Dear GUB Community and Friends,

Welcome to our 6-month Growing Up Boulder Impact report, covering July-December 2022. Why a 6-month, instead of a 12-month, report? It’s because GUB is changing its fiscal year from July-June (which is how we operated when we were part of the university) to January-December (which is how we now operate under our fiscal sponsor, Colorado Nonprofit Development Center).

Much happens at GUB in six months, and we hope you enjoy our news! We engaged 18 different groups of children and youth in Boulder. Bilingual students at Columbine Elementary School taught us how to take care of our environment. Partners from the University of Colorado, City of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks, and 130 children and youth explored the concept of “eco-healing,” or the ways nature connection can foster emotional resilience for young people living in a wildfire prone community. High school students and police officers (including the Police Chief) met to discuss their hopes for policing and safety in Boulder. And GUB shared its wisdom around the world through podcasts, conferences, and academic lectures.

As always, Growing Up Boulder seeks to innovate and adapt to our ecosystem, whether it’s the ecosystem of how we work with partner institutions, the ecosystem of the land on which we live, or the ecosystem of our young people’s lives. In this Impact Report, you will learn how we are working within these ecosystems to elevate youth voices for a more sustainable and equitable community for all.

In gratitude and partnership,

Mara Mintzer
Executive Director

Photo of a city partner teaching children about flood migration, by Luciana Escribens.
Growing Up Boulder’s **vision** is to lead a global movement in child-friendly cities, resulting in more equitable and sustainable communities for all.

Growing Up Boulder’s **mission** is to offer young people opportunities to participate, deliberate, and influence local issues that affect their lives.

**OUR IMPACT**

Growing Up Boulder’s team spent **3,266 hours** elevating youth voices.

18 different **child and youth groups** engaged with Growing Up Boulder.

243 children and youth engaged for a total of **2,167 project hours** on community projects.

52 **educators** engaged for a total of **743 project hours** on community projects.

The GUB team presented at **2 international conferences**, lectured to **2 sets of college students**, and was interviewed on **2 podcasts**.

Photo of GUB’s Child-Friendly City Map, by Mara Mintzer.
Nature Connection, Action, and Hope

GUB partnered with classrooms for Climate Action (C4CA), the City of Boulder, and 66 fourth grade students and teachers from Columbine Elementary School on the Nature Connection, Action, and Hope (NCAH) project. The project immersed young people in weekly lessons on nature connection and stewardship, ecology, Indigenous Knowledges, climate change and climate justice. In December, students from Columbine Elementary, with their parents and teachers, attended the University of Colorado’s United Nations’ Global Climate Summit, shared their knowledge, and participated in a workshop.

Healing Toolkit

In response to the Table Mesa tragedy, and per young people’s request, GUB and Mayamotion Healing (MMH) turned young people’s work from the spring “Healing Day of Remembrance” into a portable, customizable, and bilingual Healing Toolkit. The goal of the Toolkit is to allow more children and youth to benefit from healing practices, in school and out of school. GUB and MMH will lead a Healing Toolkit training for BVSD staff and the community on Wednesday, April 19th from 5:30-7:30 PM at BVSD’s Education Center.

Eco-Healing

Living With Wildfire

GUB collaborated with the City of Boulder, University of Colorado’s Environmental Design Program and Whittier Elementary School, on the Eco-Healing with Youth project. Using an approach that responded sensitively to collective trauma and inspired hope for the future, the teams facilitated youth engagement sessions on topics of educational media and programming, service-learning opportunities, and small-scale sustainable interpretive infrastructure for both the Marshall Fire and NCAR fire.
GUB and Mayamotion Healing continued to partner with young people on the Boulder Police Department’s Reimagine Policing public engagement process for Window IV. Engagements consisted of meetings with individual youth groups and a Youth-Police Dialogue meeting in November 2022. Engagement details for this window were:

- 5 youth groups engaged
- 125 youth hours on project
- 13 partners and educators
- 22 partner and educator hours
- 100 consultant hours on project

“It was an invaluable experience, and I’m so lucky to be a part of it. It was great to get to know the Police Chief and other kids, and see the ideas and thoughts they had about the current policing situation. I also think it was insightful to hear about Chief Maris’ vision and her goal for the future. I’m looking forward to meeting with everyone again!”

-A teen participating in the Youth-Police Focus Group

Since the creation of Growing Up Boulder’s Child-Friendly City map in 2019, cities around the world have requested help to create their own child-friendly city maps; therefore, GUB staff is working with Dr. Chelsea Hackett to turn our child-friendly city map-making process into an online course. We hope to pilot the course by fall 2023!

“That [GUB Steering Committee] was amazing. It was really exciting and inspiring to hear about all the different projects that are happening and how young people’s voices are being heard and integrated as part of the process. Thank you again for all that you are doing. Today’s meeting was extraordinary and exhilarating.”

-Jenefer Donovan, GUB Board Member

Child-Friendly City Map Training
The Little Diners Program, a fall 2022 collaboration between Savor Productions (formerly First Bite), Meati, and GUB, was created to elevate young people in the dining out experience. We hope to continue partnering with Savor Productions and the Little Diners program in 2023!

During Boulder Restaurant Week, Dagabi Cucina donated a gift card via First Bite BOCO, enabling a GUB family to experience the joys of dining out. Here is a photo of the Martinez family, enjoying dinner at a local child-friendly restaurant.

Growing Up Boulder, the City of Boulder, and UNICEF USA are partnering to make Boulder a UNICEF USA Child-Friendly City! This multi-year process to become internationally recognized as a “Child-Friendly City Initiative (CFCI)” begins by creating internal city structures and momentum. Our first public foray into awareness-building around CFCI came through celebration of World Children’s Day with GUB kids on November 22, 2022.

UNICEF USA Child-Friendly City Initiative Candidacy

*A city friendly to children is a city friendly to all.*

For more information on projects described in this report, please visit Growing Up Boulder’s website at [www.growingupboulder.org](http://www.growingupboulder.org).
“Our teen librarian went to Centennial middle school today to do library research and instruction outreach and happened to mention the NoBo library. She said lots of kids got so excited and started whooping and hollering and shared stories with her about how they helped to plan that library. They are beyond excited to see it coming to reality and can’t wait to visit. Love this impact story about how some used-to-be elementary students are carrying their excitement for a project into middle school and will influence others to visit this special new library. Such great impact from your work!”

-Antonia Gaona, Senior Manager, Public Services, Boulder Public Library, 2023
GLOBAL IMPACT

“One of my favorite interviews ever, [Growing Up Boulder is] doing such important work! I’m so thrilled we were able to connect.”

-AJ Fawver, podcast host for Verdunity’s “Go Cultivate!” podcast on her interview with GUB’s Executive Director, Mara Mintzer.

At the Kempe Virtual Conference: A Call to Change Child Welfare, GUB and several other national experts presented on the panel, “How can Child Friendly City Initiatives Prevent Violence and Increase Safety from a Rights-Based Perspective?” (October 3-6, 2022).

The dots on the map represent the cities around the world in which Growing Up Boulder delivered keynotes, workshops, or presentations between July and December of 2022.