
Marsai Martin hosts the Girls Opportunity Alliance Get Her There campaign event.

Wanjiru Wahome speaks alongside Michelle Obama at the Girls Opportunity Alliance Get Her There campaign event.

Marsai Martin interviews young women from the Girls Opportunity Alliance community at the Get Her There campaign event.



A CLOSER LOOK

#GetHerThere



Mrs. Obama’s passion for women and girls’ equality runs deep.

So much so that on the International Day of the Girl—and the fourth anniversary of the Girls Opportunity Alliance—we launched the [Get Her There campaign](#).

Get Her There is a global call to action to drive awareness and action that will empower adolescent girls to reach their full potential. It’s a way for everyone to get involved to help every girl around the world achieve her dreams. Our goal is to bring together an alliance of everyday people, brands, industry leaders, high-profile individuals, and philanthropists to raise funds to support adolescent girls’ education and empowerment.

To kick off the campaign, we organized a luncheon in New York City hosted by Marsai Martin, featuring a musical performance by Sara Bareilles, remarks from young women in the Girls Opportunity Alliance, and a panel discussion featuring Mrs. Obama, Amal Clooney, Melinda French Gates, and Wanjiru Wahome, a leader from the Samburu Girls Foundation in Kenya.

The day before the luncheon, we brought together grassroots leaders working on girls’ education issues around the world to share their stories, learn from one another, and participate in workshops—our first in-person gathering of our global Network since the pandemic.

Allison (Alli) Silva holds a lei prior to a roundtable discussion with Mrs. Obama and eight girls from across the island of Oahu, Hawai'i.



Marsai Martin interviews Miriam Kimani from Kenya from the Girls Opportunity Alliance community about her dreams and obstacles during the Get Her There campaign event in New York, NY.



Check out some of the organizations joining us to support GET HER THERE:

NONPROFIT COLLABORATORS:

- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- Camfed - The Campaign for Female Education
- CARE
- The Clooney Foundation for Justice
- Girls Inc.
- Girl Rising
- International Center for Research on Women
- Malala Fund
- Population Council
- Room to Read
- She's the First
- The Streisand Foundation
- UNICEF
- UN Girls' Education Initiative

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS:

- Comcast
- FedEx
- Lego
- Lululemon
- Olivela
- Saks

Our Work at Home

We spent 2022 working to expand our programming to support adolescent girls across the United States. We are continuing to connect with girl-serving organizations to better understand the needs of grassroots organizations, their leadership, and girls. We've convened focus groups in cities including New York, Atlanta, and Honolulu to hear from these organizations.

At the beginning of the year, Mrs. Obama also met with eight students in Hawai'i to hear their stories and their perspectives on leadership, culture, and finding one's identity.

At home in Chicago, we have collaborated with more than 40 Chicagoland grassroots organizations on Network session trainings and community events across the city—from celebrating Earth Day with a park clean-up to bringing students to a Chicago Bulls game with President Obama. We were proud to start a Shadow Days series alongside the My Brother's Keeper Alliance to expose young people to new opportunities and career paths, including experiences at Aon and McDonald's headquarters to learn about business.

As part of our efforts in Chicago, Mrs. Obama met with young women from local organizations like SHE Chicago, Polished Pebbles, and Working on Womanhood (WOW) to discuss their dreams, the challenges they face, and how the Girls Opportunity Alliance can continue to support them in the years to come.



Meeting with them reminded me of why I started the Girls Opportunity Alliance in the first place. These girls are so bright, so determined, so fiercely talented. They deserve the world. And I can't wait to see how they use their education to lift us all up in years ahead.”

—Former First Lady Michelle Obama



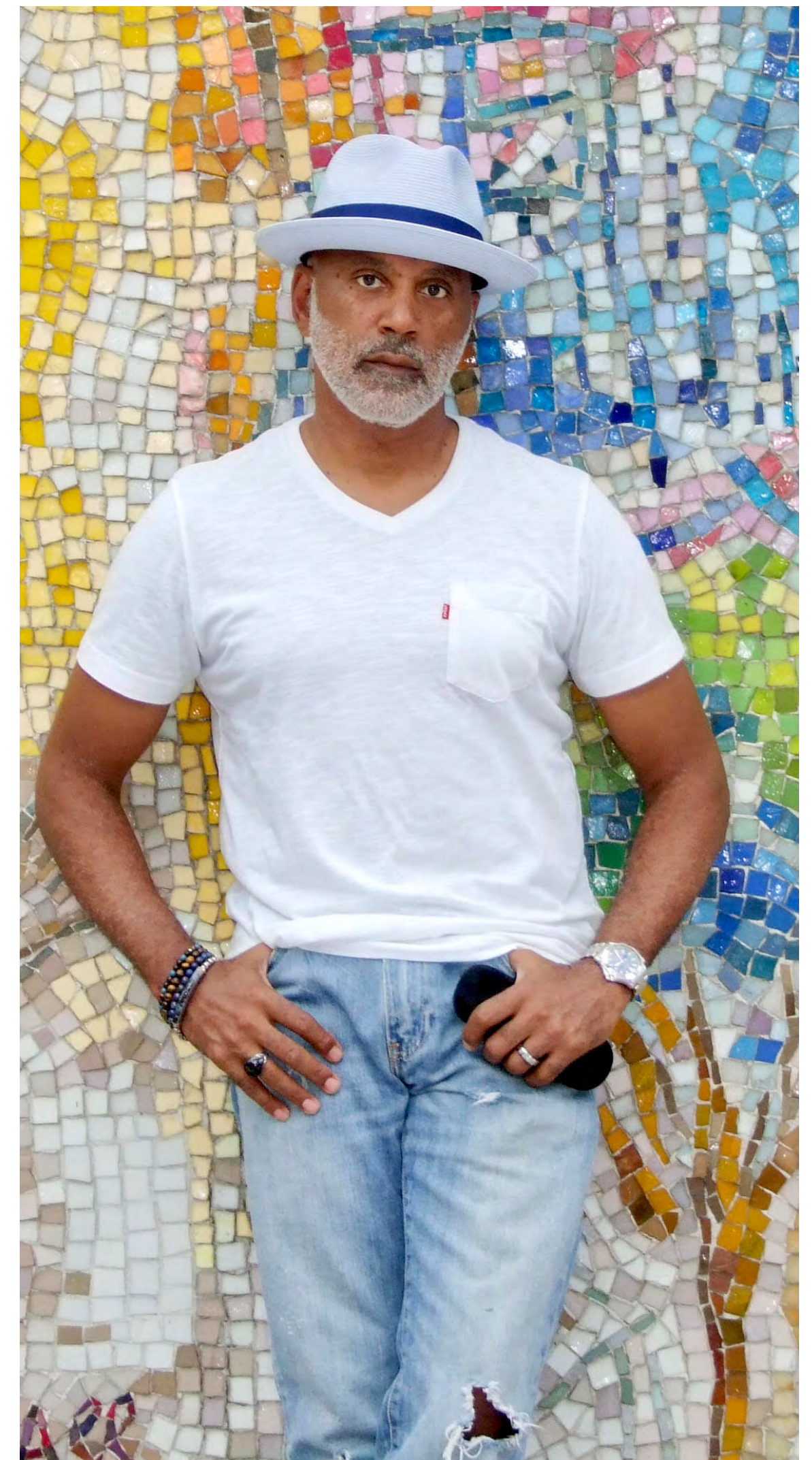
Mrs. Obama meets with eight girls from Oahu for the Girls Opportunity Alliance roundtable in Hawai'i.

**HOW
WE
WORK**

“

They could have built this Center anywhere, but they chose to add this to our neighborhood, and that’s inspiring in itself. Living so close to the future Obama Presidential Center inspired me to become a supporter of the Foundation. I’ve met the kids who play basketball at the local YMCA, and in talking to them, I know the challenges of their environment. To me, this is a chance to offer these young people a better life and give the neighborhood a sense of hope. The Obamas have always felt like a part of our community, and their choice to bring the Center here, to provide hope, programming, and opportunity to the area, inspired me to give.”

— **Harold Sawyer, Jr.,**
Obama Foundation Supporter



Our supporters believe in the Obama Foundation's mission and are champions of our work within their communities. And together, they're making a remarkable impact.

160,697

**DONORS HAVE GIVEN
TO THE FOUNDATION**

WITH

57,165

**GIVING IN
2022 ALONE.**

THEY REPRESENT

**INDIVIDUALS,
CORPORATIONS,**

AND

FOUNDATIONS

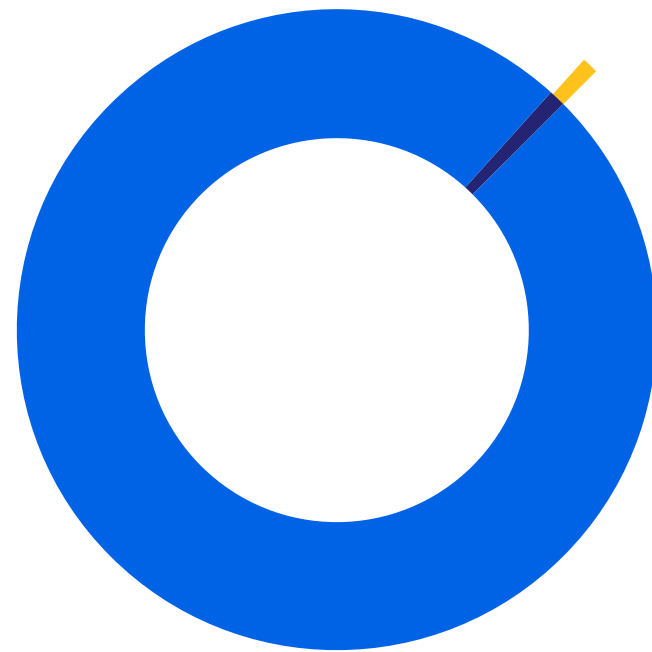
FROM

ALL 50 STATES

AND 148 COUNTRIES

AROUND THE WORLD.

We are deeply grateful for their commitment in pursuit of our shared goals.

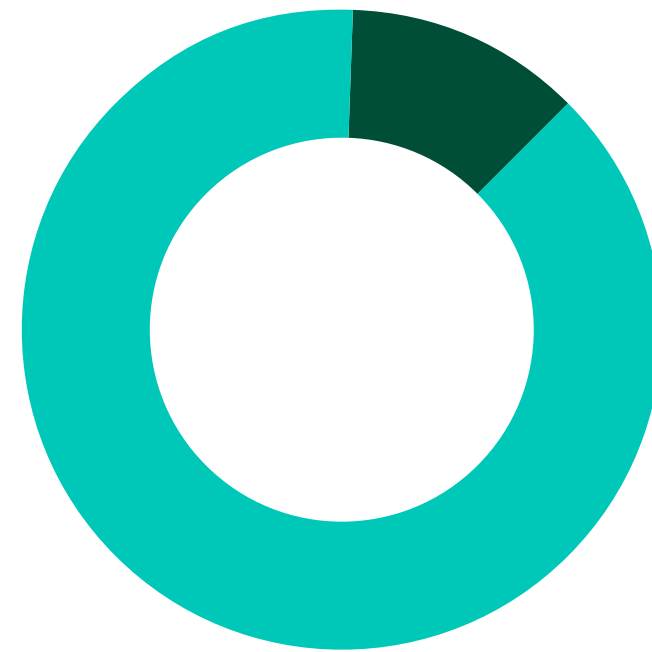


Revenue

TOTAL: \$310,258,110

- **CONTRIBUTIONS***
 100.63%
 \$312,210,144
- **INTEREST, INVESTMENT & OTHER INCOME (LOSS)**
 -0.63%
 -\$1,952,034

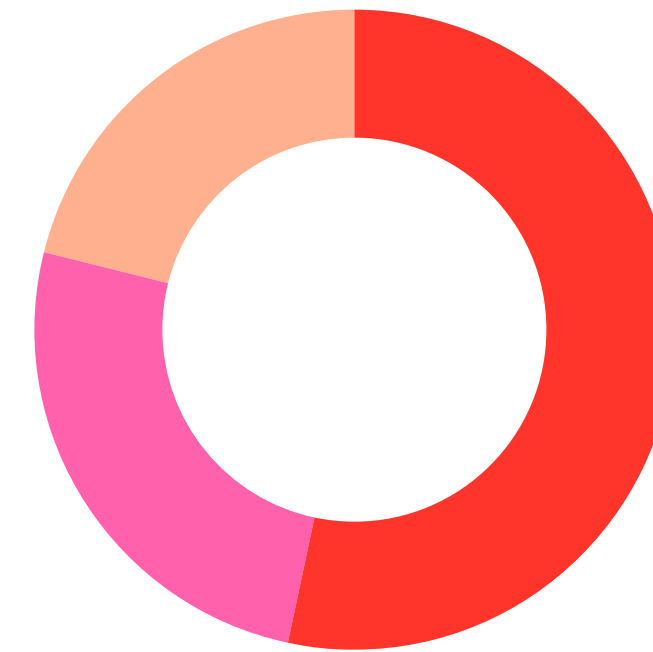
*Contributions include in-kind donations.



Fundraising

TOTAL: \$312,210,144

- **FOUNDATION + CORP**
 11.74%
 \$36,668,641
- **INDIVIDUAL**
 88.26%
 \$275,541,503



Operating Expenses

TOTAL: \$65,004,586

- **PROGRAMS**
 53.56%
 \$34,817,492
- **GENERAL + ADMIN**
 25.57%
 \$16,622,752
- **FUNDRAISING**
 20.87%
 \$13,564,342

**NET ASSETS
(AS OF DEC. 2022)**
 \$925,309,131

**CONSTRUCTION IN
PROGRESS COSTS**
 \$222,237,463

2022 Year In Review

We spent approximately \$5.9M with more than 105 diverse businesses, and \$3.6M—representing over a quarter of total addressable spending—with Chicago-based companies.

As we continue to build the OPC, 54% of the services that we’ve contracted and paid for are being delivered by diverse businesses.

We’re just getting started. Our responsibility is to increase this number as the Foundation grows, so that diverse businesses across industries have meaningful opportunities to participate in our work.

A community member joins The Obama Foundation in the Chicago Pride Month parade.

Our Commitment to Diversity

Here at the Obama Foundation, diversity, equity, and inclusion are at the core of everything we do. Read more about our commitments, including our Business Diversity Policy.

[OUR COMMITMENTS >>](#)





Martin Nesbitt speaks to students at Hyde Park Academy for a Futures Series session.

“ We’re all here because we believe in the immense power of an environment and a network where we can work together to accelerate the pace of making the world a better place. By identifying the next generation of values-based leaders, connecting them, and teaching them new ways to navigate their worlds to make their ideas and programs more successful, we are unleashing the power of this network—one that I believe is worth investing in.”

—Martin H. Nesbitt,
Chairman of the Board of Directors

We are governed by a board of directors.

MARTIN H. NESBITT

Obama Foundation Board Chair,
The Vistria Group

CONNIE BALLMER

Ballmer Group

THELMA GOLDEN

The Studio Museum in Harlem

DR. MAHALIA A. HINES

Common Ground Foundation

GLENN H. HUTCHINS

North Island

BRODERICK JOHNSON

Comcast Corporation

DEMOND MARTIN

Wellwithall

SEAN PARKER

The Parker Foundation

DAVID PLOUFFE

Stand Up Strategies

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PSP Partners

PENNY PRITZKER

PSP Partners

JOHN W. ROGERS, JR.

Ariel Investments

MICHAEL J. SACKS

GCM Grosvenor

JUAN SALGADO

City Colleges of Chicago

JULIANNA SMOOT

Blue Lake Strategies

VALERIE JARRETT

Chief Executive Officer,
Obama Foundation

ROBERT WOLF

32 Advisors

WHAT'S AHEAD

We know that the ambitious mission we're on will not be easy. Addressing the challenges we face will require a sustained effort spanning decades—not just years. But we place our hope in the network you've gotten a taste of, and our broader community who—in the face of seemingly impossible odds—continue to believe in the power of lifting each other up and their own capacity to make change real.

We share this relentless optimism. And we believe that together, we can reinforce our democracy and tackle the most pressing issues of our time—for our generation and generations to come.

JOIN US.

DONATE

Fuel this work by making a donation

SIGN UP

Get hope delivered straight to your inbox

SPREAD THE WORD

Share this report with someone in your network

FOLLOW ALONG

**Follow us on social media
@ObamaFoundation**

THANK YOU

None of this work is possible without the care of the donors, volunteers, email subscribers, and social media followers around the world who are fueling our programming and helping us build the Obama Presidential Center.

[SEE THE DONORS >>](#)



**OBAMA
FOUNDATION**

About the Obama Foundation

The Obama Foundation is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation established in 2014 to support President and Mrs. Obama's lifelong goals to empower leaders, strengthen democracy, and create lasting change at the local, national, and global levels. The Foundation oversees planning for the future Obama Presidential Center, as well as a range of domestic and global programs. The Foundation calls the South Side of Chicago home and is headquartered just a few blocks away from the future site of the Obama Presidential Center.