

ENGAGE.
ACTIVATE.
IMPACT.
BUILD.

CITIZENS LEAGUE
YOUR 2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT



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Who gets to inform and shape policy? How can we create communities that truly work for everyone?

Over the past year, Citizens League has drawn on the experience of our 70 year history to come through a difficult time, and with your support we have emerged stronger than ever. But our work is just beginning.

Key voices continue to be shut out of important decisions, and more people than ever are reporting fear and anxiety around public policy. The future will require asking tough questions and developing new approaches that ensure everyone has the agency to help create a better Minnesota.

In December of 2021, our staff and board launched a new strategic plan, with a cohesive vision informed by many people engaged in and impacted by our work.

Four distinct pillars emerged that will guide us over the next four years. You'll learn more about our pillars in this report, with examples of how your support is already helping move this strategic direction forward.

As we develop new and innovative ways connect with our community and engage more people in important work, we're so grateful for your faithful support.

Together, we can help create a bright future.

Kate Cimino

Executive Director



Our Strategic Pillars

ENGAGE

MANY DIFFERENT VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES



ACTIVATE

DEEPER PARTICIPATION OF PEOPLE IN POLICY



IMPACT

CRITICAL POLICY ISSUES USING OUR UNIQUE APPROACH



BUILD

BUILD ORGANIZATIONAL AND FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY



ENGAGE

Citizens League weaves together diverse points of view to combat divisiveness in public life.

Through policy learning events like Mind Opener and Interconnected, people across Minnesota develop tools to better understand the policy challenges that face our state. We also share examples of the positive community-building happening all around us. This year, at our annual Civic Celebration, attendees were inspired by examples of authentic and dedicated leaders in our communities.



BY THE NUMBERS

1,500+

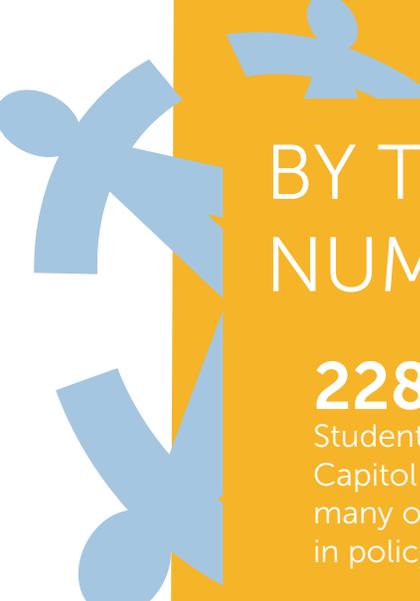
People registered for online policy learning events in 2021.

300+

People attended our in-person Civic Celebration in 2022 to honor Joan Grove, former Minnesota Secretary of State, and the late Kao Ly Ilean Her, civic and public sector leader.

What's next?

Division and toxic polarization continues to be a threat to civic life and public engagement. Citizens League is dedicated to creating spaces for connection and participation. In 2022 and beyond, we are focusing on modeling purposeful ways for people with different views to engage together, and to build skills and capacity to create these spaces in their own communities.



BY THE NUMBERS

228

Students have participated in the Capitol Pathways program since 2016, many of them continuing their careers in policy and government.

71

Host organizations—government offices, nonprofits, corporations, law firms and other public policy organizations—partnering with us since 2016 to provide real-world policy experience to interns.

What's next?

In 2022 and beyond, as we explore ways to expand the impact and reach of our Capitol Pathways program, alumni will be invited to help create new models of engagement in public policy and the legislative process. We are also researching what motivates people to run for, serve, or step down from local elected office.

ACTIVATE



Citizens League encourages people to see public policy as a means to make an impact or drive change.

With the Capitol Pathways program we are broadening access to policymaking and public service for the next generation of leaders who are Black, Indigenous, and people of color — communities who have historically been excluded from policymaking.

Students gain real-world policy experience in paid internships with government offices, nonprofits, corporations, and law firms where they can build skills and relationships in and around the Capitol, and bring their voice to the policymaking process.

In seven years of this program, 228 students have completed policy internships during the legislative session.



IMPACT

In 2021, we responded to our community's needs by engaging in two in-depth public safety projects deeply connected with community members and key stakeholders.

The Saint Paul Community-First Public Safety Commission engaged 48 individuals who represented a diverse array of perspectives including community organizations, education, business, law enforcement, faith communities, and cultural and affinity groups to re-envision emergency response. Recommendations from this commission have been enacted, or are currently in progress at the City and County levels.

We also completed community conversations about safety in and around the Metro Transit system to help shape critical policies. The League brought our report to the Metropolitan Council, where key community insights are now informing decision-making around public safety on transit.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

"Being part of this project has given me a way to use my voice." - *Saint Paul Community-First Public Safety Commission member and high school student*

"The Citizens League was a natural partner for [Metro Transit Safety Conversations], given its long history of data-informed research, and facilitating challenging conversations across differences. We're so grateful for the honest, unvarnished experiences participants have provided in this engagement process." - *Charlie Zelle, Chair, Metropolitan Council*

What's next?

We're working with community members to develop and pilot a new opportunity for participation to engage more people in policymaking and bridge divides, focusing on issues like caregiving across lifespan and ensuring a healthy democracy.



BY THE NUMBERS

2021 EXPENSES

\$800,893 | PROGRAMS
\$280,084 | MANAGEMENT & FUNDRAISING

TOTAL \$1,080,977

In 2021, we completed upgrades in accounting, technology, and staff collaboration tools, all of which help build a stronger foundation for our work.

Support from donors like you is critical to our success, and the contributions shown here reflect the strength of our community.

Thank you!

The financial information included on this page has been audited by a Certified Public Accounting Firm in accordance with GAAP

BUILD



2021 REVENUE

\$257,758 | FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTIONS

\$212,633 | CONTRACTED SERVICES

\$181,940 | CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS

\$176,604 | INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$90,600 | SPONSORSHIPS

\$28,248 | OTHER PROGRAM SERVICE

\$15,000 | IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

\$10,699 | INVESTMENT INCOME

TOTAL \$973,282

Multi-year grants are recognized as revenue in the year they are awarded, even if expenses are incurred over several years.

Board of Directors

Lindsey Alexander	Cyndi Leshner*
Khadija Ali	John Knapp
Paul T. Anderson	Benya Kraus
Tamara Asamoah	Jake Loesch
Cedrick Baker <i>2022 Board Chair</i>	Fatima Moore
Patrick Born*	Eusebio Perez
Elizabeth Campbell	Paula Prahl*
Mark Engdahl	Andrew Ryall
Laura Monn Ginsburg <i>2021 Board Chair</i>	Breanna Schafer
Peter Glessing	Terry Schneider
Greg Halagan	Damon Shoholm
Scott Hietpas	D'Angelos Svenkeson
	Kurt Zellers

**Completed board term in 2021.*

Special thanks to former staff members Nancy Hegdahl and Amanda Koonjbeharry for their roles in contributing to the League's success and this impact report.

Staff

Kate Cimino
Executive Director

Blanca Martinez Gaviña
Director of Public Policy

Laura Kisner
Operations and Database Administrator

Sarah Stout Miller
Director of Development
(Departed Role in July 2022)

Jacob Taintor
Communications and Marketing Specialist

Kalia Xiong
Capitol Pathways Program Manager





“There are very few entities like Citizens League that not only have the expertise, but also the credibility in community to host and convene a group of people to talk about tough, touchy and important issues. And there is still work to be done.”

—*Cedrick Baker,*
Citizens League 2022 Board Chair

citizensleague.org/donate



**Citizens
League**



Common ground. Common good.