



GIRLS
GARAGE

2024 IMPACT REPORT



11

YEARS IN OPERATION

254

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN
AFTER-SCHOOL AND SUMMER
PROGRAMS

79% 8

OF TEEN PARTICIPANTS
IDENTIFY AS YOUTH OF
COLOR

PRO BONO COMMUNITY
PROJECTS BUILT BY
STUDENTS





A YEAR POWERED BY COMMUNITY

From settling into our new workspace to building neighborhood connections, 2024 was a year of resilience, meaningful impact, and profound community collaboration.

To our extraordinary community:

As we close out 2024, we're grateful for all our joys and challenges. Last year, we settled into our new and improved home at 2080 Second Street by reaching out to neighboring organizations and asking what we could build for them. We completed ADA-accessible furniture for BORG Adaptive Sports & Recreation, a cat sculpture for Berkeley Animal Care Services, and planter boxes for Waterside Workshop, all of which are within a block of the new Girls Garage headquarters. We finished a watermelon-inspired chicken coop for Willard Middle School, a shade house for Petaluma Bounty, and a prototype Murphy bed for unhoused youth at Tiny Village Spirit. Our alumni program also grew as we helped support their transition into college programs and new jobs.

Behind the scenes of all these awesome youth-built projects, we worked incredibly hard to bridge a \$200k funding gap left behind by two multi-year grants that

sunsetted in 2023. At the end of the year, we shared our financial picture openly and honestly; our community showed up in ways that were humbling and awe-inspiring, helping us close our gap and finish the year strong.

2024 was a year of many victories and hard-won challenges. Through it all, our students were our North Star, showing up each day ready to build, ready to be their full selves, and ready to build the world we all want to see.

In service and sawdust,



Emily Pilloton-Lam
Founder and Executive Director

2024 IMPACT

96%

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



66%

OF YOUTH WHO HAVE BEEN ATTENDING
GIRLS GARAGE FOR 3 OR MORE YEARS

79%

OF PARTICIPATING TEENS IDENTIFY
AS YOUTH OF COLOR

254

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN AFTER-SCHOOL
AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

8

PRO BONO COMMUNITY PROJECTS BUILT BY
YOUTH FOR NONPROFIT CLIENTS



411

HOURS OF HANDS-ON INSTRUCTION

\$514K

IN FREE PROGRAMMING PROVIDED
TO TEEN PARTICIPANTS

26

PROGRAMS COMPLETED, INCLUDING AFTER-
SCHOOL, VIRTUAL, WEEKEND WORKSHOPS,
AND SUMMER 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.

This year, our Advanced cohort worked together to construct a chicken coop for Growing Leaders and a shade house for Petaluma Bounty. We closed out the year by prototyping a Murphy bed for Tiny Village Spirit.

CONSTRUCTION + COMMUNITY

Our Construction + Community program provides carpentry instruction for beginning to intermediate 9th-12th graders, which they use to build projects for local nonprofit clients.

We broke in the new woodshop with builds like ADA-accessible furniture for our neighbors at BORP Adaptive Sports & Recreation and a wall partition and community altar for Community Works West in collaboration with Designing Justice + Designing Spaces. While we saw many returning participants from our old location on Tenth St., it was refreshing to welcome new faces in our upgraded workspace!





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.

Equipped with paint brushes, the heat press, and our trusty risograph printer, these young artists committed to expanding their artistic tool belt with sign painting and vinyl. Introducing new ways to make art allows us to further investigate world topics such as Indigenous rights and the global crises with our students.





CARPENTRY + WOOD

Carpentry + Woodwork is a four-week program for students ages 9-14, that teaches hand and power tool techniques with a focus on safety, measurement, and precise construction. Each session features a new project, integrating tool skills and math concepts, with students taking home their personal creations.

In 2024, students built personalized wooden toolboxes—a project from the *Girls Garage: How to Use Any Tool, Tackle Any Project, and Build the World You Want to See* book, pages 249-253—and diorama clocks.





ARCHITECTURE + ACTIVISM

In the spring, we introduced Architecture + Activism, a new program in which high school students learn architectural design techniques. Throughout this six-week course, students were encouraged to think of and create real-world solutions for nonprofit partners.

Together, we designed a healing space in a small, under-the-stairs nook for Community Works West and Designing Justice + Designing Spaces' new San Francisco location, which was then constructed by the Construction + Community class.





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 each summer to design and build a real-world project for a local nonprofit client over the course of just five days.

Last summer, 30 participants worked on outdoor furniture including Adirondack chairs and garden boxes, and designed beautiful mosaic stepping stones for Petaluma Bounty.

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.

Over the course of two weeks, 37 students worked together to build a seven foot cat sculpture for Berkeley Animal Care Services, which is right around the corner from our new shop. Students also visited the shelter, met the the dogs, cats, and guinea pigs that were up for adoption, and designed adoption flyers for the animals!





WOMXN IN THE WOODSHOP

In the spring, we brought back a beloved program. Womxn in the Woodshop, a four-week adult class, taught participants carpentry skills to build a small take-home project: a collapsible hardwood step-stool.

Seven women and non-binary adults learned how to use basic power tools, like the chop saw and impact drill and driver. Almost none of these students had ever used these tools, and while it was nerve-wracking to begin, they quickly found a comfort and rhythm in the wood shop.





FINANCIALS

Girls Garage worked hard in 2024 to bridge a \$200,000 gap in vital funding. Our community stepped up with extraordinary love and generosity showing us that our mission lives on through the hearts of those who believe in it.

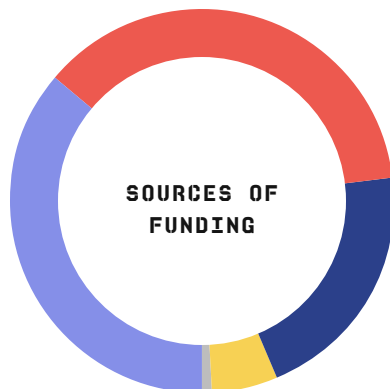
Fundraising in 2024 was rooted in community support and community care. In 2024, our two largest multi-year grants sunsetted, meaning that \$200,000 that we regularly relied on for the past five years was not part of our revenue stream. Throughout the year, Girls Garage managed to raise 75% of our funding goal through corporate, foundation, and individual support. Despite all these efforts, we still needed to close the gap by the end of the year. In December, we sent a call out to our community, and we managed to raise the remaining 25% of our budget. Over 140 people contributed—with donations ranging from \$2 to \$75,000—from parents, previous funders, foundations, partners, corporations, friends, followers, Instagram cheerleaders, and beyond. AND thanks to our community, we were introduced to new foundations, corporations, and individuals through our beloved community. This response not only filled a financial gap, but it reaffirmed that the work we do continues to matter deeply to so many. The

outpouring of support was a powerful reminder that Girls Garage is more than a program. It is a movement built on trust, shared values, and a belief in the power of girls and gender-expansive youth.

In 2025, we aim to increase engagement with new foundations and corporations and to inspire our individual donors to connect Girls Garage to their communities. We've been so honored in the ways our donors speak about us in rooms we are not in, and share our mission and programs with their friends, employers, and associations. We know that growing this network requires intention, relationship-building, and continued transparency about our impact and needs. With each introduction and conversation, we move one step closer to a future where Girls Garage can keep building bold, brave spaces for girls for generations to come.

\$1,187,602

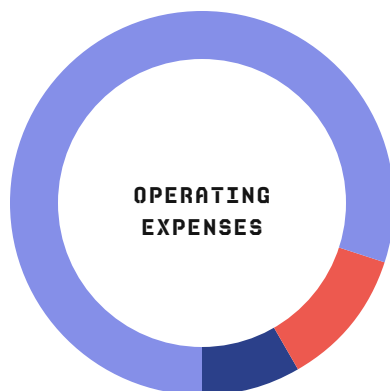
TOTAL REVENUE (2024)



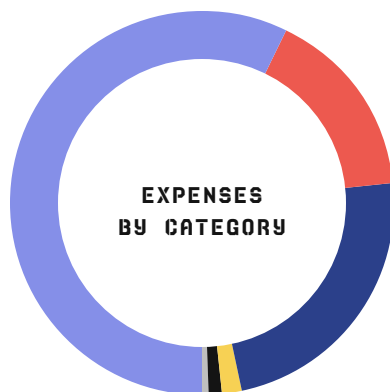
Grants	\$431,243 (36%)
Individual Donations	\$436,435 (37%)
Corporate Sponsorships	\$247,211 (21%)
Earned Income	\$65,593 (5%)
Other	\$7,120 (1%)

\$1,220,073

TOTAL EXPENSES (2024)



Program Services	\$977,638 (80%)
Overhead	\$141,178 (12%)
Fundraising	\$101,257 (8%)



Personnel and Benefits	\$698,305 (58%)
Occupancy	\$197,385 (16%)
Building Materials and Project Costs	\$284,532 (23%)
Admin and Compliance	\$20,569 (1.5%)
Office Expenses	\$12,789 (1%)
Outreach and Promotion	\$6,493 (0.5%)



2080 2ND ST
BERKELEY, CA 94710

TAX ID: 26-1703034
INFO@GIRLSGARAGE.ORG

COPYRIGHT
GIRLS GARAGE 2025