

Growing Up Boulder

Impact Report

2021-2022



Dear GUB Community and Friends,

We're thrilled to share our 2021-22 Impact Report with you. As our funding has expanded this past year, so has our reach. We worked with 670 children and youth during the 21-22 academic year, as young people in Boulder and beyond shared their input on everything from teen-friendly parks to how to heal from unthinkable tragedy. One teen captured the impact of the work beautifully, describing participation in our Youth Leadership Healing Committee by saying:

It was really nice actually... like my soul to theirs... I was nervous because I was like, "Well, I don't know what I'm going to do. I don't know what I'm going to say." When I was in the meeting, it was just really nice and it felt very, like, calm and everybody could say what they wanted to say. Afterwards I think it just made me think more about what it's like when I put work into this [healing event] and what is it that I want to help [my community].

In addition to our engagements with young people, we trained government staff, university students, and non-profit professionals from as far as South Africa and Sweden, to as close as Denver, in how to engage young people in participatory planning and how to create child-friendly cities. We updated and printed 15,000 copies of our Boulder Child-Friendly City map, distributing 6,000 free copies to area children. We spent months laying the groundwork to become a candidate UNICEF USA Child-Friendly City (to launch this fall), which is a comprehensive, 2-3 year process that will take our impact on local child rights and well-being to the next level. And to accomplish all of this, we added more team members, most of whom are bilingual and bicultural, and one of whom is a young person herself!

So how do we make such a big difference with such a small team (none of us is full-time)? It's thanks to what we call GUB's "secret sauce." One "secret sauce" ingredient is deep listening—to community partners, to our children and youth, and to each other as a team. And we help translate from kid-speak to adult-speak, then back again. Another ingredient is valuing diversity; when a child or team member integrates their lived experience, identity, and truth into our work, the process and outcomes are exponentially better for all! We mix in co-creating projects with our partners and kids in ways that are fun, meaningful, and create a sense of belonging. We work through, not around, the hard conversations which inevitably arise with authentic work. The final ingredient comes from the countless hours we spend building and nurturing relationships, facilitating collaborative meetings, and laying the groundwork for the future. When these ingredients are mixed together, we create a special sauce for all involved.

Thank you, Growing Up Boulder community, for the ingredients you add to our special sauce.

In gratitude,



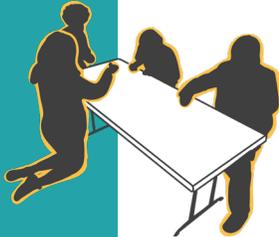
Mara Mintzer,
Executive Director



Growing Up Boulder's team spent **5,679 hours** elevating youth voices.



23 different child and youth groups engaged with Growing Up Boulder.



670 children and youth engaged for a total of **6,983 project hours** on community projects.



41 educators engaged for a total of **628 project hours** on community projects.



Volunteers donated **1,680 hours** and the equivalent of **\$156,000** worth of time, products and office space.



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

Teen-Friendly Parks

By Teens for Teens

In 2016, GUB partnered with the City’s Parks and Recreation department to hear from teens about how “teen-friendly parks” might look. In 2021, teens again expressed their desires for teen-friendly parks and activities as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Planning process. In 2022, an opportunity became available for the City to more-fully implement the teens’ ideas in two parks: [Scott Carpenter Park](#) and North Boulder Park. We took the youth’s previous ideas and integrated them with feedback from 2022 teens, parents, and practioners across the globe to help the city design the new teen spaces. While the design of the teen space is still being finalized, proposed features include hammock swings, interactive benches with programmable LEDs, and a climbing structure.

GUB and [Mayamotion Healing](#) received a grant from Community Foundation Boulder County to hear how young people wish to heal from the Table Mesa (King Soopers) tragedy, then co-create healing opportunities for themselves and their peers. While the grant was intended to address the Table Mesa tragedy, we believe the healing activities support wellness in response to the many hardships area young people have faced recently (fires, racism, impacts of COVID). Twenty-one teens led a [“Healing Day of Remembrance”](#) for the community on April 2 at Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art. Healing stations included art, poetry, letter writing, puzzle-making and more. As a continuation of this exhibit, “healing activities” were offered at the Museum of Boulder’s Google Garage during June-July 2022.

Youth Healing Day of Remembrance

King Soopers Tragedy

“What went well was the stations and having each of them accomplish a different task. I felt that we were able to connect with both adults and kids and promote healing!”

--Youth Leadership Healing Committee member



Museums

Interactive Experiences

Museums have always been important partners for GUB, and this year we’ve enhanced our connections even more. Working with the Clyfford Still Museum, we offered a virtual training for museum professionals on participatory planning with youth. We are also so grateful to have had space, first in the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, then in the Museum of Boulder’s Google Garage, to share [interactive healing activities](#) designed with and for young people affected by the King Soopers Tragedy.

Boulder Police Department Master Plan & Reimagining Policing Windows One - Three



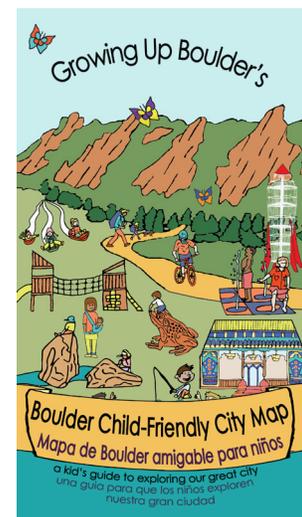
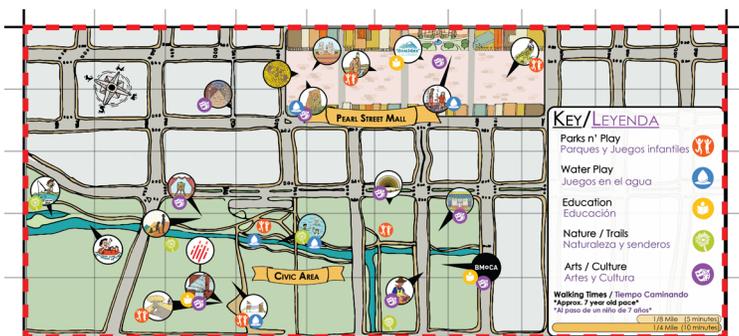
Since June 2021, GUB has partnered with Mayamotion Healing (MMH) in engaging with children and youth during the first three engagement windows of the Boulder Police Department Master Planning and [Reimagine Policing](#) process. GUB and MMH sought the voices of young people who are historically and currently excluded from processes of engagement and/or heavily impacted by the policing system; this includes young people in general, and within the subgroup of young people, children, young people with disabilities (via their parents), youth who are Brown or Black, and young adults who have experienced homelessness. Young people have shared their values, hopes, and concerns related to policing and community safety, reviewed current police department data shared through Town Hall meetings, and have made recommendations such as hiring a more diverse police staff, having mental health professionals answer mental health calls, and having officers engage in regular anti-bias/anti-racist training. This fall, GUB will work with young people to determine the best strategies to meet identified goals according to their unique perspectives.

“I think that policing needs to start feeling more like a resource rather than a threat. As a teenager I often feel targeted by police officers who are trying to catch us doing something wrong rather than feeling like I can call the police for help when I am in need.”

--Youth Equity Council participant, BVSD

In 2019, GUB co-created the nation’s first printed, bilingual, child-friendly city map by engaging with almost 800 children and families, half of whom were from underrepresented populations. GUB sought to inspire children, families, and community organizations by highlighting young people’s favorite locations in Boulder and to teach the public about [Child-Friendly Cities](#) and the qualities of a child-friendly city. In May 2022, GUB published the [4th edition of the map](#). The maps continue to represent the values of inclusion, diversity, and collaboration.

Boulder’s Child-Friendly City Map 4th Edition



Sugar Beet Mill *Growing Up Boulder and Indian Peaks Elementary School*



During Longmont’s most recent comprehensive plan update in 2016, the The Great Western Sugar Mill buildings and surrounding land were identified as a priority for redevelopment, and GUB was invited to identify a community partner who would be the end users of future redevelopment plans. An excellent partnership was found with the third grade community of teachers and students at Indian Peaks Elementary School, a bi-lingual STEM school where 90% of families receive free or reduced lunch services. Having an instructional focus on design thinking, creativity, and innovation, at the end of the 8 week project, students built prototypes of their recommendations. Too numerous to list here ([see report](#)), student recommendations centered on showcasing the history of the factory, active play, affordable housing, and family friendly amenities not already found in Longmont.

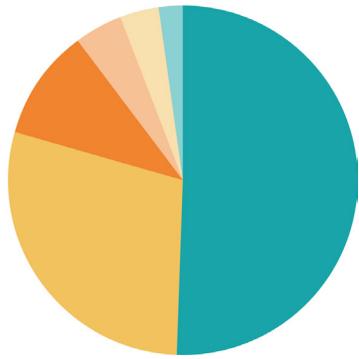
“These 3rd graders got creative and expressed their dreams about a place that has been idled and a blighting influence on their city for 47 years! Students were truly engaged!”

--President, St. Charles Town Company

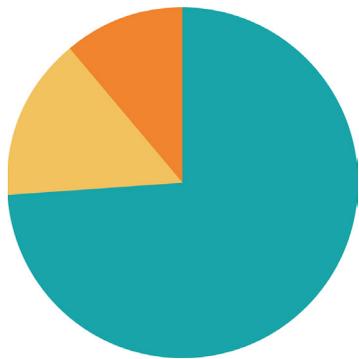
This year, GUB has been laying the groundwork to become a UNICEF USA (UUSA) Child-Friendly City candidate. The [Child Friendly Cities Initiative \(CFCI\)](#) was launched in 1996 to protect children’s rights in an increasingly urbanized and decentralized world. CFCI brings UNICEF together with local stakeholders to create safe, equitable, just, inclusive, and child-responsive cities and communities. CFCI uses the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as a framework to help governments prioritize the needs of children and young people and elevate the voices of youth in local governance and decision-making. While CFCI is new to the US, it has been adopted in over 3,000 municipalities in over 40 countries, impacting an estimated 30 million children and young people. In 2020, UNICEF USA adapted the Child-Friendly Cities Initiative framework to the US, and Boulder will join six other US candidate cities and counties seeking to become CFCIs. The process of becoming a CFCI will entail an ambitious, two-year transformative city-wide process toward recognition as a UNICEF Child-Friendly City.

UNICEF USA *Child-Friendly City Initiative Candidacy*

**When we make our
communities better
places for children,
we make them
better places for
all.**



Revenue



Expenses

Foundations
\$263,000 (50%)

In-kind Donations
\$156,000 (30%)

Government
\$54,000 (10%)

Other
\$52,150 (10%)

Program Services
\$224,543 (74%)

General and Administrative
\$46,138 (15%)

Fundraising
\$34,575 (11%)

Key Partners



A Partner for Nonprofit Innovation, Efficiency and Accountability



University of Colorado
Boulder



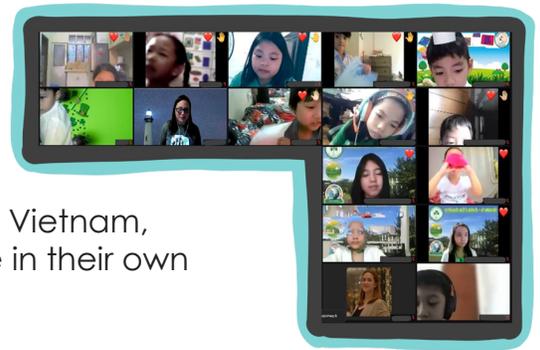
L.P. Brown Foundation



"It is my pleasure to support GUB given their heartfelt and meaningful mission to encourage our youth to engage in social, political, and environmental initiatives in an inclusive manner. The multicultural voices of the children offer insightful recommendations on the city's design, to healing from local tragedies such as fires and gun violence, to expressing their thoughts on police reform. There are so many needs locally, nationally, and globally these days, knowing we're investing in Boulder's youth is priceless. It's an educational, leadership and experiential gift that will continue to give throughout their lifetime."

--Donor, Debbie Brown, and daughter

GLOBAL IMPACT



Global Lighthouse Studios

In an online class, GUB inspired children from Vietnam, Taiwan, and the Philippines to make change in their own communities.



Designing Age-friendly Environments

GUB taught graduate students its approach to participatory planning.

Cornell University in Ithaca, New York

The Children as Urban Citizens Website - a collaboration led by WITS Spatial Analysis and City Planning

GUB delivered a keynote to professors, government officials and NGOs as they celebrated the launch of a new website around children as urban citizens.

Wits University in Johannesburg, South Africa

The dots on the map represent the 14 cities around the world in which Growing Up Boulder delivered keynotes, workshops, or presentations in 2021-2022.

JOIN US TO ELEVATE YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICES & MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES MORE EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE

www.growingupboulder.org

2021-2022

