



Center for Public Service and Engaged Scholarship

2022-2023 Annual Report

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 includes the Public Interested Conference, the Global Day of Service, Public Service Recruiting Day, the Scholarship and Social Justice Conference, and SPARK.

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 sponsored research opportunities for undergraduates.

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.

Pathways to Practice

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

Welcome from the Center

The Center for Public Service and Engaged Scholarship's programs continued to flourish and grow in 2022-23. Across our core activities – volunteerism, community activism, pre-professional experiences, and coursework – we help Harvard students discover their public purpose and develop into citizen-leaders for our society.

Thanks to generous new investments in our work, we have been able to offer students opportunities to pursue international public service internships, pathways to political work, research on climate initiatives, and post-graduate funding for social innovation.

We are excited to launch the Harvard College Certificate for Civic Engagement, creating a path for students to integrate academic study and direct service, deepening their commitment to civic engagement. Completion of this program will be acknowledged on student transcripts, recognizing the importance of civic engagement to the College's mission.

We continue to support University-wide social impact work to develop tools and align efforts across Harvard-based organizations working to improve society. Our most successful programs harness the collaborative energy of our partners, both on campus and in the community.

Phillips Brooks House Association's groundbreaking alumni study provides valuable insights into how our work has a continued impact across generations. We are working with alumni Shared Interest Groups (SIGs) and ClassACT groups to better support their activities, connect current students with alumni, and sustain a life-long commitment to public service.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the Center. Please do not hesitate to contact us at publicservice@fas.harvard.edu. We welcome your ideas and feedback!



Ajay and Ritu Banga met with Julie Reuben and Travis Lovett (pictured left to right) for the launch of the Banga Social Innovation Fund. This program catalyzes social entrepreneurship, supports social impact research, and serves as an incubator for promising ideas. This work unlocks the potential of bright undergraduates seeking to make a transformative social impact.

Highlights from 2022-2023

This past year, donors contributed more than \$24 million to sustain and expand the Center's civic work. Three endowed gifts from the Stad Family, Banga Family, and a fund that names our faculty director role in honor of President Bacow, will support the growth of summer fellowships working with elected officials, sustain social innovation work through post-graduate fellowships, and provide bridge funding for pilot initiatives and promising ideas.

As part of Harvard College's commitment to sustain pathways to public service, we sponsored 617 students to work full-time on public service projects in Summer 2022. Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) returned to a fully in-person Summer Urban Program, providing summer learning and social engagement to over 600 youth in the Greater Boston area. The Pathways to Practice team sponsored 167 students during summer 2022 including 34 students through the Priscilla Chan Summer Service Award. Additionally, 100 incoming students from the Class of 2026 participated in SPARK, representing 27 states and 15 countries, where they worked on public service projects in their hometowns with ongoing training and support from our team.

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 packaging meals for a local nonprofit, Food for Free.

The 2022 Global Day of Service represented a significant shift forward in our return to campus life, engaging 1,274 volunteers through 78 in-person, hybrid, and remote projects on 5 continents. We sponsored park and playground clean-ups with the City of Boston, helped schools to prepare classrooms and curriculum for the upcoming year, organized voter registration drives and developed

marketing campaigns for a wide range of social issues. Several virtual projects unlocked students' creative potential to support social well-being and bring greater visibility to humanitarian work.

We also organized our 29th annual holiday Toy and Joy Drive and provided over 750 gifts in support of a dozen local community organizations. Through the Fong Family Winternship Program, 86 students worked on public service projects during winter break in January 2023. Over 30 students kept PBHA's two shelters running during winter break to ensure guests had a warm meal and a safe place to stay. Fellows at the Forefront, our pilot program that connects research and professional development, supported cohorts focused on environmental justice and racial justice, bringing 19 students together with scholars and practitioners to advance our 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 18 academic departments across all four academic divisions: Arts & Humanities, Science, Social Science, and School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS). During the 2022-2023 academic year, there were 43 engaged scholarship courses with 796 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. MPES courses will provide a core foundation for the Harvard College Certificate for Civic Engagement program.

Throughout the year, we organized several programs to bring our student and alumni communities together including our 2022 summer keynote discussion (featuring Maribel Hernandez Rivera), the Public Interested Conference (featuring John King), the Scholarship and Social Justice Research Conference (featuring Américo Mendoza Mori and Tulli Faletti), a webinar on Serving on a Nonprofit Board, and PBHA's Robert Coles Call of Service Lecture and Alumni Weekend (featuring Loretta Ross).

Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA)

This past year, members of the Phillips Brooks House Association (PBHA) continued to rebuild in-person programming as a way of reconnecting with our core mission, vision, and values. The year's organizational theme, "Rooted in Our Why," was meant as a reminder to ground our work in our own personal call to service. More than 1,000 students volunteered in community-based programs focused on adult services, advocacy, afterschool and in-school, antiracism, health, housing, and mentoring. So much of our work was intended to close gaps in essential services: PBHA's Summer Urban Program (SUP) enrolled more than 600 low-income children in out-of-school time academics and enrichment activities. Our Y2Y shelter provided support and sanctuary to 50 young adults. Some programs extended their virtual services, including adult English language classes, small claims support, and prison education.

To help students learn and grow, PBHA organized more than 60 workshops and training sessions through the Bittenwieser Public Service Academy. This work helped more than 400 students develop facilitation skills, manage program operations, build advocacy and organizing skills, and work with youth. PBHA's efforts ensured that students develop civic competencies to lead diverse teams, address community needs, and resolve conflicts. Through the Priscilla Chan Service Pathways Initiative, PBHA offered scholarships to 43 income-eligible students who demonstrated a consistent, year-round commitment to public service.

Students supported through these programs led the way in reimagining community engagement. They connected meaningfully with one another and alumni while pursuing their personal commitment to making a difference.

Community partnerships are the foundation of PBHA's work and a major strategic priority has been rebuilding relationships with neighbors and community partners that were impacted by the pandemic. From Through the Gates (student and staff-led community visits) to Community Cabinet (panel of community leaders engaged in advocacy initiatives across Cambridge and Boston), to advocacy and organizing workshops (semester-long training led by students and community leaders), PBHA has been introducing students to the intricate web of relationships and community organizing that exists beyond campus. Officers invited student leaders from mission-aligned organizations across campus to join our efforts to rebuild community relationships through an affinity group dinner.

PBHA concluded a comprehensive year-long alumni study with more than 1,000 respondents spanning seven decades. From those findings, 95% of alumni survey respondents reported that they voted in elections and 93% donated to a charitable organization over the past two years. Of the alumni who participated in the Summer Urban Program (SUP), 94% said their PBHA experience strengthened their commitment to addressing social challenges.



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



During Summer 2022, students worked with Welcoming Refugees, a local project organized through the College's Mindich Program in Community-Engaged Research in collaboration with Professor Daniel D'Oca at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

The Mindich Program in Engaged Scholarship (MPES) has strengthened and sustained course development in 18 academic departments across all four academic divisions. During the 2022-2023 academic year, 791 students enrolled in engaged scholarship courses focused on a variety of topical areas including language, film, data analysis, political activism, and community-inspired arts.

This past year, the MPES team developed a classification framework with three types of courses that define core principles and competencies for engaged scholarship courses. All three types of courses span all undergraduate course-levels, from introductory to advanced and progressively lead deeper engagement. Foundational Courses are focused on exposure. These courses develop students' knowledge and skills within the classroom to prepare them to pursue engaged scholarship with people, communities, and groups outside of Harvard and academic contexts in the future. Courses are designed to introduce students to ideas and questions that are integral to the approaches, methodologies, and practices that constitute engaged scholarship. This work includes building upon the foundation of the Harvard College Writing Program's EXPOS 20 courses that connect the theory and practice of academic research and writing. Public Facing Courses are focused on developing students' abilities to connect with defined groups and communities through the ideas, questions, and understanding that develops through coursework. Courses add a focus on the ethics of intentional and purposeful engagement, rhetoric, and strategies for engaging with clearly defined public audiences through academic work.

Community Engaged Courses are focused on collaborative, mutually beneficial relationships that are sustained over the term. Courses take learning into the world beyond Harvard through semester-long immersive experiences that directly engage students with community and organizational collaborators. Courses are anchored by projects and students often work in teams.

In addition to term-time courses, MPES has supported 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. In Summer 2022, Professor Dan D'Oca directed a team of students to work with African Community Center of Lowell to create a welcome guide for incoming refugees and immigrants. Students conducted focus groups to better understand what immigrants and refugees need to know about the city, including housing, health care, education, food and wellness, and transportation. They met with various community leaders and business owners to ask them what they wish they had known when they first arrived. Professor D'Oca worked with them to center community voices in the process. For the past six summers, a team of students have also worked with Professor Walter Johnson on housing and environmental justice issues in St. Louis.

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

Student Engagement and Leadership

The Center's Student Engagement and Leadership programs serve an integral role in enhancing Harvard College's educational mission. In addition to supporting PBHA, we advise approximately 50 student organizations throughout the school year and offer several signature programs including the Global Day of Service and the Scholarship and Social Justice Undergraduate Research Conference. The Scholarship and Social Justice Conference featured presentations from student researchers representing 15 colleges across the country along with commentary from Dr. Tulia Falletti and Dr. Americo Mendoza Mori, two social justice scholars. Mendoza-Mori convened a team of four outstanding scholars to share ways they leverage their academic disciplines to further human rights work.

In Fall 2022, Harvard College launched the SOCIAL Challenge to provide funding to student organizations pursuing collaborative socially impactful projects. The SOCIAL Challenge supports solution-focused service projects, activities that promote social well-being, innovative and scalable social ventures, and community-building activities (including co-sponsoring conferences and workshops). SOCIAL is an acronym for Students Organizing, Catalyzing, Impacting, Advocating, Leading. In the application process, student teams are asked to highlight how their work can meet a community need at a greater scale. Students submit videos highlighting their work, which are then shared through Harvard social media channels. The goal is to incentivize impactful work and use social media to generate visibility for great ideas.

Through the SOCIAL Challenge, students developed "Our Climate Change Stories", a campus-wide platform for environmental activists to share stories about resilience and justice, to motivate the Harvard community to collectively take climate action. Harvard Square Homeless Shelter launched the IDID (I Deserve ID) campaign to help unhoused people obtain access to identification, a critical step to finding employment and securing help for long-term shelter. The Harvard Undergraduate Black Health Advocates received sponsorship to organize the Black Health Matters Conference, which brings an interdisciplinary focus on wellness and social well-being in communities that have been historically marginalized. This work has been supported by John Simon '84, co-founder of GreenLight Fund, a national network of experts from the public sector, private sector, and philanthropy working together to scale innovative, results-driven, mission-driven programs for the public good.

Leadership development is at the heart of our work. We offer training in conjunction 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. Harvard's Global Day of Service has become an annual rallying call for civic activism across the greater Harvard community, engaging 1,274 volunteers working on 78 project teams on five continents in August 2022.



Beginnings are critical to our work and just prior to the start of every school year, 110 incoming first-year students participate in the First-Year Urban Program (FUP). FUP is a student-led pre-orientation program that introduces incoming first-years to the Boston-Cambridge area and the service community in and around Harvard.

For more information, visit

<https://publicservice.fas.harvard.edu/student-engagement-and-leadership>

Pathways to Practice



Maribel Hernández Rivera '04, Deputy National Political Director and the Director of the Equality Division at the ACLU, served as our summer fellowship keynote speaker in July 2022.

The Pathways to Practice team's work continues to serve as a catalyst for new programs to thrive. With the establishment of the Stad Fellowship program during the 2022-2023 academic year, the Center will be able to support more than 30 summer fellows annually pursuing work with elected officials at the federal, state, and local levels. Through the Fellows at the Forefront pilot program, there is greater alignment between academics and civic career pathways. A faculty expert leads a series of workshops 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 focused cohort (led by Professor Dustin Tingley) and racial justice cohort (led by Assistant Professor Kaya Williams) in Summer 2022.

A core priority for the Center is sustaining the SPARK program beyond its five year pilot initiative. SPARK was developed as an immersive six-week public service program where 100 incoming first-year students from the Class of 2026 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 before they arrive on campus. Sustaining connections between pathways is also critical to our work. Students have the opportunity to pursue short-term internships during winter break through the Fong Family Winternship Program. The Fong Family Winternship program, supported 83 students exploring public interest work during their winter break at social impact organizations around the world in January 2022. These experiences help students to explore career paths and forge relationships with potential employers. The Mindich Service Fellowship program serves as the anchor of the Center's summer community partner portfolio, supporting 75+ community partners each year.

Strengthening post graduate pathways to public service continues to be a priority for the Center. 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. Through a grant from the Johnson Climate Fund, three graduating students from the Class of 2024 will be able to work full-time on climate-focused initiatives with community partners. This is part of our long-term goal to secure funding for 25 outstanding seniors to work at leading social impact organizations upon graduation. The College's annual Public Service Recruiting Day will also include a year-long program arc to support graduating seniors seeking out post-graduate pathways to public service.

A core goal for the Center has been to develop international experiences in partnership with Harvard's international centers. Students will be working on social impact projects with community partners in conjunction with the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies in Brazil, Chile, and Mexico. This work is being supported by Titi Liu '93 and Eric Rosenblum '93. Through a grant from the Johnson Climate Fund, the Center is partnering with the Mittal South Asia Institute to develop summer research projects in regions of India and Bangladesh most impacted by climate change. Students are also being supported through a gift from Lew Auerbach '63 to support summer public service internships across Canada. The Center is able to leverage community partnerships and on-the-ground expertise of Harvard's international centers while providing critical support for public interest career advising and recruiting outstanding students.

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

PBHA Alumni Study



PBHA concluded a comprehensive year-long alumni study with more than 1,000 respondents spanning seven decades. From this work they found that PBHA furthers the mission of Harvard College to develop citizens and citizen leaders in five key ways:

- by building the pathways to a lifetime of public purpose and professional and pro-bono service;
- by inspiring commitment to civic engagement through volunteering, philanthropy, organizing, and advocacy;
- by teaching professional skills that impact professional success long after graduation;
- by facilitating a sense of belonging on campus that encourages diverse leadership, especially for first-generation, BIPOC, and low-income students; and
- by instilling empathy and the ability to work with people from a wide range of backgrounds and communities.

My time with PBHA was the most powerful learning experience I've ever had. The combination of Experiential learning, coaching/mentoring from staff, support and challenge from a community of peers, and leadership development both prepared me for my career as a social worker and educator, and inspired me to continue fighting for social justice in my personal and professional lives.." – Alum from the Class of 2011

Students: 5 Ways You Can Take Action

1) Volunteer

Sign up to volunteer with [Phillips Brooks House Association](#), the [Institute of Politics](#), or over [50 other student-led service organizations](#).

2) Find trainings and workshops

Sign up for trainings with the [Buttenwieser Public Service Academy](#), the [Dean of Students Office](#), or [workshops focused on inclusion and belonging](#).

3) Take courses

Check out over [40 Mindich Program in Engaged Scholarship courses](#) including offerings with the Harvard College Writing Program.

4) Explore internships and jobs

[Harvard Global Health Institute](#), [Phillips Brooks House Association](#), the [Institute of Politics](#), and [Mindich Service Fellowships](#) offer many outstanding summer service experiences. Don't forget to explore [Crimson Careers](#)!

5) Follow us on social media



[@harvardserves](#)



[@pbha](#)

Alums: 5 Ways You Can Take Action

1) Mentor a student

MCS Firsthand Advisors platform connects students with hundreds of alumni working in public service.

2) Join a Club or Shared Interest Group

Harvard Clubs and Shared Interest Groups offer a wide range of opportunities for Harvard alumni to stay civically engaged. There are over 190 Clubs and over 50 Shared Interest Groups around the world.

3) Volunteer or serve on a board

Visit publicservice.fas.harvard.edu to learn more about upcoming days of service and nonprofit board recruitment fairs.

4) Sponsor our work

Alums can make contributions to Harvard College's public service efforts online at any time. In the donation field, select "Other" and indicate that the gift is for public service (fund #330600).

5) Follow us on social media



@harvardserves



@pbha



For more information about 125+ programs
across Harvard supporting social impact work,
visit <https://socialimpact.harvard.edu>.