



End of Year Presentation

By: ACT for Alexandria Youth Council





Today's Agenda

1. Introductions
2. Youth Council Overview
3. Spring2ACTion
4. 2023 Discovery Project
5. Trust-Based Philanthropy
6. Grantmaking Process
7. Our Grantees
8. Lessons Learned
9. Community Impact
10. Next Steps
11. Q&A

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Introductions



Meet Our 2023-24 Youth Council



Abigail Tzeggai



Katrina Chen



Zahra Rahimi



Alessandra Guevara



William
Gomez-Palacios



Eliana Rougle



Diarra Sangare



Indigo
Samson-Bryant

Meet Our 2023-24 Youth Council



Michaela Islas



Mieraf Bisrat



Ikra Hussein



Caroline Farrell



Jordan Fowler



Lucy Hunnicutt

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Youth Council Overview



Our Foundation

The Alexandria City Youth Council started as a pilot program three years ago as an opportunity for students to engage in the community, leadership, and philanthropy.

Since then we've had several Discovery Projects and helped organize Spring2ACTION.

The Discovery Project give a voice to the youth to speak on issues that we face. Spring2ACTION allowed us a greater opportunity to engage the community in giving and supporting local efforts.



Youth Council Overview

We are **a program designed by youth for youth** with the purpose of providing Alexandria youth the decision-making power and funding to address key youth issues within the community.

This year we had the opportunity to design and launch a grant program to address issues most pertinent to youth, build skills in community-organizing and advocacy, network with Alexandria leaders, and make a difference in their community!

Recruitment Process

This Years Recruitment Process:

- Hosted an Interest Meeting
- Collect applications from Alexandria youth
- Seeking candidates that demonstrate qualities such as: **commitment, team work skills, advocacy, relevant experience, and awareness of their community**
- Reviewed applications anonymously
- Followed up via email



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Spring2ACTion



Spring2ACTion

- Spring2ACTion this year was held on April 24th! This day is held for people to support their community by donating to nonprofit organizations that make Alexandria better!
- The youth council supported Spring2ACTion at the ALX dog walk on April 20th
- The event was also advertised on social media



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2023 Discovery Project

Recall...

West End

Demographics

Two or More races

4.1%

Other Race

10.8%

American Indian Or

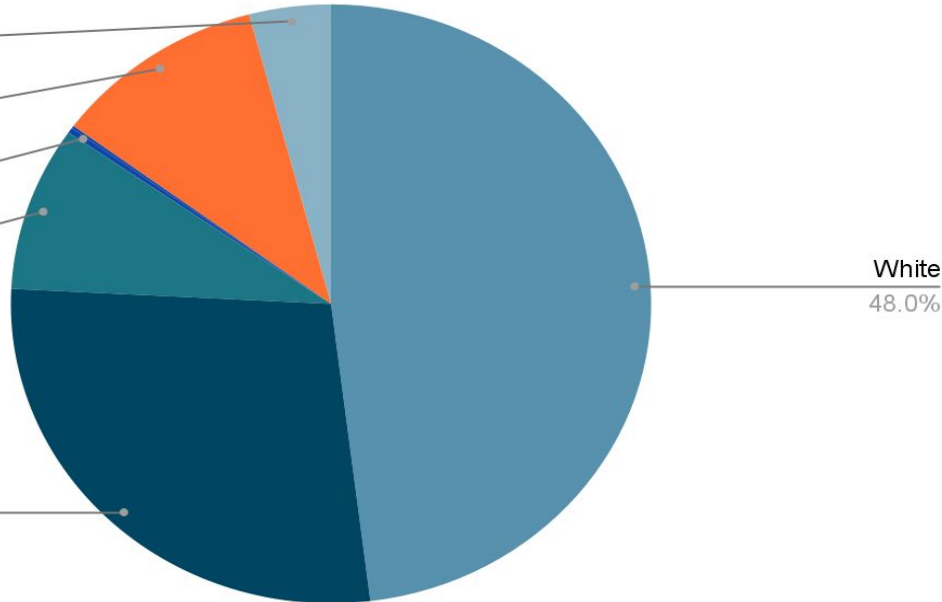
0.3%

Asian

8.9%

Black

27.8%



**Median Household
Income**
70,000 - 73,000

Poverty Rates
16 - 20%

Employment rates
59 - 70%

**Limited English
Proficiency**
55 - 58%

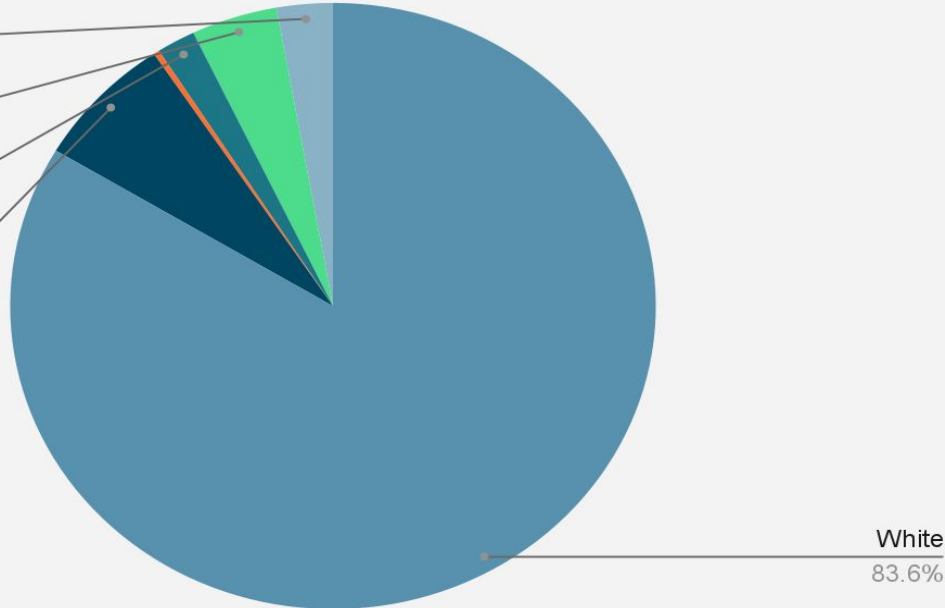
Bachelor's Attainment
34 - 48%

Recall...

East End

Demographics

Two or more races
2.8%
Other race
4.3%
Asian
1.9%
Black
7.1%



Median Household Income
100,000 - 160,000

Poverty Rates
0 - 4.9%

Employment Rates
62 - 90%

Limited English proficiency
7 - 15%

Bachelor's Attainment
64 - 86%

East End

**Median Household
Income**
100,000 - 160,000

Poverty Rates
0 - 4.9%

Employment Rates
62 - 90%

**Limited English
proficiency**
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West End

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Proficiency**
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2023 Discovery Project



Education

The Education gap between the East and West Ends of Alexandria



Disabilities

The lack of available resources



Environment

The Environmental disparities across the East and West Ends of Alexandria

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Trust-Based Philanthropy



Leading with Trust: TB Philanthropy & 2024 Grantmaking

What is Trust-Based Philanthropy?

An approach to charity and philanthropy that attempts to address power imbalances within the donor-grantee relationship

What does Trust-Based Grants look like to us?

- Open and clear communication
- Commitment to your plan and outline
- Transparent about struggles and successes
- A simple application process
- Responsive to questions and issues

Goal of Trust-Based Philanthropy

Develop a trust-based partnership
with the non-profit organizations

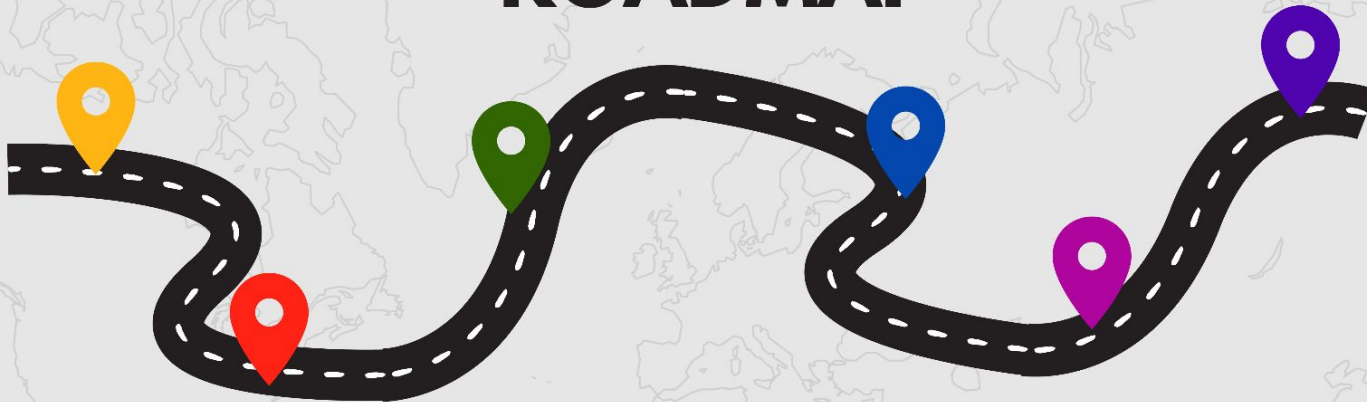


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Grantmaking Process

Grant Process Roadmap

ROADMAP



1

FOCUS AREA

We first began by deciding which issue we wanted to focus on. We ultimately decided on Education and Environment!

2

RESEARCH

Secondly, we began to research and create profiles for organization that fit our focus areas and showed evidence of actively helping Alexandria City youth.

3

FINALIZE

Third, after many discussions we choose four organizations from each of our focus areas.

4

INVITE

Fourth, we send out Letter of Intent to each organizations and requested LOIs.

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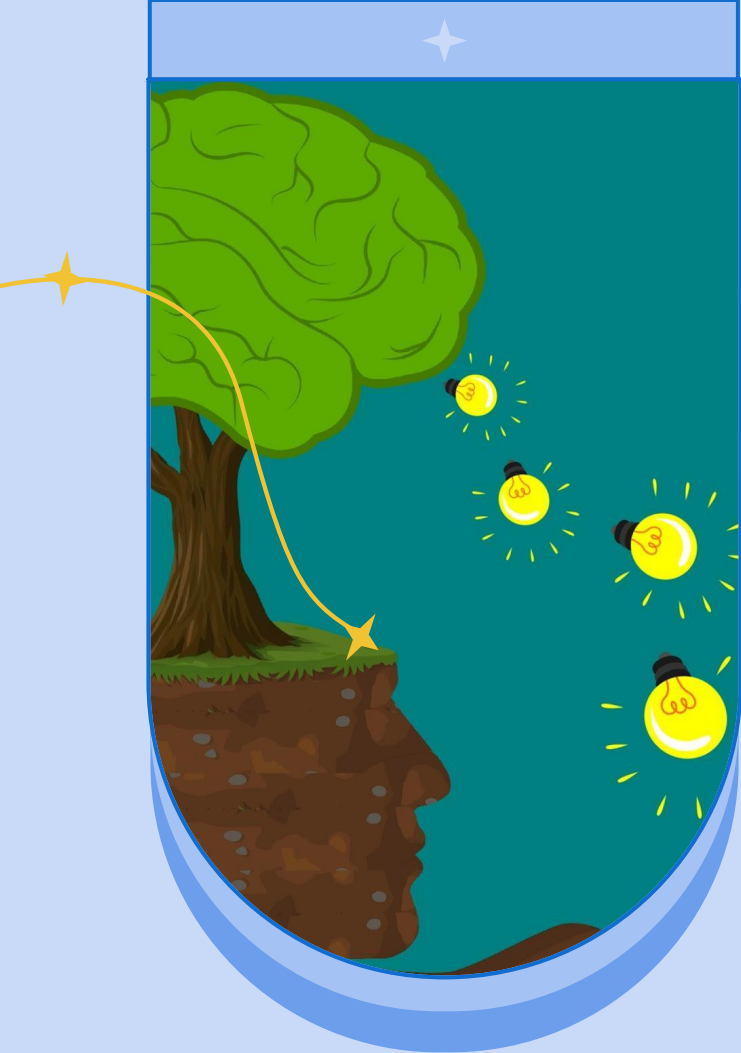
INTERVIEW

Fifth, we interviewed each organization via zoom. Afterwards we choose two organizations from our education focus area and one from our environment focus area.

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ALLOCATE

Lastly, we decided on how to split \$15,000 among each organization and informed them via zoom :)



2024 Focus Areas: Education & Environment

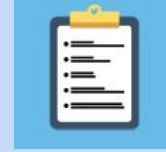
- Focusing on education and environment as these are more exigent and general problems to the youth.
- With respect to our budget we also wanted to fund these organizations proportionately.
- Looked to nonprofits who are based in equity and helping students.



Research

- Researched organizations related to our Discovery Projects
- Sent letters of intent to a select few nonprofit organizations
- Nonprofit organizations submitted a quick and equitable application

Selection Criteria



- Nonprofit Organization
- Serving Alexandria Youth
- Area Focus on Educational Equity & Environmental Justice
- Striving to end poverty and the achievement gap in marginalized communities.





Our Interviews

- During our Zoom interviews the Youth Council wanted to learn
 - How nonprofits ensure their mission is being achieved?
 - How the grant would progress their organizational goals?
 - Their current community outreach and impact!
 - How their operations will be affected with or without the grant award?
 - A sustainability plan for after the grant awards!



Our Grantees

Child and Family Network Centers

- CFNC is the only nonprofit in Alexandria that provides free, high-quality multilingual education.
- They provided accredited early childhood education with aftercare, holistic family case management services, and social/emotional supports with health referral services.



Child and Family Network Centers

- With the support of our funding, CFNC plans to address the urgent need of the young children who experienced a hurdle in their early education due to the pandemic.
- CFNC wants to work to surpass these hurdles and assimilate these children to the classroom environment to ensure success in the future.
- CFNC also takes pride in talking about feelings and prioritizing social and emotional education in their classrooms. Our grant money will also support this work.



Community Lodgings

- Their Youth Education Program provides underprivileged elementary, middle, and highschool students with free afterschool and summer programs where they are provided opportunities to met with tutors, participate in recreational activity, and learn valuable life skills.
- Through their affordable housing program, Community Lodgings address the housing needs of resident in our community by providing housing units to low income families and their work is done to benefit the the Arlandria-Chirilagua community in Alexandria
- They do this through their Youth Education and Housing programs as well as the mobilization of in-kind goods and services as well as healthy food distribution to give back to this under-privileged, immigrant-based community.

How Community Lodgings will benefit from our Grant

- While Community Lodgings consistently provides free resources to the community, funding, time, and space is struggle for them. The organization is in need of opening another center and expanding their staff.
- Our grant money will contribute to expanding their resources in order to ensure a consistent impact on the youth and the families of this community.
- Our grant money will go forward to help Community Lodgings support their summer enrichment camps and their Weekender food bags during the summer months.
- This program is very important during the summer months as a large proportion of the youth in this community receives lunch and breakfast aid during the school year.

Arcadia

- Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture provides many programs that are designed to address the specific needs of the community while collectively engaging consumers, farmers, schools, and institutions.
 - Arcadia Farm
 - Mobile Market
 - Veteran Farmer Program
 - Live, Eat, Grow



How Arcadia will benefit from our Grant?

- The grant awarded to Arcadia will primarily contribute to supporting the expansion of their Eat, Live, Grow, internship program to more students and raising their compensation.
- Although the organization is not based in our city, they successfully focus on providing education on food access, agricultural sustainability, and nutritional education and engage the youth in our region.





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Lessons Learned

What we learned

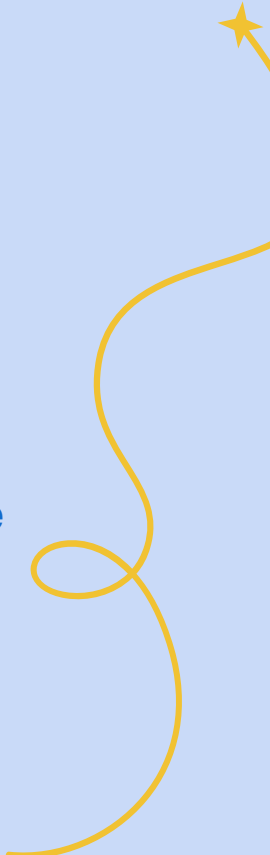


Application Process

1. Furthering our past research
2. executing a solution
3. Deciding on philanthropy



Grantmaking

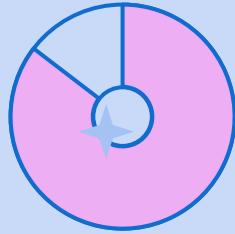
1. Gaining extensive knowledge
 2. Narrowing it down
 3. Presenting grants
 4. Making an actual difference!
- 

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Community Impact and Next Steps



Community Impact



Impact on Youth Council

The grantmaking process allowed the Youth Council to turn their research findings into action and support Alexandria youth in areas most important to them.



Impact on Alexandria

Through the grantmaking process, the Youth Council was able to provide healthy food, emotional learning support, and job opportunities for Alexandria's youth.

Organization Follow up and Next Steps



- Visits to each nonprofit site
- Learning Conversations
- Organization Feedback
- Assessment of our grantmaking in the Fall semester
- Recruitment Planning for 2024-2025

Future Recruitment Process

- For the 2024-25 youth council, the recruitment process will start over the summer
- We plan to introduce the application in September and keep it open until early October
- To ensure **a diverse applicant pool**, we want to reach out to local high schools
- Social media, flyers, and word-of-mouth are all ways we plan to outreach to Alexandria youth



Thanks!



Q



&



A

If you have any questions or would like to work with the ACT Youth Council please contact Shelley Spacek Miller at shelley.miller@actforalexandria.org

