



GIRLS  
GARAGE

# 2021 IMPACT REPORT



280

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN  
AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER  
PROGRAMS

82

PERCENT OF TEEN  
PARTICIPANTS WHO  
IDENTIFY AS YOUTH OF  
COLOR

12

PRO BONO COMMUNITY  
PROJECTS BUILT BY  
STUDENTS



# WE DID IT!



## Dear friends and community,

This past year has been a surprising victory and a lesson in gratitude. Despite the long slog through COVID, 2021 taught us not just about resilience but how to thrive within a new context rooted in trust, belief, and “going big or going home.”

As an organization, we took a good hard look at who we are as a staff and leadership team, and we invested resources in our sustainability: benefits, paid time off, professional development stipends, and retreats in which we could rejuvenate together as educators. As a community, we welcomed new donors and dozens of new students, and we were overwhelmed by their support.

In our programs, we sought new clients, building real projects for organizations we admire like Chapter510, Growing Leaders, and Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS). We also took the show on the road, leading a team of students who rebuilt fences in Yosemite National Park.

Most importantly, we held the earnest responsibility of supporting students where they are at. Our diverse cohorts of students continue to ask for more, to do more, and to practice bravery with power tools in hand. We were reminded in 2021 of just how lucky we are to know them and make space for their full identities at Girls Garage.

2021 has shown us that even when we are tired or feel helpless, the act of building gives us agency and power. Even as we wondered if COVID would ever end, we were more motivated by the stories of our students and the challenges before. With every new year, we are filled with even more gratitude and responsibility to do right by our students and community.

In service and sawdust,

Emily Pilloton-Lam  
Founder and Executive Director

# 2021 IMPACT

82%

OF TEEN STUDENTS IDENTIFY AS YOUTH OF COLOR



56%

OF STUDENTS ATTEND GIRLS GARAGE  
FOR 3 OR MORE YEARS

96%

OF STUDENTS REPORT INCREASED CONFIDENCE AND  
INTEREST IN STEM AND BUILDING TRADES BECAUSE  
OF GIRLS GARAGE

280

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AFTER-SCHOOL AND  
SUMMER PROGRAMS

12

PRO BONO COMMUNITY PROJECTS BUILT FOR  
NONPROFIT CLIENTS



564

HOURS OF HANDS-ON INSTRUCTION

\$356K

IN FREE PROGRAMMING PROVIDED TO TEEN YOUTH

24

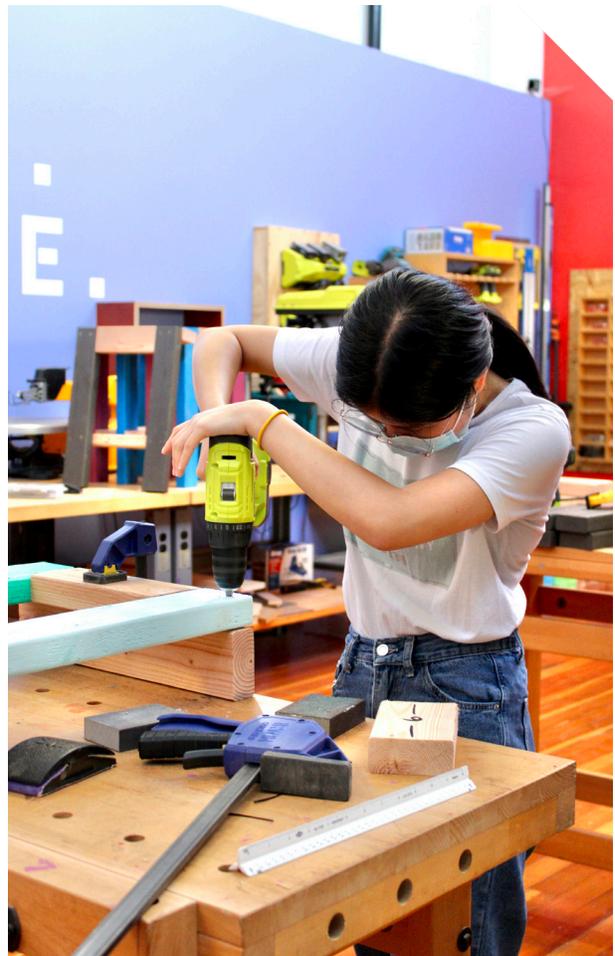
PROGRAMS COMPLETED, INCLUDING AFTER-  
SCHOOL, SUMMER, AND WEEKEND INTENSIVES



## ADVANCED DESIGN/BUILD

Our Advanced Design/Build program is a year-round cohort of our most committed builder girls and gender-expansive youth. This cohort brings together 9th-12th grade students from diverse backgrounds to tackle complex, community-based projects designed and built by students themselves.

In 2021, our intrepid students designed and constructed 6 pro bono projects, including a greenhouse for Growing Leaders and a performance stage for Chapter510, a youth writing and publishing center in Oakland. They also rebuilt timber fences in Yosemite National Park.



## CONSTRUCTION + COMMUNITY

Our Construction + Community program was a new addition in 2021, providing carpentry instruction for 9th-12th graders. The program was created as an additional cohort for teens following our Young Women's Design + Building Institute.

In 2021, our students honed their carpentry and construction skills to build a farm stand for Urban Tilth, a food justice organization in North Richmond.



## YOUNG WOMEN'S DESIGN + BUILDING INSTITUTE

The Young Women's Design + Building Institute is an immersive week-long design/build experience for rising 9th-12th grade students. The program brings together diverse cohorts of youth to design and build a real-world project for a local nonprofit client over the course of just five days.

In 2021, our students built library furniture and painted garden murals for BOSS (Building Opportunity for Self-Sufficiency), a nearby transitional housing shelter.



## PROTEST + PRINT

Protest + Print is an activist art program in which teens explore and express the complex personal and political issues by experimenting with new media, including printmaking, linoleum block carving, and textile arts.

In 2021, our artists designed their own protest flags, which were exhibited publicly at the Betti Ono Gallery, the West Oakland BART station, and Renegade Running.

They also created multimedia artwork for a Girls Garage Calendar, which was sold in our shop!





## BUILDER BOOTCAMP

Builder Bootcamp is a weeklong summer camp for girls and gender-expansive youth entering 5th-8th grades. Students learn and apply skills in carpentry, graphic design, metalwork, collaboration, and teamwork.

In 2021, our young cohorts built tables for the Growing Leaders greenhouse. They also collectively illustrated a 3-volume cookbook zine, inspired by intentional conversations about mental health, mutual aid, and the history of political organizing in the Bay Area.





#### IN OTHER NEWS

Emily Pilloton-Lam gave a TEDTalk about putting power and power tools into women's hands.

We attracted attention from local and national media, including KQED, CNN, and ABC-7.

We gifted a fully stocked toolbox to 100 of our teen students, a feat that literally equipped youth with the tools to build a better world!



# FINANCIALS

Support from foundations, corporations, and individual donors made it possible for us to deepen and expand our free programming, support our staff with additional resources, and equip our youth with the tools they need.

In 2021, we rallied our leadership and instructional teams within our new COVID reality to turn lemons into lemonade. Through storytelling, transparency, and inclusive language, we welcomed new donors, partners, and construction clients into our community.

Fiscally, we saw our strongest year to date, with a total revenue of \$983,107, a 21% increase from fiscal year 2020. Every one of our 432 total supporters helped us provide high-quality programming, materials, snacks, and wraparound supports for students throughout the year, especially within our free teen programs.

We were also thrilled to bring on Augusta Sitney, our former part-time welding instructor, as full-time Shop and Project Manager. Increasing staff multiplies our

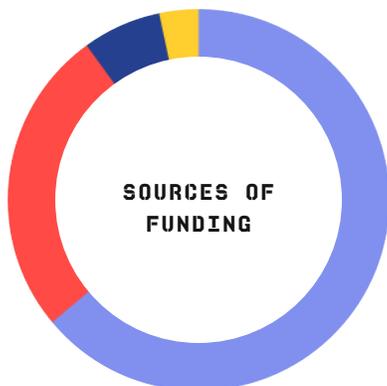
program capacity and has allowed us to take on ever-more ambitious construction projects.

Lastly, we've invested in our students, literally equipping them tools. Thanks to the success of our Fearless100 campaign, we gifted 100 fully stocked toolboxes to our high school youth, who have taken them home to build household projects, fix toilets and broken doorknobs, and more.

As we begin 2022 in a strong position, we also know that the coming year will bring new growth points and require ongoing support. Our upcoming goals include enhancing or expanding our physical workshop space, enrolling more students, and adding retirement and other benefits for staff.

# \$938,107

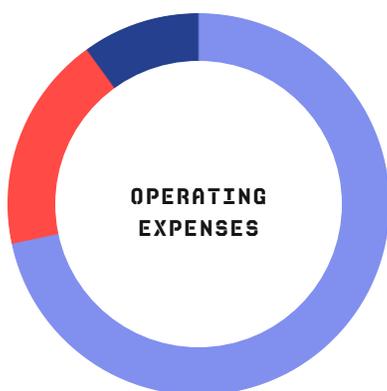
TOTAL REVENUE (2021)



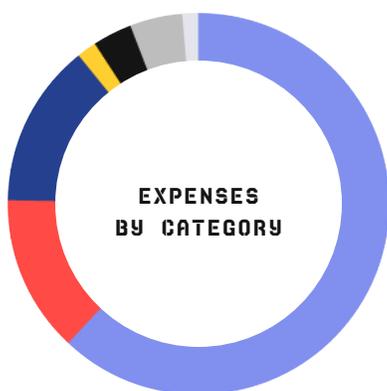
● Grants	\$601,926 (64%)
● Individual Donations	\$243,810 (26%)
● Service Revenue	\$62,240 (7%)
● Corporate Sponsorships	\$30,131 (3%)

# \$829,307

TOTAL EXPENSES (2021)



● Program Services	\$594,570 (72%)
● Overhead	\$152,164 (18%)
● Fundraising	\$82,573 (10%)



● Salaries and instructor wages	\$515,860 (62%)
● Occupancy	\$109,114 (13%)
● Building Materials and Tools	\$115,417 (14%)
● Advertisement and promotion	\$14,222 (2%)
● Conferences and Workshop Travel	\$26,500 (3%)
● Administration and Other	\$37,703 (5%)
● Office Expenses	\$10,491 (1%)



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