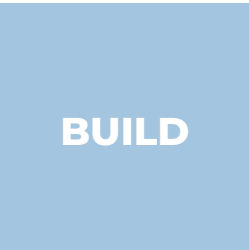




# Impact Report

2023-2024





# Board of Directors

Huda Ahmed	Fatima Moore
Lindsey Alexander	Karne Newburn
Khadija Ali	Keri O'Brien
Paul T. Anderson	Eusebio Perez
Tamara Asamoah*	Andrew Ryall
Mark Engdahl*	Breanna Schafer, <i>Board Chair</i>
Laura Monn Ginsburg*	Becky Alery Scherr
Greg Halagan	Eduardo Suarez
Robert Harper	D'Angelos Svenkeson**
Kate Hensing	Terry Schneider
John Knapp*	Grace Waltz
Theresa McCormick	Kurt Zellers*

\*Completed board term in December 2023

\*\*Stepped down from board in November 2023

# Staff

**Jake Loesch**  
*Executive Director*

**Luna Allen-Bakerian**  
*Director of Public Policy*

**Maddie Harvala**  
*Office Operations  
And Donor Database  
Coordinator*

**Yvonne Lerew**  
*Director of Development*

**Jacob Taintor**  
*Communications and  
Marketing Specialist*

**Kalia Xiong**  
*Capitol Pathways  
Program Manager*

## 2023-2024 INTERNS

**Christian Knellwolf**  
*University of St. Thomas*

**Rhynn Paulsen**  
*University of St. Thomas*

**Nathan Ellis**  
*Capitol Pathways Intern,  
Carleton College*





# Engage

Many different voices  
and perspectives

Citizens League **engages** a variety of voices, creating unique events that connect Minnesotans to policy issues, increase awareness and increase civic engagement. During the past year, more than 1,360 people participated in Citizens League events. Our Interconnected Rural-Urban Conversations, Civics@Work employee engagement, and other events covered a wide range of topics, including:

- Mental health and suicide prevention
- Minnesota's housing crisis
- Childcare access and needs
- Workforce participation

Our annual Civic Celebration demonstrates the power of bringing together a diverse array of civic leaders, policy thinkers, and community builders. In 2024, more than 300 people gathered to honor **Cyndi Leshner** and **Laysha Ward** for their civic leadership. We also recognized **Sina War** as our inaugural Civic Changemaker recipient, a new award designed to honor an emerging leader whose work is enhancing Minnesota's civic culture.



# Activate

## Deeper participation of people in policy

Citizens League’s approach to building and **activating** networks of leaders is rooted in our conviction that everyone should have access to opportunities in public service and policy, and our government should be representative of our diverse communities. Our one-of-a-kind **Capitol Pathways program supports cohorts of Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) college students** in paid internships with government offices, nonprofits, corporations, and law firms.

Now entering its tenth year, 300 students have participated in Capitol Pathways and 105 organizations have partnered to host interns. Capitol Pathways alumni continue to impact the legislature and policymaking community by bringing new voices into the space and changing the face of who is working at the Capitol.



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Capitol Pathways continues to grow: In 2023 we served 33 students; in 2024 the program grew to **40 student interns and host organizations** — our largest cohort to date!





# Impact

Critical policy issues using the League's trusted approach

In today's divisive and increasingly polarized political climate, breaking through partisan barriers to **impact** policy outcomes can feel impossible – but since our founding more than 72 years ago, that is exactly what the Citizens League has been focused on. Our fierce commitment to **fostering nonpartisan, civil, and fact-based dialogue** – and identifying pragmatic policy solutions – will always ground our work.

How is policy created? Which voices are missing from the conversation? How can we reimagine the policymaking process to ensure solutions are driven by communities most impacted? These are the questions we must continue to ask.

Over the past year, Citizens League has been focused on planning for the future: building relationships and partnerships, exploring policy topics, and envisioning our work for the next generation – and we have several exciting projects and events in the works for 2024 and beyond.



# Build

Organizational and financial sustainability

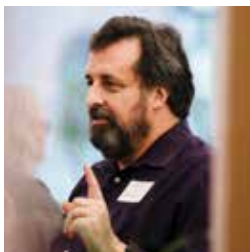


Citizens League continues to **build** a strong and agile organization to ensure that we can deliver meaningful programming and events, convene multi-partisan conversations, dive into critical policy research, and support inclusive civic engagement across Minnesota. We actively pursue new opportunities to engage individual donors and strengthen organizational partnerships.



In 2023, Citizens League raised more than **\$1 million** from a diverse mix of individuals, corporations and foundations who invest and partner in our work.

This past year, we welcomed three new staff members: **Jake Loesch** became the League's ninth Executive Director in September 2023, bringing significant experience in building coalitions, engaging diverse audiences, and working across difference towards achievable solutions. **Maddie Harvala**, Office Operations and Donor Database Coordinator, and **Luna Allen-Bakerian**, Director of Public Policy, also joined the team this year.





# Financial Summary

<b>2023 REVENUE</b>	
Individual Contributions	\$ 120,091
Corporate Contributions	\$ 157,521
Foundation Contributions	\$ 594,584
Sponsorships	\$ 44,850
Contracted Services	\$ 10,750
Other Program Service	\$ 69,455
Investment Income	\$ 11,437
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 19,918
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,028,606</b>
<b>2023 EXPENSES</b>	
Programs	\$ 816,193
Management & Fundraising	\$ 264,632
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 1,080,825</b>

*Financial Information has been audited by a Certified Public Accounting firm in accordance with GAAP*



