



**2021-2022 Annual Report**  
Center for Public Service and Engaged Scholarship



# Welcome from the Center

This past year has been an exciting and productive one for the Center for Public Service and Engaged Scholarship at Harvard College. Together students and staff navigated the complex process of transitioning our work from fully remote to hybrid and in-person programming. Across all of our activities - coursework, volunteerism, community activism and pre-professional experiences - we created new ways for students to learn about and impact the world outside Harvard's gates.

We also played a leadership role in the creation of a new website (<https://socialimpact.harvard.edu>) featuring the social impact work happening across Harvard University. The purpose of this new site is to encourage collaboration among various Harvard-based organizations working to improve society.

Our programs sustain Harvard College's mission to educate citizens and citizen-leaders for our society. We strive for students to make important contributions to the public good and develop a life-long sense of public purpose.

Thank you for your interest in these efforts and please don't hesitate to contact us at [publicservice@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:publicservice@fas.harvard.edu) at any time - we welcome your ideas and feedback!



Dr. Julie Reuben (left) serves as Faculty Director of the Center for Public Service and Engaged Scholarship. Travis Lovett (right) serves as the Assistant Dean of Civic Engagement and Service at Harvard College.

# Highlights from 2021-2022

As part of Harvard College's commitment to sustain pathways to public service, **we sponsored 540 students to work full-time on public service projects** in Summer 2021. Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) ran a successful hybrid Summer Urban Program, providing summer learning and social engagement to over 400 youth in the Greater Boston area. The Pathways to Practice team sponsored 168 students during summer 2021 including 34 students through the Priscilla Chan Summer Service Award. Additionally, 123 incoming students from the Class of 2025 participated in SPARK, representing 28 states and 14 countries, where they worked on public service projects in their hometowns with ongoing training and support from our team. Donors contributed more than \$800,000 to the Center this past year in an ongoing effort to sponsor more student public service internship experiences.

Our team has concentrated efforts on restoring our programs to pre-pandemic capacity. **PBHA had over 800 student volunteers in Fall 2021** through 60+ programs and continues to adapt programs to meet constituent needs with the Housing Opportunities eviction prevention pilot, the Harvard Square Homeless Shelter Street Team, and 600 students enrolled in online Adult ESL programs. We also hosted a range of new programs which included organizing the first-ever Quad Day of Service, and launching a partnership with Harvard University Dining Services to prevent campus food waste by package meals for a local nonprofit, Food for Free.

The **2021 Global Day of Service represented a significant shift forward in our return to campus life**, engaging 1,545 volunteers through 71 in-person, hybrid, and remote projects on 5 continents. We organized voter registration drives, developed volunteer recruitment and cause marketing campaigns with the Red Cross, reimagined 911 emergency response systems with Code for America, provided immigration and asylum resources, and created a resource library across all 50 states for victims of domestic violence, among many other projects.

Winter break featured the **Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness** holiday program in partnership with the Harvard Alumni Allyship Series. We also organized our 27th annual holiday Toy and Joy Drive provided over 750 gifts in support of 14 local community organizations. Through the Fong Family Winternship Program, 83 students worked on public service projects during winter break in January 2022. Over 30 students kept PBHA's two shelters running during winter break to ensure guests had a warm meals and a safe place to stay. Fellows at the Forefront, our pilot program that connects research and professional development supported two cohorts (environmental sustainability; racial justice and mass incarceration), bringing students, scholars, and practitioners together to work on pressing social issues.

The Mindich Program in Engaged Scholarship (MPES) has served an integral role in leading our department's academic efforts. Through MPES, we have supported course development in 15 academic departments across all four academic divisions: Arts & Humanities, Science, Social Science, and School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS). During the 2021-2022 academic year, **there were 42 engaged scholarship courses offered in 2021-2022** and with 898 students enrolled. Mindich courses challenge students and faculty to integrate scholarship with community perspectives, knowledge, and expertise to have impact within and beyond the academy. Students learn about communities, organizations, and issues as they learn how to develop evidence-based arguments.

Throughout the year, we organized several programs to bring our student and alumni communities together including the **Public Interested Conference** (featuring Clint Smith), the **Scholarship and Social Justice Research Conference** (featuring Monique Morris and Tim McCarthy), a webinar on **Serving on a Nonprofit Board**, and **PBHA's Robert Coles Call of Service Lecture and Alumni Weekend** (featuring Mia Mingus).

# Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA)

Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) sustains a dual mission of providing vital experiences for students in service and activism, while simultaneously offering programming and essential services throughout the Greater Boston Area. This past year, over 800 student volunteers joined with PBHA's community partners to run more than 60 social service and social action programs focused on adult services, advocacy, after-school and in-school, antiracism, health, housing, and mentoring. So much of this work supported essential services from engaging over 550 youth through the Summer Urban Program to providing shelter and sanctuary to 50 young adults. Several programs adapted to extend services remotely, including Adult English Language classes, youth mentorship, legal support, companionship for older adults, and prison education.

To help students learn and grow, PBHA organizes over 60 workshops and trainings through the Buttenwieser Public Service Academy. This work supports over 400 students each year in learning facilitation skills, managing program operations, developing advocacy and organizing skills, and working with youth. PBHA's work ensures that students develop civic competencies to lead diverse teams, address community needs, and resolve conflicts. Through the Priscilla Chan Service Pathways Initiative, PBHA provided critical support to 43 year-round student leaders through the Chan Stride Scholars program. Students supported through these programs have led the way in reimagining community engagement work. They have had the opportunity to connect meaningfully with one another and alumni while pursuing their personal commitment to make a difference.

During the 2021-2022 academic year, PBHA also conducted a groundbreaking survey to evaluate impact on alumni career trajectories, skills, competencies and values development, and to identify the qualities or components of that undergraduate experience that help foster positive outcomes. Over 1,000 alumni completed the survey, which will culminate in a final report during the 2022-2023 academic year.



As a student-led organization, PBHA mobilizes volunteers in collaboration with Boston and Cambridge partners to address gaps in opportunities and resources. PBHA develops student and community leadership to creatively meet critical needs and advocate for structural change.

For more information about PBHA's 70+ student-led, staff supported programs, visit <https://pbha.org>.

# Mindich Program in Engaged Scholarship



For the past five summers, teams of Harvard students have worked with Professor Walter Johnson in St. Louis through the Mindich Program in Community-Engaged Research. Through placements with several community partners, students learn about housing equity, civil rights litigation, environmental justice, and community engagement efforts.

The Mindich Program in Engaged Scholarship (MPES) has supported course development in 15 academic departments across all four academic divisions: Arts & Humanities, Science, Social Science, and School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS). Language development has been one of the earliest forms of engaged scholarship with Spanish in the Community (SPANSH 59) serving as the longest-running engaged scholarship course. Since Fall 2018, the Mindich Program in Engaged Scholarship has partnered with the Harvard College Writing Program to offer three to five EXPOS 20 courses each semester that connect the theory and practice of academic research and writing. Mindich courses challenge students and faculty to integrate scholarship with community perspectives, knowledge, and expertise to have impact within and beyond the academy. These experiences offer students to learn about communities, organizations, and issues as they learn how to develop evidence-based arguments. In 2021-2022, 898 students enrolled in 42 engaged scholarship courses where they cultivated community connections through language, film, data analysis, political activism, and community-inspired arts.

In addition to term-time courses, MPES offers two summer research programs: the Program for Community Engaged Research (PCER) and the Research and Community Engagement (RCE) award. PCER supports faculty-led multi-disciplinary inquiry-based research cohorts where student teams work together on a socially focused research project. For the past five summers, students have worked with Professor Walter Johnson in St. Louis to work on housing and environmental justice issues. In Summer 2021, Professor Dan D'Oca led a team of students on an urban design project to promote community well-being in South Bronx, New York. Since Summer 2017, the RCE has funded six to ten students per year to conduct independent research around the world. While supervised by Harvard-affiliated faculty mentor, these students design and complete their own research projects.

For more information, visit <https://publicservice.fas.harvard.edu/mpes>

# Pathways to Practice

The Pathways to Practice team provides fundamental building blocks for students to gain professional development experiences. A core engagement strategy for our team is reaching students as they enter college. In 2019, we developed SPARK as an immersive six-week public service program where 123 incoming first-year students developed a public service project at home while receiving funding and ongoing support from Harvard staff, faculty, and student leaders. One core goal for SPARK is to help students find public service pathways while they are at Harvard. The Pathways to Practice team supported 168 full-time student projects during Summer 2021, with 90 students working at leading non-profit and government partners through the Mindich Service Fellows program.

Our department has created two additional pathways over the past year to support student engagement in public service work: the Fong Family Winternship Program and Fellows at the Forefront. Through the Fong Family Winternship program, 83 students explored public interest work during their winter break at social impact organizations around the world in January 2022. Through Fellows at the Forefront, a faculty expert leads a workshop on a core social issue, bringing together a team of students, half who serve as research assistants and the other half who serve as interns at community partners, to share what they are learning. A total of 19 students were sponsored to participate in the climate change cohort (led by Professor Dustin Tingley) and racial justice cohort (led by Assistant Professor Kaya Williams) in Summer 2022.

Expanding post graduate opportunities in public service is critical to our long-term work. Through a gift from the Banga Family and the Mastercard Foundation, two students from the Class of 2023 will be sponsored to work full-time on social innovation projects. This is part of our long-term goal to secure funding for 25 outstanding seniors to work at leading social impact organizations upon graduation.



Dr. Ashish Jha, a global expert on pandemic preparedness and public health policy, served as summer fellowship keynote speaker in July 2021. He shared how his interdisciplinary interests helped him prepare for a life of public service. "The biggest predictor of career satisfaction is who you work with," he added.

For more information, visit <https://publicservice.fas.harvard.edu/pathways>

# Student Engagement and Leadership



Harvard's **Global Day of Service** began as a local first-year orientation activity in 2015 and evolved during the pandemic to become an annual rallying call for civic activism across the greater Harvard community, engaging 1,545 volunteers working on 71 project teams on five continents in August 2021.

The Center's Student Engagement and Leadership programs serve an integral role in enhancing Harvard College's educational mission. In addition to supporting PBHA, the Center advises approximately 50 student organizations throughout the school year and offers several signature programs including the Global Day of Service (see left) and two multi-institutional collaborations: the **Scholarship and Social Justice Undergraduate Research Conference** and **Journeys Toward Justice**. The Scholarship and Social Justice Conference featured presentations from student researchers representing 15 colleges across the country along with commentary from Dr. Monique Morris and Dr. Timothy McCarthy, two award-winning authors and social justice scholars who encouraged students researchers to ground their scholarship in care and lead with love. Journeys Toward Justice is a collaboration spotlighting social changemakers who are driving justice and equity forward. This series began during the pandemic as an alternative to alternative spring break programming but it has since shifted to become a monthly series. Just prior to the start of every school year, over 100 incoming first-year students participate in the First-Year Urban Program (FUP), which operated virtually during Summer 2021.

Leadership development is at the heart of our work. We worked in partnership with the Dean of Students Office to build a leadership development framework grounded in three principles: character, collaboration, and community. As a result of this work, students will have access to leadership coaching, workshops, and reflections organized by Harvard College and the Battenwieser Public Service Academy.

For more information, visit <https://publicservice.fas.harvard.edu/student-engagement-and-leadership>

# University-Wide Social Impact

In September 2021, the Center received a Presidential Administrative Innovation Fund (PAIF) grant in conjunction with the Advanced Leadership Initiative to develop a series of tools and resources to strengthen communication and collaboration among social impact programs. From this work, three core deliverables have emerged:

- 1) we developed an online directory highlighting the work of over 110 unique social impact programs across 14 schools and institutes at Harvard
- 2) we launched a monthly social impact newsletter that reaches over 350 faculty, staff, and alums in social impact roles, and
- 3) we developed a Slack workspace to share announcements, ideas, and opportunities for collaboration.

For more information about 110+ programs across Harvard supporting social impact work, visit <https://socialimpact.harvard.edu/>

## JOIN THE

*Social Impact*

## SLACK



*Channel*

# About the Center

The Center for Public Service and Engaged Scholarship is the hub that supports all public service efforts at Harvard College. We offer curricular and cocurricular programs to prepare Harvard College students with the knowledge and tools needed to meet the challenges facing our society. Through academic coursework, leadership development, volunteerism, community activism, and pre-professional experiences, the Center offers numerous pathways for students to engage in public service. We work with a wide range of partners to ensure that programs address critical community needs, the department oversees a number of collaborative public service efforts where Harvard students can make important contributions to social welfare and develop a strong sense of public purpose. Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) is our oldest and largest program. Other signature programming include the Public Interested Conference, the Global Day of Service, Public Service Recruiting Day, the Scholarship and Social Justice Conference, and the Harvard Winnovation Program.

For more information, visit <https://publicservice.fas.harvard.edu>

## Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA)

PBHA is the largest student-run, community-based, staff-supported nonprofit public service organization affiliated with Harvard College.

## Mindich Program in Engaged Scholarship

The Mindich Program offers 40+ community engaged courses in departments throughout FAS and sponsor research opportunities for undergraduates.

## Pathways to Practice

The Pathways to Practice team supports over 350 Harvard College students through summer, winter break, and post-graduate work experiences.

## Student Engagement and Leadership

The Student Engagement and Leadership team supports student development and high-impact practices by advising more than 70 student organizations on campus.

**Follow our work on Instagram!**



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