



THE OBAMA FOUNDATION

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



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Hope has always been necessary for progress. It pulls us together, inspires us to action, and propels us forward.

To us, hope is a deep belief in the power of people working together to determine their own destiny — and it's always been at the heart of President Obama's story and our work as a Foundation.

But in 2020,
our hope was
profoundly tested
— by COVID-19,
by racial injustice,
by uncertainty
and unrest.

FAITH
OVER-
FEAR
Psalm 118:6



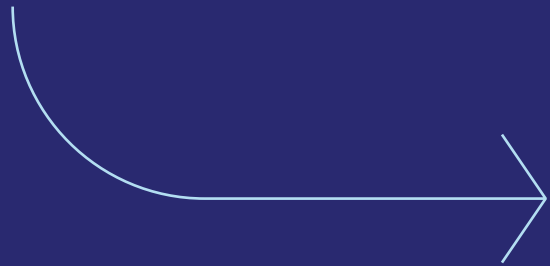
That's when we needed hope the most. And with the emergence of new leaders willing to confront these challenges with hard work, resilience, creativity, and empathy, we saw how hope can turn anguish into action.

This year, even in the most challenging times, hope led the way. Just as it always has.

H O P E



L E A D S



T H E



W A Y





FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA:

2020 was
quite a year.

We've seen a global pandemic upend our lives; millions take to the streets to protest police violence; and a racial reckoning shed new light on the darkest chapters in our nation's history. By any measure, 2020 was historic — defined by a series of moments that demanded our attention and demonstrated the power of a rising generation calling for change.

Today, we are still facing our share of challenges. The pandemic is still a global threat, America remains more polarized than any time we can remember, we're continuing to grapple with the legacy of slavery and Jim Crow, and the gap between the rich and poor is only growing wider.

AND YET, I'M STILL HOPEFUL.

In a year of seemingly insurmountable challenges, a wave of new leaders has emerged. Young people from all walks of life have used their voices and talents to lift up their communities, protect their neighbors, support local businesses, and challenge us to reimagine a world that recognizes and protects the dignity of all people.

Their conviction reinforces why Michelle and I started the Foundation: to train and empower the next generation of leaders to pick up the baton and make change in their own communities. Young people around the world are discovering new ways to help make a difference, and the Obama Foundation is finding new ways to support their work.

This past year, we continued to meet our network of leaders and connect with our Chicago neighbors, and we transitioned our programming online. Through remote gatherings, we built community, tailored our programming in response to the pandemic, and provided additional spaces for our leaders to share solutions and keep each other going. Thanks to video calls, I was able to speak directly with groups that included activists in Europe, leaders of the Movement for Black Lives, and teachers and business owners on the South Side of Chicago. The common thread was a belief that things can get better if we come together, share ideas, and take action.

FOR THAT, I COULDN'T BE PROUDER.

We also continued to make progress this year towards our long-term goals. Thanks to the years-long efforts of community organizers, residents, and Foundation staff, the Obama Presidential Center will break ground this fall in historic Jackson Park. It's something I've been excited about since leaving the White House, and Michelle and I can't wait to see how the campus will fill young people with the same sense of purpose we found during our time in Chicago.

From my early days organizing on the streets of the South Side to my hardest days in the White House, hope — the insistence that something better awaits if we're willing to put in the effort—has guided my work. The stories you'll read in these pages prove that hope isn't just a tagline; it's essential for moving people to action. And it's at the core of everything the Foundation does to inspire, empower, and connect people to change their world



OBAMA FOUNDATION



A MESSAGE FROM
OBAMA FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP

David Simas & Valerie Jarrett

Since our founding in 2014, the Obama Foundation has been guided by a belief in the power of hope, and the idea that ordinary people working together can bring about change. It's a belief reflected in our mission, and core to our work as we build the Obama Presidential Center.

Hope has always been central to the Obamas' story. It was hope that brought a young man from Hawai'i to Chicago as a community organizer. It was hope that led a woman who grew up on the South Side to leave behind a corporate law career and enter public service. And hope — the notion that if millions of ordinary citizens who organized in their communities to chip in, or knock on doors, or register to vote, could change the direction of a nation — made the Obama presidency possible.

In 2020, the global pandemic caused unfathomable challenges, and the fight for racial justice ignited a national and international movement. But it also offered moments of hope from countless young people with whom we have connected through our programs over the past several years as they stepped forward to lead.

This report features some of their stories. Here you'll read about two of our Obama Fellows who were inspired by a conversation with President Obama to team up to fight the climate crisis. You'll learn about a young woman in Namibia who was even more determined to get her education after sharing her story with Mrs. Obama. And you'll meet a Hyde Park Academy senior who graduated as part of the fearless class of 2020 and decided to come home to serve her community after earning her degree.



You'll also read about the progress we're making to bring the Obama Presidential Center to life. From the very beginning, the Obamas have focused on how this project can be an economic catalyst for this community. Now, with the conclusion of a careful, years-long federal review process, pre-construction work has begun in Jackson Park. As we look ahead to our official groundbreaking this fall, this important milestone brings us one step closer to expanding opportunity and helping create thousands of new jobs in the community we serve.

Looking back, 2020 reminded us of a timeless truth: that no one makes sustainable change alone. And while we may not have been physically together this past year, the progress laid out in this report was only possible thanks to our generous supporters, the community members who work with us on the South and West Sides, and the young leaders — in the United States and around the world — overcoming adversity to make things better.

Today, the work we do to inspire, connect, and empower the next generation is more important than ever. We're so proud of our network of leaders who met the moment, and filled with hope for the road ahead.

Valerie Jarrett, [President](#)

David Simas, [CEO](#)

Our Mission is to
inspire, empower, and
connect people to
change their world.



A Year of Meeting Anguish with Action

As a Foundation, we are committed to carrying out our mission while celebrating and advancing the work of the nation's first Black president and First Lady — and continuing their long legacy of opposing injustice and discrimination in all its forms. After all, the change we seek can't happen if some people are kept from reaching their full potential.

Our commitments and values inform everything we do — and it's why we focused our hope and took action last June when protests against racial injustice swept through the United States and around the world in the wake of the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Daunte Wright, and far too many other Black lives.

We launched the [Anguish and Action Resources on Obama.org](#) to connect people across the globe with tangible resources to create more just and equitable communities.

We created the [Reimagining Policing Pledge](#), which calls on mayors and local officials to review and reform use of force policies, redefine public safety, and combat systemic racism within law enforcement. More than 330 mayors have officially accepted the pledge across 41 states and Washington, DC.

The My Brother's Keeper Alliance created the [Racism Pandemic Fund](#), a \$1 million investment fund for MBK Impact and Seed Community addressing the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 and police violence on communities of color.

We hosted a series of timely conversations about policing, public safety, and progress with President Obama, activists, elected officials, and young people.

We are inspired by those who continue to advocate for accountability and change, even in the face of a pandemic. They are ensuring that last summer's reckoning wasn't just a moment in time that fades as years pass. They have turned their anger and anguish into action — buoyed by the clear-eyed hope that lasting change demands.

[Anguish & Action Resources »](#)

[Reimagining Policing Pledge »](#)

[My Brother's Keeper Alliance »](#)

The Obama Presidential Center

We're Bringing Hope Home.

Few places will embody hope, ignite passion, and inspire renewed commitment to taking action and serving others like the Obama Presidential Center.

It will generate thousands of jobs during and after construction and catalyze economic growth on Chicago's South Side by bringing more than 750,000 visitors to the area each year.

It will give those visitors from near and far a place to connect, to grow, and to discover the change they want to make in the world.

It will honor history while inspiring young people to shape our future.





And we're thrilled to say: It's time. After all the dreaming and careful planning, we will begin building this special place in the fall of 2021.

Until then, we invite you to join us for updates and events [on the Road to Groundbreaking](#) »

THE CENTER'S WORLD-CLASS MUSEUM

An Awe-Inspiring Visitor Journey

The Museum at the Obama Presidential Center will welcome visitors with an experience that is memorable, moving, and profound.

Visitors will first observe the Museum building's form, inspired by an image of four hands coming together, symbolizing upward movement and telling a simple story about unified action: It takes many hands to shape a place.

Inside, visitors will learn about the moments and movements in America that gave rise to this historic presidency, and explore

President and Mrs. Obama's leadership and legacy — from the organizer-powered campaign that made history to the two-term Administration that made remarkable progress.

The Museum will showcase exhibits that highlight the ongoing work on issues in Chicago and around the world, and the emerging leaders who are leading this work. It will inspire visitors to take action themselves.

The building's top level will be home to the Sky Room and the Sky Room Vista, which will offer

an inspiring space to reflect as visitors take in stunning panoramic views of the Chicago skyline, Lake Michigan, and the South Side.

We want the Museum and Center to be more than an in-person experience. We're investing in digital opportunities to reach people around the world, even those who may never visit our campus in Chicago, inspiring them to connect with each other and take meaningful action in their communities with help from online tools and resources.



[We are currently seeking artifacts for potential display at the Museum. If you have materials that you would like to submit for consideration, you may learn more here »](#)



THE CENTER'S MUSEUM EXTERIOR

A Powerful, Enduring Message

The marchers who crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, in 1965 believed that America had the potential to live up to its highest ideals — but only if we were willing to fight for it. So they did.

Their story is the American story, and a new chapter is added every time a young person speaks up, takes action, and pushes our country to be better.

President Obama's impassioned speech in 2015 on the 50th anniversary of the historic Selma march paid tribute to those marchers, and we're excited an excerpt of that speech will appear on the exterior of the Obama Presidential Center Museum.

The message will help make the Center a beacon for future generations of leaders — from Chicago's South Side to all around the world — and remind us how powerful we are when we work together to create change.



[Watch the special reveal of the Museum exterior's text »](#)

Y O U



A R E

A M E R I C A .





THE CENTER'S CAMPUS

Space to Reflect & Explore

The creation of the Center will preserve and enhance Jackson Park's unique features by reunifying parkland, planting new trees, increasing biodiversity, and providing a newly expanded habitat for birds and wildlife. The landscape will be a place of natural beauty, offering visitors and community members ample room to gather and celebrate.

The Center will also embody and continue the work of President and Mrs. Obama to address climate change. We are

pursuing goals of LEED v4 Platinum, Sustainable SITES, and ILFI Carbon Neutral certifications — and we'll engage visitors around issues of environmental sustainability and conservation, inspiring and empowering them to take action in their communities.

We look forward to inviting visitors to enjoy a series of signature art commissions, along with cultural programs, which will build on the legacy of workshops and performances that President and Mrs. Obama hosted at the White House.



**THE OBAMA
PRESIDENTIAL CENTER
CAMPUS MAP**

- 1** The Women's Garden
- 2** The Museum
- 3** The Plaza
- 4** The Forum

- 5** The Wetland Walk
- 6** Chicago Public Library
- 7** Fruit & Vegetable Garden
- 8** The Great Lawn

- 9** Children's Play Area
- 10** Program, Athletic,
and Activity Center

I

The Forum & Plaza

Welcoming and bringing together the local community, the Forum building will house numerous collaborative and creative spaces — including an auditorium and a multimedia recording studio — and offer plenty of areas for people to meet, learn, relax, eat, do their homework, or enjoy other activities.

Just outside the Forum and Museum buildings, a public Plaza will give us and our neighbors new opportunities to host gatherings and will welcome outdoor performances, markets, and fairs.

II

The Fruit & Vegetable Garden

Within the landscape of the Center, there will be a Fruit and Vegetable Garden — inspired by Mrs. Obama's White House Kitchen Garden — where visitors can get their hands dirty and feel connected to the earth.

III

The Great Lawn & Children's Play Area

This area for kids of all ages will feature a spacious playground with innovative recreation equipment and a design that celebrates Jackson Park's wondrous, imagination-stirring natural environment. Meanwhile, the Great Lawn will offer winter sledding, summer picnics, movies in the park, and a perfect view of Jackson Park's beautiful lagoons.

IV

The Wetland Walk & Women's Garden

Jackson Park's historic Women's Garden will be made more accessible, and a Wetland Walk will offer seating built out of large stone blocks around a man-made lagoon, a tree canopy, and a Children's Play Area.

V

The Park & Athletic Center

The Park itself will offer space to play, walk, and sled, all linked by a long pedestrian promenade that connects the Center to Jackson Park. And the Program, Activity, and Athletic Center will be a home for recreation (like hoops, naturally) as well as community programming and events.




THE CENTER'S LIBRARY

Endless Curiosity & Learning

In a first of its kind partnership, the Center will house a new branch of the Chicago Public Library — with a circulating collection of books to check out, interactive media spaces, amenities for children, and informational and vocational resources for adults.

The President's Reading Room will be an elegant and inspiring space featuring a specially curated collection of books, along with small displays of manuscripts and other materials that have inspired or impacted President & Mrs. Obama.



[Learn more
about the Library
at the Center »](#)





Our Work in Chicago

In Chicago, community engagement runs deep.

That tradition — which includes trailblazers like Jane Addams, Ida B. Wells, Harold Washington, and eventually, a young organizer named Barack Obama — guides how we work with our Chicago community.

We are committed to building the Obama Presidential Center hand-in-hand with our neighbors in order to create a world-class gathering place on the South Side.

We are committed to working with local and diverse vendors, partners, and institutions to drive economic development that stretches beyond one project or one neighborhood, and ties together every part of the regional economy.

And we are committed to preparing leaders to give back to their city and to change the world.



We work to serve
the city of Chicago
in three key ways:

- I Job Creation
- II Supporting Local Businesses
- III Youth Programs

I JOB CREATION

We helped create a set of ambitious goals that aim to stimulate the creation of a diverse and inclusive talent pipeline for Chicago construction projects, increase economic development, and establish stable, well-paying careers.

II SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Through one of our key community partners, the Emerald South Economic Development Collaborative, we seek to generate community wealth through public-private partnerships. Working with local businesses and chambers of commerce in the neighborhoods closest to the Center, Emerald South is poised to attract and coordinate investment through community convening and collaborative partnerships that increase local ownership and prosperity — looking out for long-time South Side residents who deserve the benefit of their bargain.

III YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Obama Youth Jobs Corps — a partnership between the Foundation and Urban Alliance — creates valuable opportunities for students on the South Side to gain job training and paid internships at businesses across Chicago.

We offer civic engagement programs that empower young people to take action and address the issues they care most about, as well as community programs to build on the My Brother's Keeper Alliance's impact in Chicago. In 2018, the MBK Alliance announced 19 organizations across 10 states and Puerto Rico as winners of its inaugural national competition to identify and invest in organizations that are making a real impact in the lives of boys and young men of color.

The impressive list included Chicago's South Shore Drill Team, a high energy squad that uses the performing arts to reduce violence by engaging youth during their critical teenage years. As a current MBK Alliance Seed community, they receive funding, technical support, and coaching to serve even more young people in Chicago. They are a shining example of how we're listening and responding to the needs of Chicago-based leaders and youth.



OUR WORK IN CHICAGO

Workforce Initiative

The people building the Center should reflect and represent the people living in Chicago.

With that powerful goal guiding the way, the Obama Presidential Center Construction Workforce Initiative is creating an inclusive team of workers trained with skills to build the Center and a diverse pipeline of talent for construction projects across the city.

We selected Lakeside Alliance as the general contractor for the Center to ensure that South Side, Black-owned construction firms were key decision makers and profited directly from the project.

The Construction Workforce Initiative will focus on three areas of impact:





I Setting the Bar

The general city ordinance for this project calls for 50 percent of the workforce to reside within Chicago, and for 32 percent of subcontractors to be diverse vendors (26 percent minority- and six percent women-owned firms) — but we want to go even further.

Rather than focusing on city residents broadly, we want to be deliberate about ensuring jobs on this site reach people in underserved communities. That's why 35 percent of the Center's Chicago-based workforce will come from Chicago's South and West Side communities, and 50 percent of its subcontracting packages will be awarded to diverse vendors. The Center will support up to 4,945 direct, indirect, and induced jobs during construction and up to 2,536 direct, indirect, and induced jobs after the Center is open.

II Breaking Down Barriers

We are supporting workforce participants and diverse subcontractors with a barrier reduction fund that covers costs such as for transportation, child care, tools, union fees, and more, Diversity Equity and Inclusion-focused bidding to empower small businesses, and an emphasis on Diversity and Inclusion.

III Engaging the Community

We have committed \$850,000 to the We Can Build It partnership with local workforce development organizations to train 400 new apprentices from Chicago's South and West Sides.



WHAT CHANGE LOOKS LIKE



OUR WORK IN CHICAGO

The Obama Neighborhood Teams

We believe in developing a network of leaders that's diverse and that starts at home. That's why the Obama Foundation Neighborhood Teams, our community organizing network, builds neighborhood volunteer bases across Chicago, starting in the neighborhoods nearest the Obama Presidential Center on the South and West Sides.

Kemdah Stroud (left), Antonio Davis (center), and Asiaha Butler (right) serve as team captains in neighborhoods on the South Side of Chicago.

Knowing that residents were spending more time at home during 2020, the Neighborhood Teams pivoted their typical model to a fully virtual operation and organized digital check-ins and events at an unprecedented rate. They generated even more support for the Obama Presidential Center, helping us cross the finish line of the federal regulatory review process.

No matter the method, our teams connect grassroots leaders and community residents using a neighborhood-based organizing model in support of our broader community engagement initiatives. They work toward three goals:

I Inspire, Empower, and Connect Our Neighbors.

We share our programs and resources to strengthen connections between us and the communities near the Center.

Send us an email at community@obama.org if you're interested in joining the Obama Neighborhood Teams.

II Uplift Neighborhood-Based Issues.

We amplify local voices and facilitate spaces for community members to share knowledge, build strategies, and spur positive change in their neighborhoods.

[Learn more about our Hometown Fund initiative and how donations to it will help create economic opportunities for residents on the city's South and West Sides. »](#)

III Develop Leaders In Chicago.

We empower our team leaders locally by hosting panels, convenings, and trainings centered around community organizing.

ANIYAH FISHER &
THE OBAMA YOUTH JOBS CORPS

Preparing Students to Succeed + Lead

For 2020 Kenwood Academy graduate Aniyah Fisher, the next big step was the University of Michigan, where she is one year into her studies on a full-ride scholarship.

Her first big step on that path was with the Obama Youth Jobs Corps, where she started as an intern before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Obama Youth Jobs Corps is a partnership between the Obama Foundation and youth workforce development nonprofit Urban Alliance to expand access to economic opportunity for high school students in Chicago's most underserved communities.

Students in the program receive the skills and training to succeed — through workforce readiness training and early, meaningful work experience at businesses throughout the city.



Aniyah credits her time interning with us on the digital, development, and people teams as part of the reason she was admitted to Michigan and was awarded the Gates Scholarship. During her time in the program, she even got to introduce President Obama during [XQ's Graduate Together](#) national broadcast.

After college, Aniyah plans to give back to her hometown community — by studying sociology and psychology at Michigan, then practicing as a psychiatrist in Chicago. We couldn't be prouder of Aniyah and the entire class of 2020, and we look forward to seeing the kind of leader she becomes in the future!







Our Programs & Leaders

From the very start, we've worked to build a diverse network of emerging leaders, in Chicago and around the world, because we believe that extraordinary things can happen when ordinary people come together to make a difference.

To bring that belief to life, we conduct programming that's rooted in our core values — and the example set by the Obamas — and that gives young leaders the tools and support they need to scale their impact and turn their hope into meaningful action.

Our programs are designed to empower those leaders to reimagine their communities and address issues they care about, from creating pathways to opportunity for boys and young men of color and ensuring girls get the education they deserve, to protecting the environment and finding new ways to get people engaged in local organizations.

These programs include our [Fellowship](#) and [Scholars](#) programs, the My Brother's Keeper Alliance, the Girls Opportunity Alliance, as well as programs in [Africa](#), the [Asia-Pacific](#), and [Europe](#).

The leaders in each program engage deeply with their communities, bring new perspectives to the table, and help others discover and harness their own power and voice.

But 2020 was different. Leaders and young people around the world faced once-in-a-lifetime crises that called on, and strengthened, their core values.



They had to be more creative, strategic, and resilient than ever — as they moved their programming almost entirely online, found opportunities to share lessons learned, and stepped up to meet challenges that seemed insurmountable.

And no matter how tough times got, they never stopped pushing toward progress.

Here are a few of their stories.

**OBAMA FOUNDATION ASIA-PACIFIC
LEADER JATON ZULUETA AND
AHA! LEARNING CENTER**

Granting Access with Imagination

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, students and parents needed more support adjusting to a whole new, unfamiliar way to learn.

But some communities were forced to do that with limited internet access.

That was the reality facing Obama Foundation Asia-Pacific Leader Jatón Zulueta, Executive Director and Founder of AHA! Learning Center, which offers free after-school learning to children in the Philippines.

Jatón had to come up with an imaginative way to keep delivering lessons to AHA!'s children. With the help of fellow Leaders like Alfonso (Fonsy) Regala of the Philippines, Jatón created AHA! Eskwelang Pamilya — a free home-based after school program completely run on Facebook Messenger.





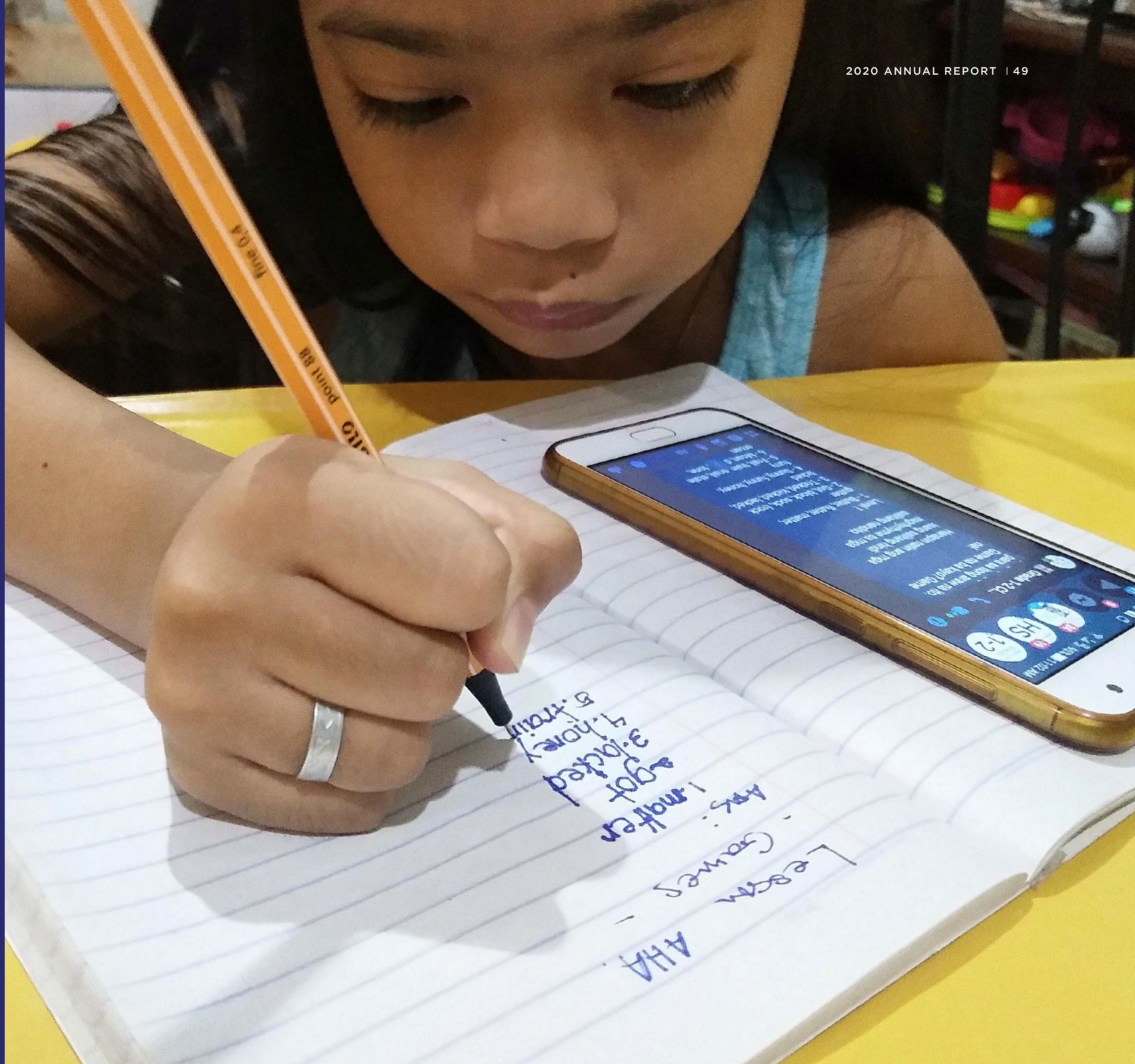
Not only did it give his students valuable access to learning — like wellness exercises and reading prompts — it gave entire families conversation starters and crucial resources for understanding COVID-19.

In a month, AHA! went from reaching 300 children at its center to 16,000 students all over the Philippines. A year has passed, and AHA! now has a network of 24 school divisions, impacting over three million students.

“Trying different things has been the great success of what the Obama Foundation has taught me.”

[Watch the video on the amazing story of Jatón, Fonsy, and AHA! Learning Center »](#)





CHICAGO'S STEADFAST COMMUNITY LEADERS

Locking Arms During Hard Times

Chicago was hit especially hard by COVID-19 — especially residents on the city's South and West Sides.

But there's also no shortage of hope in Chicago, or of leaders willing to step forward, roll up their sleeves, and offer relief.

- I Danielle and Thai Dang
- II Anne Miles and her Neighbors
- III The Students of Michele Clark High School





[Check out their Stories of Hope »](#)

I

Danielle and Thai Dang

Leaders like Thai and Danielle Dang, owners of HaiSous restaurant in Pilsen.

When workers were laid off last spring, Thai and Danielle used their resources, passion, and immense talents to serve up countless free to-go meals to families in need.

II

Anne Miles and her Neighbors

In Jackson Park, Anne Miles and her neighbors wanted to create a safe way to keep the neighborhood connected. They started a neighborhood teddy bear hunt — with teddy bears placed in front windows — turning simple strolls around the block into something joyous and wonderful for kids.

III

The Students of Michele Clark High School

Across the city in the Austin neighborhood, the students of Michele Clark High School also stepped up. Together, they started their own podcast to fight loneliness, do mental health check-ins, empower their peers with information and knowledge, and simply stay connected with each other.

**OBAMA FOUNDATION AFRICA LEADERS
JOIN THE FIGHT TO #ENDSARS**

Harnessing the Power of Protest

On the heels of a summer of global protests against police violence, mass demonstrations gripped major cities throughout Nigeria. Tens of thousands of its citizens took to the streets calling for the disbandment of SARS, the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, a force accused of brutality, abuses of power, and rampant corruption.

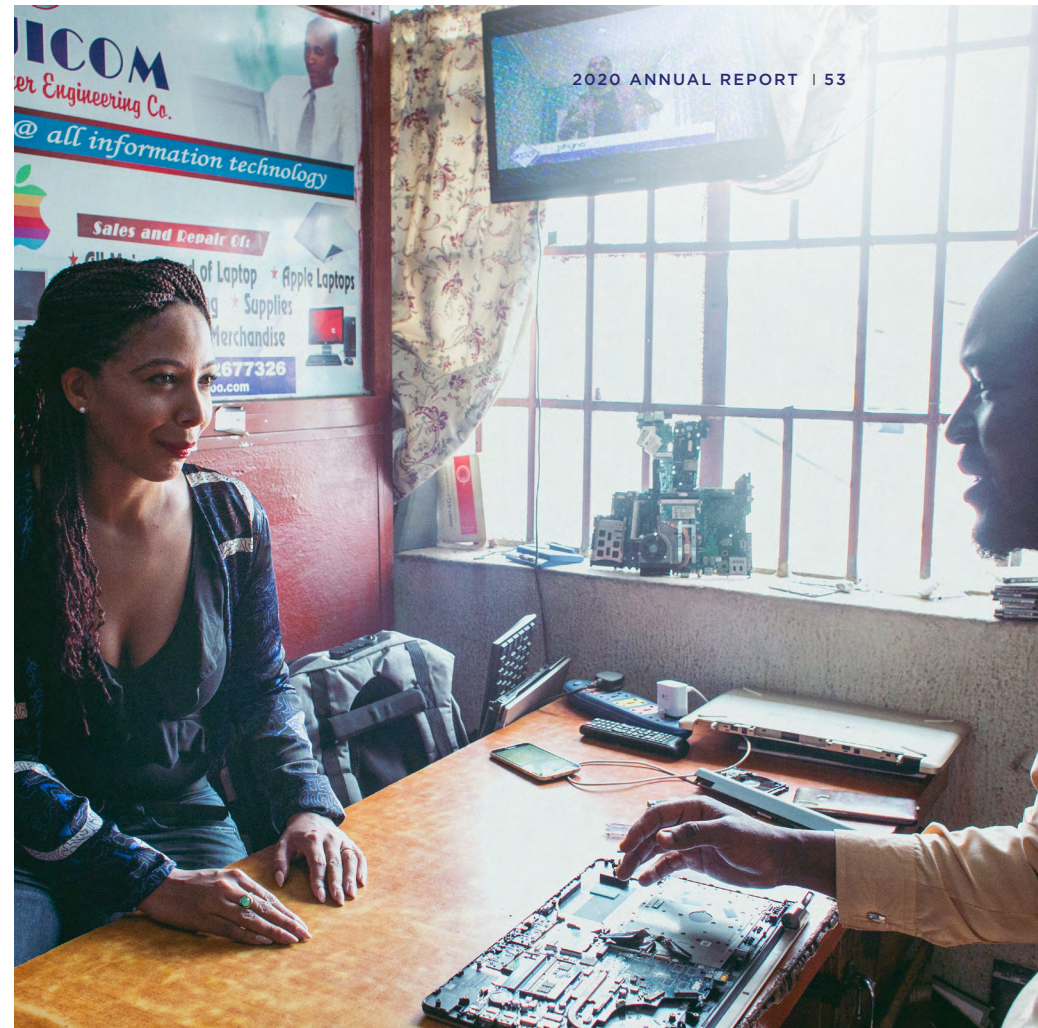
Six Obama Foundation Leaders from Nigeria — members of [Leaders Africa](#), our first international leadership program launched in 2018 — led efforts to mobilize resources and stand up for what's right, both on the ground and on social media.



**OBAMA FOUNDATION
AFRICA LEADERS:**

- I Oluwaseun Ayodeji Osowobi, 2018 Leader
- II Alero Thompson, 2018 Leader
- III Isabella Akinseye, 2019 Leader
- IV Nkemdilim Uwaje Begho, 2019 Leader
- V Titi Ogunrinde Medunoye, 2019 Leader
- VI Lanre Oniyitan, 2019 Leader

They used the skills and connections they formed as part of the Leaders Africa program to advocate for social change in their communities and country during an urgent time of need.



Read an interview with these Leaders about their experiences on Nigeria's front lines »





Nigerian Leader Titi Ogunrinde Medunoye participates in an #EndSARS protest, 2020.

MBK OMAHA'S WILLIE BARNEY AND THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EMPOWERMENT NETWORK

Curbing Violence By Confronting Truths

Like many American cities, Omaha, Nebraska, experienced a surge in gun violence several years ago that leaders struggled to explain. Willie Barney had a thought — preventing gun violence starts with understanding its deeper causes. So he set out to find them.

In 2006, Willie left a comfortable corporate job and founded the African-American Empowerment Network, a [My Brother's Keeper Alliance National Seed Community](#) organization.

Its key initiative, the Omaha 360 Violence Intervention and Prevention Collaborative, united hundreds of leaders from all parts of the community to take a holistic approach to reduce gun violence and build stronger police-community relations.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, their work helped cut gun violence by 74 percent and officer-involved shootings by 90 percent.

In 2020, their commitment and unity were stronger than ever as Omaha faced heightened tensions resulting from the pandemic and the killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor.



[Read the full interview with Willie Barney »](#)

[Learn more about the African-American Empowerment Network »](#)

OBAMA FOUNDATION FELLOWS
CIARA BYRNE AND JOSEPH KUNKEL

STEM Education in Native Communities

For organizations committed to fighting the climate crisis, the need is urgent and the time is now. Their work can't wait. Not even for one year. Not even during a global pandemic.

So when COVID-19 hit, Obama Foundation Fellows Ciara Byrne and Joseph Kunkel pushed forward and found meaningful ways for their two respective organizations — [Green Our Planet](#) and [Mass Design](#) — to align and collaborate.

Together they worked with Apache, Navajo, Pueblo, White, and Hispanic teachers in 10 schools across New Mexico to reach two goals: implement a hydroponic program at the schools and design a culturally responsive





[Check out the inspiring work being done by the other Obama Foundation Fellows »](#)

STEM curriculum that would give students the passion and skills to become leaders who protect our planet.

They combined their reach and resources — as well as their hope — to fill an important need in New Mexico's Native communities.



**OBAMA FOUNDATION SCHOLAR
SEGUN FATUDIMU AND IMPACT TOOLBOX**

Empowering His Fellow Entrepreneurs

Segun knew he wasn't alone — there were entrepreneurs just like him, all throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, with the hope and passion to create change and an idea for how to do it. They just needed the resources and the chance.

During his year as an Obama Foundation Scholar at the University of Chicago, Segun had the idea for how to boost all those other ideas: Impact Toolbox.

This digital incubation platform helps youth and emerging social entrepreneurs in Sub-Saharan Africa learn, network, and access seed funding to start viable social ventures.

In June 2020, after refining his plans and preparing to graduate with a Master's degree in International Development and Policy, Segun won the Social New Venture Challenge, giving him the funding to launch Impact Toolbox.

Then, in September 2020, he was chosen by the University of Chicago Booth School of Business as one of three 2020 Tarrson Social Venture Fellows — giving him the freedom to focus another year on growing this effort.



[Follow what Segun and Impact Toolbox are up to »](#)



This past February, Segun hosted a virtual Youth in Development Boot Camp and Fellowship conference for 100 African young leaders. “As part of the Scholars program, the values-based leadership training I received helped me realize that my responsibility is to lift others as I grow and, as such, extend the learning opportunities that I am enjoying to those who would never have had such privileges,” Segun reflected.

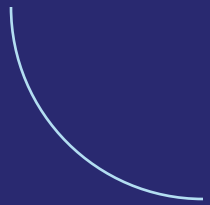
Segun, alongside two Obama Scholars from France and Denmark and two Obama Leaders from South Africa and Malawi, put the Obama Foundation network into action.

The talented leaders led workshop sessions for other social entrepreneurs, paying their own experience forward and helping the next generation.



L I F T

O T H E R S

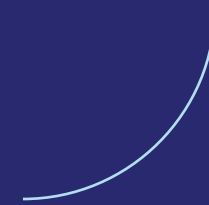


A S



W E

G R O W .



**OBAMA FOUNDATION EUROPE LEADER
NIKA KOVAČ, THE RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF 8TH MARCH**

Leading the Fight for Gender Equality

Like many countries, Slovenia is at a critical point of reflection, growth, and change in the areas of sexuality and gender inequality.

That change is only possible because of committed, passionate activists — like Nika Kovač, Director of The Research Institute of 8th March, a nod to International Women's Day.

Under her direction, 8th March has led national-level campaigns focused on fighting

gender and economic inequalities. These include spearheading Slovenia's #MeToo campaign and organizing to force a legislative change on the definition of sexual assault, changing it to a consent-based, yes-means-yes framework.

For Nika, it nearly didn't happen. She'd been close to quitting activism when she attended an Obama Foundation town hall in Berlin a few years ago. It reignited her hope and helped refocus her efforts, leading her

to join our Leaders Europe program. Over the course of the six-month program, Nika developed the confidence to see herself as a leader and someone who can inspire others to take action, and the concrete skills that she's currently using to run other national campaigns.

She also just published the young adult book *Brave Girls*, profiling women from Slovenia and beyond who have had the courage to change the world.



[Learn more about Nika and The Research Institute of 8th March »](#)

**GIRLS OPPORTUNITY ALLIANCE
NETWORK ORGANIZATION, PHYSICALLY
ACTIVE YOUTH AND TURIPAMUE**

Overcoming Obstacles & Earning the Grades

When COVID-19 hit, students, teachers, and parents showed the world what work and perseverance truly mean.

Meet Turipamue, a 15-year-old student in Namibia.

Turipamue faced extraordinary challenges at the start of the pandemic. Her mom, the family's primary provider, lost her job when lockdown began, and her family didn't have internet access at home — so Turipamue felt like she was falling far behind in her lessons.

But then Physically Active Youth, a grassroots organization supported by the Girls Opportunity Alliance, helped her by giving her a cell phone package with data so that she could connect remotely to her classes. They also checked in with her regularly to offer support, and they sent food to her and her family each week.





Turipamue put in more hours and worked harder than ever before, and she excelled. She finished the school year with the highest grades in her class, and she won an award for being the most committed to online lessons.

In addition to earning stellar grades, Turipamue got to share her powerful story with Mrs. Obama directly during a primetime network special.

Turipamue's story illuminates the impact that organizations supported by the Girls Opportunity Alliance are making in the lives of thousands of girls around the world. During the pandemic, these organizations went above and beyond to support girls, including by providing food to girls at risk of hunger and their families, delivering textbooks, and helping girls to keep learning safely by radio, computer, or cell phone — just like Turipamue did.

Their inspiring work shows us all that the future of our world truly is as bright as our girls.

[Watch Turipamue's conversation with former First Lady Michelle Obama »](#)







Resources

People of all ages have the passion, skills, voices, and resources to change the world. They have the hope that progress requires. And when they see injustice in their own cities and communities or elsewhere, they ask “*What can I do?*”

HERE'S A GREAT PLACE TO START.

We've compiled a robust list of resources, organized by area of impact, to help you put your passion to work, turn your hope into action, and lead the way toward a more just and equitable world.

- I [Fighting to Defend Black Lives »](#)
- II [Taking Care of Your Community »](#)
- III [Advocating for Reform through the My Brother's Keeper Alliance's Reimagining Policing Pledge »](#)
- IV [Protecting Your Neighbors »](#)

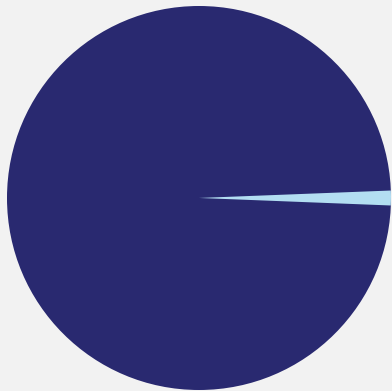


Financial Overview

We spend every day trying to live up to our mission, and we are grateful for the support and partnership of individuals, corporations, institutions, and foundations who share our sense of urgency and purpose.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW:

- I Revenue
- II Fundraising
- III Operating Expenses
- IV Net Assets + Pre-Construction Costs
- V Diverse Spend



Revenue

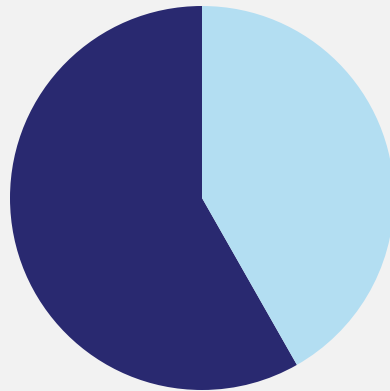
TOTAL: \$172,726,591

CONTRIBUTIONS ●

99.57%
\$171,989,823

OTHER INCOME + INTEREST ●

0.43%
\$736,768



Fundraising

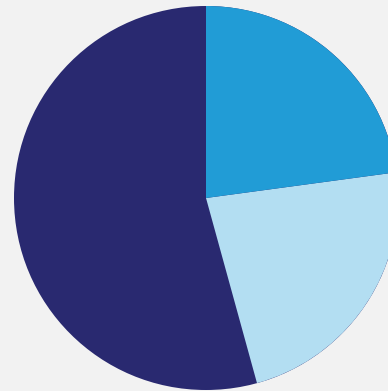
TOTAL: \$171,989,823

FOUNDATION + CORP ●

58.23%
\$100,148,787

INDIVIDUAL ●

41.77%
\$71,841,036



Operating Expenses

TOTAL: \$41,617,186

PROGRAMS ●

54.29%
\$22,592,807

GENERAL + ADMIN ●

22.86%
\$9,512,127

FUNDRAISING ●

22.86%
\$9,512,252

NET ASSETS

\$560,654,664

PRE-CONSTRUCTION COSTS OF THE OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER:

\$70,448,010

Diverse Spend*

TOTAL: \$40,502,311

OPC PROJECT COST DIVERSE SPEND

\$25,202,311

INTERNAL DIVERSE SPEND†

\$15,300,000

*Dollars spent with diverse vendors and service providers, 2018-2020

†We define "internal" spend as the number of dollars spent on a variety of professional services, including event planning, production services, office services, technology, and consulting.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Our Fundraising Goal & Progress

We've set an ambitious goal of raising \$1.6 billion over the next five years to build and open the Obama Presidential Center, sustain our programming and operations, and plan for the future. As of July 2021, we've raised nearly \$1 billion toward our goal.

BUILDING THE OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL CENTER

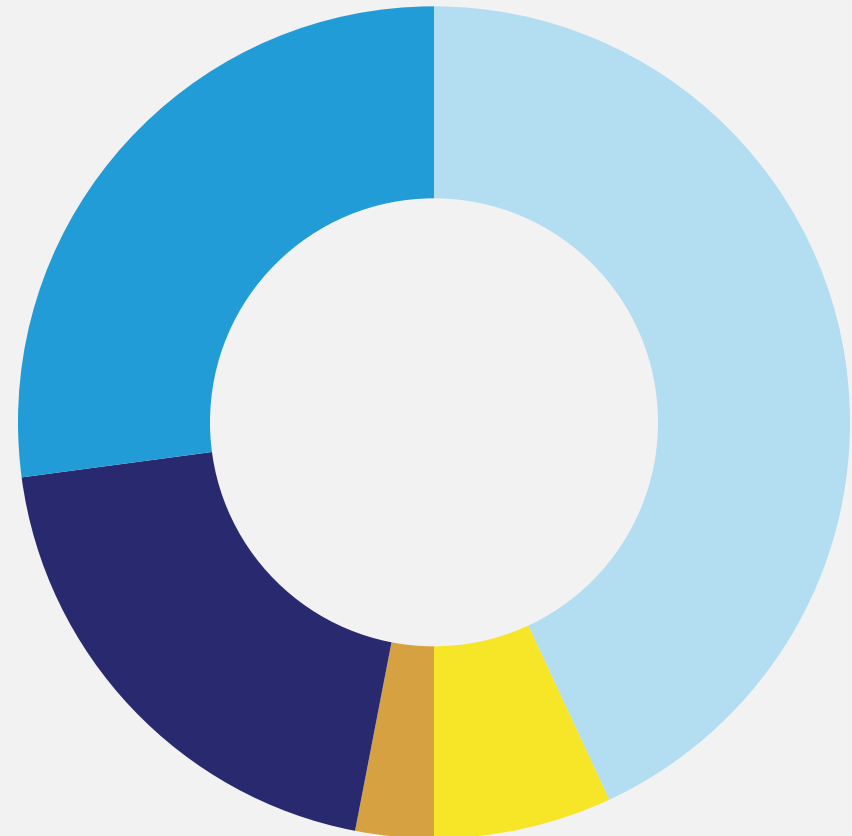
\$830M of our fundraising goal will fund Obama Presidential Center (OPC) expenditures, which consists of three main buckets: OPC Construction (\$700M) — the cost to build the building, OPC Start-Up (\$90M) — the cost to collect artifacts, design exhibits, and prepare the OPC to operate at opening, and finally, OPC Opening (\$40M) — funding to open and operate the OPC for one year after construction is completed.

SUSTAINING OBAMA FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

\$320M of our fundraising goal will support the Foundation's global programming, including direct and overhead costs, and the broader operations of the Foundation.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

\$470M of our fundraising goal will go toward seeding an endowment that will sustain Obama Foundation activities and the operations of the OPC for generations to come.



ENDOWMENT

\$470M

PROGRAMMING & OPERATIONS

\$320M

OPC CONSTRUCTION

\$700M

OPC START-UP

\$90M

OPC OPENING

\$40M





A Message from the Board Chairman

This year underscored the importance of values-based leadership at every level. I couldn't be prouder of the ways the Foundation continues to support our global network of leaders, while making incredible progress towards bringing the Obama Presidential Center to life — giving hope a new home base.

— Martin H. Nesbitt

OUR BOARD

We are governed by a volunteer board of directors, chaired by civic leader Martin H. Nesbitt.

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

Adage Capital Management

SEAN PARKER

The Parker Foundation

DAVID PLOUFFE

Stand Up Strategies

J. KEVIN POORMAN

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

ROBERT WOLF

32 Advisors

[See the full profile of each board member »](#)

DONATIONS

Year after year, our mission and impact are fueled by the hope of our Leaders, the commitment of our staff, and always by the generosity of our donors.

[Make a Tax-Free Donation »](#)

[See the Full List of Donors »](#)

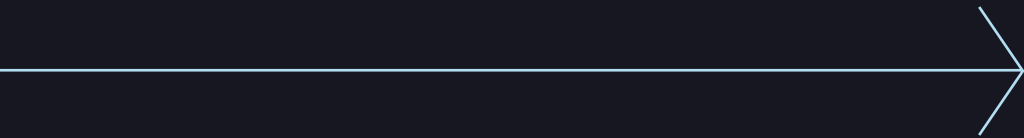
We are grateful for the incredible support we've received to date — from donors around the world that give to our global programs, and those here at home in Chicago who contribute to the future Obama Presidential Center. Your donations are and will always be so greatly appreciated.

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, build stronger communities, 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.

THANK YOU

Guided by hope,
we can overcome
any obstacle.



We can change
the world even
during the most
challenging times.

Onward.



