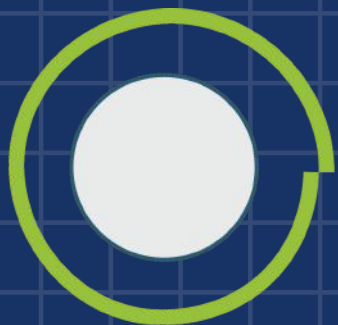


2022 - 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



NEW GENERATIONS OF
INDEPENDENT, FULFILLED
INDIVIDUALS CENTERED IN THEIR
STRENGTHS AND COMMITTED TO
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Project:VISION
a nonprofit youth organization

learn

Support academic success by helping youth develop effective study skills, master knowledge of critical core subjects, and nurture a love of learning through tutoring, enrichment, and college readiness activities.

serve

Foster a sense of community and social responsibility by encouraging civic engagement and providing opportunities for meaningful service learning

lead

Build character, confidence, positive attitudes, and leadership skills that empower youth to be positive examples for their peers, an asset to the community, and ready for the workplace.

thrive

Focus on mental and emotional well-being, self-care, and positive and healthy relationships with family and peers.



message

FROM THE CHAIR & ED

Dear Project: VISION friends

As we reach the completion of 20 years of service to youth and families of the Greater Chinatown community, we reflect on the journey we have been on. It has been YOU, our steadfast supporters, who have been walking alongside us as we progressed from milestone to milestone. This year's annual report focuses on our most recent accomplishments, but most of all, we recognize that these achievements represent a culmination of many years of work as well as the support of volunteers, partners, donors, and funders.

Twenty years ago, our five founders simply saw a need in the community. Seeing teens gathered after school in a crowded Chinatown Public Library, some even doing homework on the floor, others waiting in long lines to use the computers, was evidence enough that our youth needed a space of their own, where they can grow and thrive. Now twenty years later, we have come a very long way, serving over 400 youth each year, providing more than 74,000 hours of programming and services at two youth center spaces and three local school sites.

Throughout the report, you will see highlights of past milestones from the last 20 years, but here, we would like to recognize and celebrate all the people behind those milestones, as PV would not still be here today without them. First, there are those who got us started. In the first few years, PV was run entirely by volunteers, so we owe everything to these dedicated individuals who tutored, fundraised, and advocated for us. We are also grateful to those initial donors and funders who believed in our fledgling organization's mission and supported us.



Throughout the years, countless people have given to PV, not just their treasure, but also their time, talents, dedication, and encouragement. The “sweat equity” that all those who have served and currently serve as our Board and Associate Board members, volunteers, staff members, and tutors is what built PV into a special organization that truly and deeply cares about youth, their families, and our community.

Lastly, we also have the long-time community leaders of Chinatown to thank for our success. PV is a young organization in comparison to the many organizations here with a long history of service and activism. We are grateful to learn from them and continue to partner with them to better care for and lift up our community.

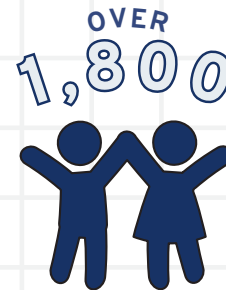
It is commonly said that it takes a village to raise a young person, and PV has had the privilege of being part of that village in the lives of thousands of youth in our community over the last 20 years. We will continue striving to play that role, and we hope that you will continue to come along with us as we reach for our next big milestones and continue to make a positive impact on the lives of even more youth and families as well as the community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Trang Truong-Hill
Board Chair

Karen Chiu
Executive Director
& Co-Founder

Project: VISION's STORY



YOUTH SERVED
SINCE 2004

OUR HISTORY

In 2003, a group of five young professionals, students, and community volunteers saw a need for neighborhood teens to have a safe place to call their own, where they could find positive role models and pave a path to a bright future.

As Project: VISION celebrates a major milestone of 20 years of service to the community, we reflect proudly on the journey we have been on and how far we have come to create a positive impact.

HOURS OF PROGRAMMING
74,828
IN 2023



439

YOUTH SERVED IN 2022-2023

2003

FIRST SERVICES
AT CHINATOWN
LIBRARY

2005

FIRST SPACE

2009

FORMAL BOARD
OF DIRECTORS
ESTABLISHED

2013

HS SCHOLARS
PROGRAM
CREATED

2016

MOVED INTO
LARGER CENTER
ON 22ND PLACE

2017

SCHOOL
PARTNERSHIPS
ESTABLISHED

2022

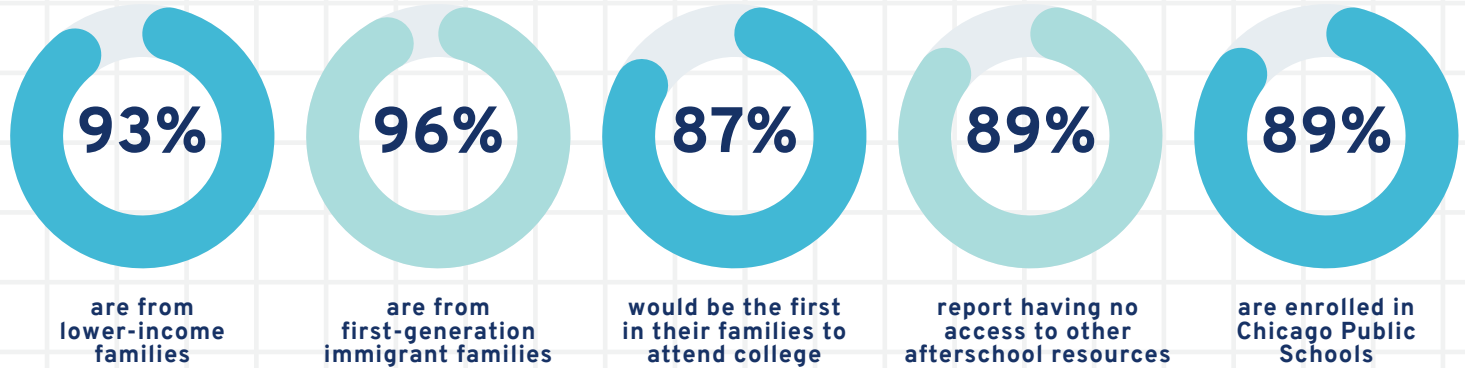
2ND LOCATION
OPENED

2023

OUR CHALLENGE

All too often, our community is overlooked as among the most underserved neighborhoods in Chicago.

In reality, many of our youth face significant obstacles to success:



We know that under-resourced youths are less likely to graduate high school and to be ready for college and the workplace. Here is how PV levels the playing field.



- Help youth overcome barriers to success and gain equal access to education and, ultimately, career opportunities
- Equip youth with skills, confidence, and a sense of social responsibility that empowers them to give back to the community and become future leaders
- Provide a safe space where youth can come together to support each other and share in common identities and experiences
- Advocate for access to diverse resources and opportunities our youth need to succeed

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Project: VISION supports youth as they navigate the challenging middle and high school years. Whether youth are building basic math skills, applying to college, or searching for their first job, they are supported by PV programs and our staff, who ensure youth stay on a clear path to success.



GRADE 6 & 7

As youth enter the middle school years, the pace of learning accelerates, concepts get harder, and it is during these grades that students develop good study habits and positive attitudes toward school. PV supports this critical transition by providing students with academic support through tutoring and enrichment focused on foundational reading and math skills as well as social-emotional learning.

GRADE 8

In the final year of middle school, students are most concerned with high school admissions, which is a competitive process within the Chicago Public Schools system. PV programs continue to support students' academics while also introducing youth to community service and life skills. In addition, through Saturday camps, youth continue to explore their interests in arts, sports, culture, and STEM, as they develop leadership and 21st century skills such as communication, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking.

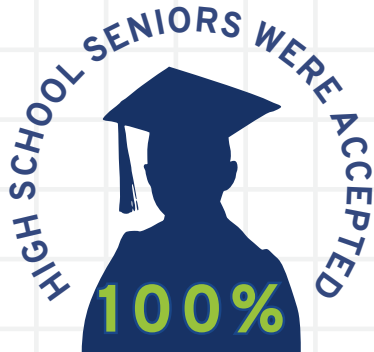


GRADE 9

The transition between middle school and high school can be challenging for youth as academics become more challenging and youths' social environment and emotional experiences evolve.



With staff guidance, freshmen work on goal-setting and planning for the next four years. They are also introduced to more in-depth service learning and leadership experiences as they find their roles within their communities.



and committed to attending college in fall 2023

4

average number of college acceptances each senior received

GRADE 10 & 11

Sophomore and junior years are often considered the most important academic years for students - they continue to build knowledge and dive deeper into complex subjects while also beginning to think more seriously about college.

During this time, PV continues to support youth through tutoring, test prep, and college planning and readiness workshops.

GRADE 12

In the final year of high school, seniors get one-on-one college coaching from PV staff, with a goal of completing at least 3 applications and all financial aid requirements. PV also prepares youth for transition to adulthood through life skills workshops on financial literacy, self care and mental health, while offering opportunities to explore careers and develop professional skills through summer internships.



educational HIGHLIGHTS

DURING THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR . . .

We supported **345** students academically through daily homework help, small group tutoring, and college readiness activities.

98%

promoted to the next grade and were on track to graduating high school on time

100%

high school seniors were accepted and committed to attending college in fall 2023



Project: VISION has allowed me to see my goals come to life. The overwhelming support of Program Coordinators and other staff members at PV has prepared me for college and my future career.

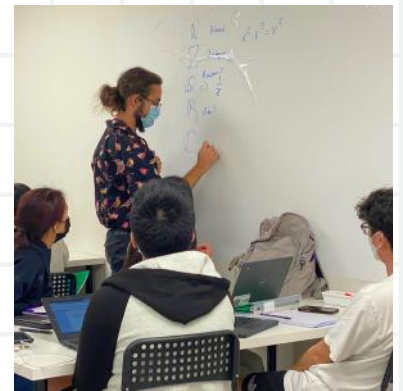
PV provided me with an abundance of resources via programs that helped me develop crucial skills, such as leadership and presentation skills while building my resume and helping me prepare for job interviews. I also always felt supported and comfortable at every stage of my growth. I will always remember the help I received on my college applications. My college coach spent hours helping me figure out what to write and what I needed to revise on my essays, even after regular PV working hours. This assistance was vital to the success of my college applications.

At PV, I also met and made new friends, gave back to my community, and picked up beneficial skills. If it were not for PV's support, I would not feel as confident and prepared as I do now.

NICK T, GRADE 12



HOURS OF TUTORING
35,000+
IN 2023



& service recreational

H I G H L I G H T S

middle school service



Youth engage in monthly community service activities with partner organizations within the neighborhood as well as throughout the Chicago area. Activities such as neighborhood cleanups, community gardening, and soup kitchen service help youth learn about critical social issues and build a sense of social responsibility. These activities are also another way for youth to practice life skills and 21st-century skills like collaboration and communication in real-time.



Sorting and packing donated books for children who need them at Cradles to Crayons was an eye-opening experience. I liked volunteering because I know I am helping to make a difference for the community.

YINGYING, GRADE 7



saturday camps

PV runs Saturday Camps during the school year and a 6-week Summer Camp to help youth explore their interests and also focus on life skills, social-emotional learning, and team building with peers in a fun and engaging way. We have run various camps, including computer coding, digital art, and fitness and nutrition Saturday camps this year.



I liked going to PV's Summer Camp because I like making new friends and going on field trips and doing fun activities with my friends. I enjoyed the water park and Taco Day. It was the first time I learned how to cook by myself!

JAYDEN L, GRADE 7



& service leadership

H I G H L I G H T S

At PV, service and leadership are an integral part of our holistic positive youth development model to train successful students who are also active, caring citizens. By providing youth with opportunities for meaningful civic engagement, PV aims to nurture a strong sense of connectedness to community and social responsibility.

high school service learning

CYSC

Chicago Youth Service Corps is a program supported by the City's One Summer Chicago initiative. Over the last year, 50+ youth led year-long service projects that they researched and designed to address important issues that impact the Chinatown community, from promoting green spaces to preserving cultural heritage to building awareness about mental health in AAPI youth.

CULTURAL PRESERVATION FOR CHINATOWN YOUTH

As the cohort leader of the first identity-focused group in **CYSC**, I had the opportunity to reevaluate my view on both myself and how I understood identity as a concept. I gained not just a community of passionate teammates but also supportive friends. Together, we tackled difficult questions about what "impact" could look like and how we could reach individuals with our project. After months of planning, we got to experience the culmination of our hard work with students from all around Chicago in two dance workshops, modern J-Pop and traditional Chinese fan. We explored how different artistic forms of storytelling upkeep cultural identities.

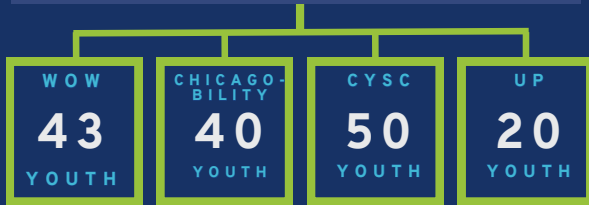
Not only did I gain a sense of contentment but also a responsibility to continue this work that put smiles on others' faces and allowed them to learn about their heritage and how they could build off of it going into the future. **CYSC** confirmed what I want to pursue in the future: a career where I could increase my reach, better the lives of others through civic engagement, and encourage them to do the same. I've risen as a leader, unafraid to speak up for myself and eager to hear the perspectives of others.

ASHLEY, GRADE 12



workforce development

153 YOUTHS SERVED
THROUGH WORKFORCE:



HOURS WORKING ON
32,161
SKILLS TO BECOME LEADERS

CHICAGOABILITY

Chicagoability utilized the arts to help youth build positive self and cultural identity, especially important in response to the rise in anti-Asian hate and violence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

YOUNG POSITIVE AGENTS OF CHANGE

During YPAC, we researched important issues in Chinatown. My group focused on hunger and donated food to those in need. YPAC helped me learn how to communicate effectively with my teammates, helped me build a sense of community, and helped me see that I can make a positive impact on the Chinatown community.

ANDREW L, GRADE 10

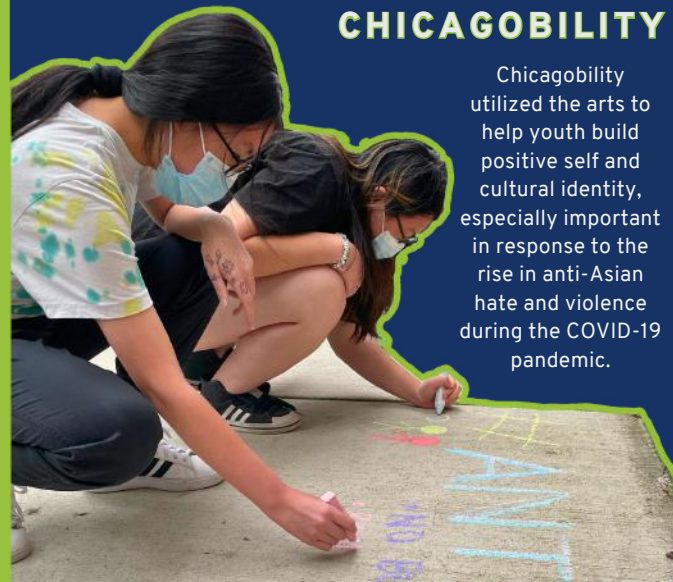


PROJECT: WOW

Project: **Watch Out World (WOW)** completed its third year of programming, expanding to support **45 youth** as they explore diverse careers, learn essential employability skills and competencies, and gain real-world experience through summer internships.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be involved in WOW, a program to help develop our career-oriented soft skills and prepare us for the workforce. Thanks to WOW, I interned at PAWS Chicago throughout the summer, an unforgettable experience that helped me become more independent, flexible, compassionate, responsible, patient, and communicative. Every animal has their own story, and to see vets and staff taking part in their story made me realize a true passion for working with animals.

MAGGIE L, GRADE 11



PARENT ENGAGEMENT

DURING THE 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR . . .

30 Parent Mentors and **4** Parent Coordinators supported our local schools as classroom assistants and tutors.



IMPACTED
800+
STUDENTS
ACROSS
4 LOCAL SCHOOLS

- JOHN HAINES
- JAMES WARD
- MARK SHERIDAN
- ROBERT HEALY



PV has always believed in the power of parent and family engagement and its impact on positive youth development.

VICKY'S STORY

VICKY IS A PV PARENT. HER CHILD HAS SINCE GRADUATED FROM PV'S PROGRAM, BUT SHE REMAINS COMMITTED TO PERSONAL GROWTH THROUGH THE PARENT MENTOR PROGRAM.

I feel proud to be a part of Project: VISION, serving as the current Haines School Parent Mentor Coordinator. I am truly grateful to PV for introducing the Parent Mentor Program (PMP) to our community. I became a parent mentor at James Ward in 2019 and witnessed firsthand how parents transformed from unfamiliar with the school environment to willingly and excitedly participating in school activities. I firmly believe that the Parent Mentor Program (PMP) has instilled enormous confidence in us.

PMP focuses on improving parental involvement in education. The program aims to create a close-knit relationship between the school, parents, and students to provide better support for the needs of the community and school. Our parents work closely with teachers to help immigrant students and those needing extra attention through tutoring. As a result, the students receive the necessary support to improve their learning abilities, which leads to a more significant impact on the community. I learned a lot from this program, and it has helped me become a better leader.



100%

Parent Mentors believed they gained more confidence in their parenting

87%

reported increased interest in being more involved with their child's school community



By participating in PMP, I have the opportunity to collaborate with teachers in the classroom, improving my skills in educating and guiding children, and enhancing communication skills with children. These experiences have helped me gain greater confidence to achieve my personal and professional goals because I have learned to persevere through challenges and to keep an open mind to try new things.

I appreciate that the Parent Mentor Program is dedicated to helping parents improve themselves, cultivate leadership, set goals, and unleash the potential of each parent mentor, creating a positive impact on the community and school. I see it as a win-win for both parents and the school. I am very grateful to the staff of Project: VISION for creating a platform for our youth and parents and providing us with information and services. It helps parents understand how to guide teenagers in future opportunities and contribute to the community.

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our SUPPORTERS

Project: VISION's beginnings were made possible by the generosity of those who gave their time, talent, and treasure. Today, we continue to thrive because our volunteers, donors, funders, and community partners continue to support our work in so many ways. We thank them all for their generous commitments and contributions to our organization and, more importantly, to our youths' futures.

CORPORATE / GRANT CONTRIBUTORS

up to \$999

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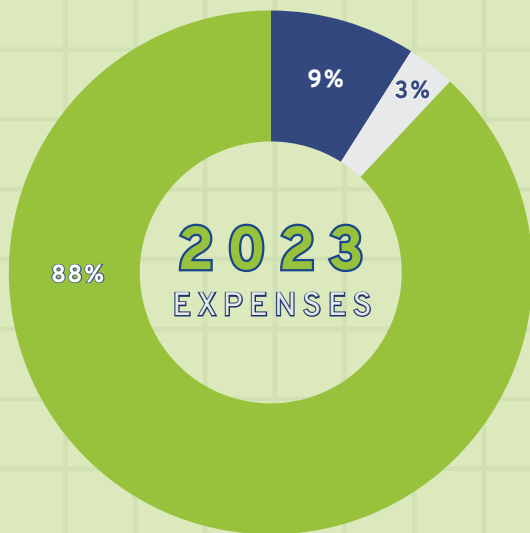


FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS 2023

**For fiscal year September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023*

(final audited financial statements available February 1st, 2024)

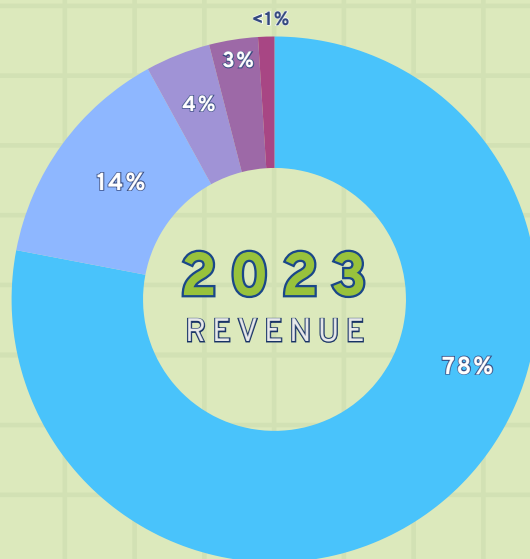
EXPENSES



88%	PROGRAM SERVICES	1,692,390
9%	MANAGEMENT / GENERAL	171,412
3%	FUNDRAISING	53,772

TOTAL EXPENSES \$1,917,574

REVENUE



78%	GOVERNMENT GRANTS	1,740,439
14%	CONTRIBUTIONS	314,853
4%	FUNDRAISING EVENTS	90,269
3%	PROGRAM SERVICE REVENUES	64,592
<1%	OTHER	7,297

TOTAL REVENUE \$2,217,450

Standley's STORY



I'm Standley Wu, and I am currently a senior at Lane Tech College Prep. My journey with PV started in the 7th grade after hearing that one of my classmates started going the year before. Initially, I was hesitant to join PV as I thought, "Why spend an hour every day doing homework when I can do it at home?" However, I ended up staying for a year, and as my sister headed into middle school, she also joined PV.

When it was time for me to go through the high school admissions process, I didn't know where to go for help. Although my counselor was a great resource, I needed more guidance. That's when PV came in, and I'm grateful that I turned to them for help. The tutors were there to assist me every step of the way, guiding me through the schoolwork and homework that the 8th grade required. The weekend programs helped me catch up on content for the high school admissions test. Thanks to PV, I was accepted into Lane Tech.

PV's support didn't stop there, providing me with support all throughout high school. During the college admissions process, PV provided me with immense help, including college essay guidance, SAT preparation, FAFSA assistance, and much more. Moreover, Project: VISION gave me a sense of belonging and community in Chinatown. It made me feel like I'm a valued member of the community.

PV offers a program called the Southwest branch of the Chicago Youth Service Corps. It is aimed at 16-24-year-olds who want to gain a better understanding of the Chinatown community and connect more deeply with our AAPI roots. I joined CYSC in January 2023, and it was a unique experience compared to other leadership programs I have been a part of in my years at PV. It was an eye-opening experience. Through community-building workshops, PV and CYSC helped me prepare for the workforce in the future, expand my horizons, and look toward the future. The hard work and dedication of tutors and staff helped me to be awarded the Army ROTC 4-year scholarship, a scholarship funded by the Army that covers full tuition, books, and fees. All of this was possible because of the amazing opportunities that PV provided to improve my GPA, develop my leadership skills, and get involved in the community that I love.

PROJECT: VISION IS MORE THAN JUST A TUTORING CENTER IN CHINATOWN. PROJECT: VISION IS A PLACE TO NURTURE AND EQUIP YOUNG LIKE ME TO BECOME CAPABLE LEADERS WITH THE TOOLS REQUIRED TO SUCCEED.





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**236 WEST 22ND PLACE, UNIT #1
CHICAGO, IL 60616**

P: 312.808.1898

E: staff@projectvisionchicago.org

www.projectVISIONchicago.org