



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



EXPANDED SCHOOLS is dedicated to ensuring that all young people in New York City have access to enriching programs that affirm their identities, teach them valuable skills, and spark new possibilities in and out of the school day. In order to achieve this mission, Expanded provides K-12 programs with curricula and support; trains educators; and advances the sector through policy and research.

Cover photo courtesy of Reading Partners | Lauren Eliot Photography  
Above photo by Candace Brazier-Thurman

# IMPACT AT A GLANCE

FY24: 310 PARTNERSHIPS 2,500 TRAINING SESSIONS 61,000 STUDENTS

## HIGH-IMPACT TUTORING

had a strong beginning in fiscal years 2023 & 2024.

7,147 STUDENTS 80 SCHOOLS 10 COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICTS



## NYC READS INITIATIVE

distributed books to families at clinics during children's health checkups.

43,728 FREE BILINGUAL AND AGE-APPROPRIATE BOOKS 18 LOCAL CLINICS

## STEM

In a new initiative supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Pinkerton Foundation, the STEM Education Network partnered with NYCPS to connect leaders and providers to expand STEM learning for underserved students across the city.

500 DISTRICT AND SCHOOL LEADERS, STEM PROVIDERS, AND STAFF FROM COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

The STEM Educators Academy filled a programming gap, serving school sites as part of an initiative to engage youth across critical development stages.

11 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SITES

ExpandedED Schools' STEM Education Network and STEM Educators Academy programming reached NYCPS students.

4,600 K-12 STUDENTS



## COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM SUPPORT

276 SITE VISITS

61 CBO PARTNERS

## CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING

allowed students from various schools in the city to participate in career exposure events, which included high school panels and worksite trips for young people to engage with professionals.



Photo courtesy of New York City Department of Youth and Community Development

1,000 STUDENTS

## EDUCATOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT

held professional development sessions.

22 SESSIONS



Photo by Michael Priest Photography

# LETTER FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



We are proud to share that this past year marked a period of meaningful progress for ExpandedED Schools and the young people we serve. Through partnerships with 310 community-based organizations and schools and the delivery of over 2,500 training sessions for educators in afterschool, tutoring, and career-connected learning, we reached more than 61,000 students. These accomplishments represent just a fraction of our vision: a future where every young person is fully prepared to navigate the complexities of tomorrow.

The pages of this report highlight the work of four of our initiatives and how, as the largest intermediary in New York City focused on expanding learning opportunities, we are energized by the resilience and potential of young New Yorkers, as well as the educators who empower them.

As a reflection of our ongoing commitment and impact, we were selected as facilitators for the community-based NYC Reads Initiative, which has become an important part of our portfolio. In this leadership role, we are supporting ten literacy-focused partners and three neighborhoods across the city, organizing key events that increase access to literacy resources while fostering deeper collaboration among other literacy partners to drive collective impact. More details of this work can be found in the report.

In addition, we highlight how middle school students in our career-connected learning program are exploring AI in medicine, how STEM education is fostering tech literacy, and how our comprehensive support for afterschool programs is empowering educators to enhance enrichment opportunities throughout New York City. These interconnected initiatives form a supportive network that infuses education with future readiness and enables young people to engage with real and complex topics while practicing and strengthening their skills and innate talents.

As we look to the future, we are proud of the ways we are preparing tomorrow's leaders to turn both challenges and opportunities into lasting progress.

Warmly,

Brandon Robinson  
Board Chair, ExpandedED Schools

Saskia Traill  
President and CEO, ExpandedED Schools

“The real measure of our success is seen in the growth and development of the young people—whether they are building literacy skills, engaging in STEM activities, or gaining the confidence to succeed in school and beyond. **We are proud to know that our work has a lasting impact.**”

— Natalie Colón, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM SUPPORT



## COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM SUPPORT

# THE BACKBONE OF AFTERSCHOOL

Since its formation, ExpandedED Schools has helped afterschool programming across New York City. It has supported the expanded learning community—including community-based organizations, school partners, and both school day and afterschool educators—with the tools and resources they need to make the biggest impact on young people’s learning and healthy development.

To ensure children are ready for the future, ExpandedED Schools invests financially in afterschool programs and their educators. These investments, made possible through public funding, help sustain afterschool programming and allow programs to offer more engaging opportunities for young people. ExpandedED Schools’ comprehensive program support team pairs coaching and quality support with every grant we make. This expertise strengthens afterschool environments through targeted training, sharing of practical strategies for afterschool educators and directors, and developing resources that improve instruction.

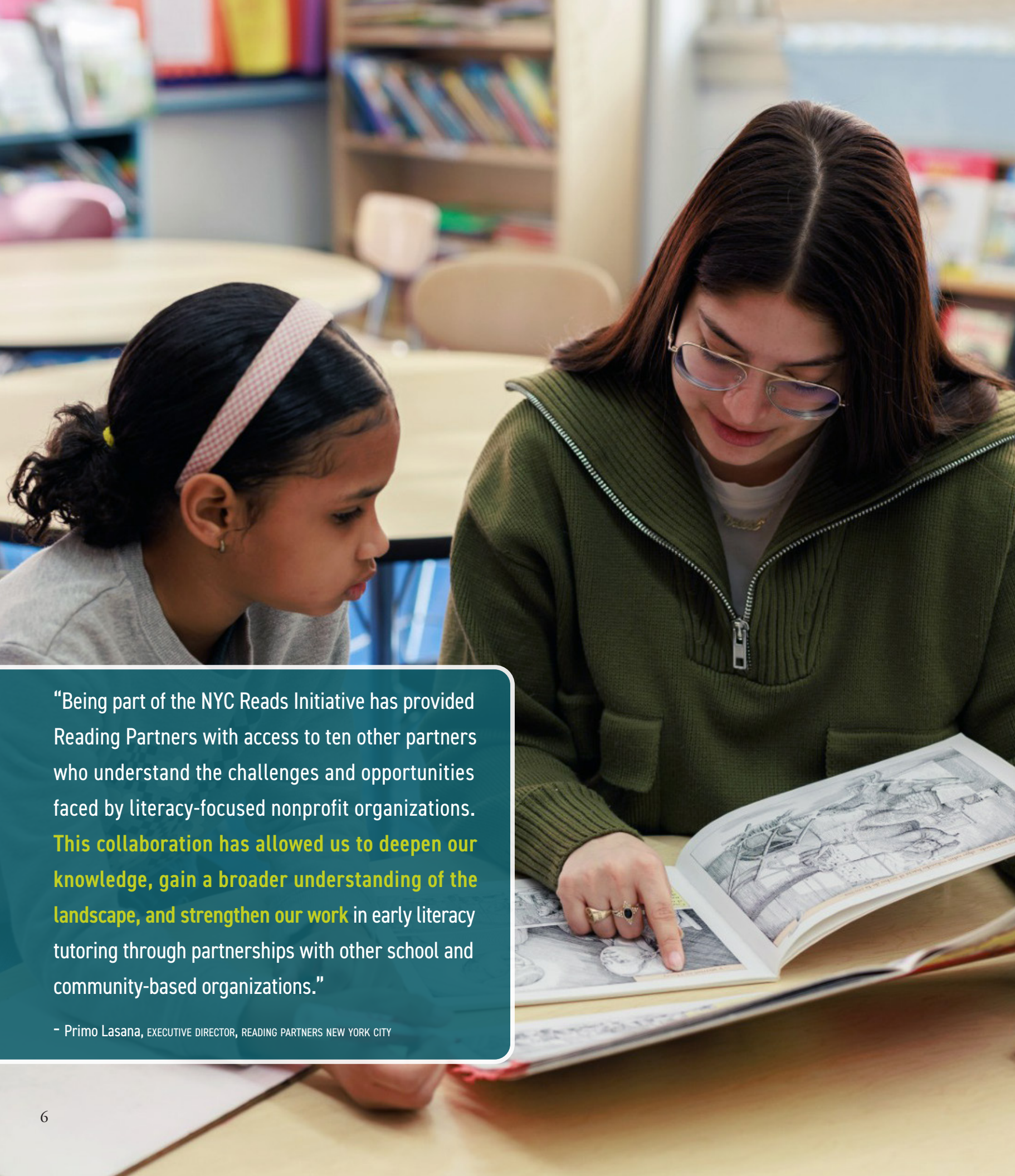
Building on our success in 2024, in 2025, we are partnering with 68 afterschool programs across all five boroughs of New York City, representing 38 community-based organizations that span kindergarten through 12th grade.

This broad network allows us to support a diverse range of students and educators. Through these collaborations, we allocate over \$3.6 million in City Council discretionary funds to support afterschool programs and educator professional development in middle school literacy enrichment. City Council funding is crucial for these partnerships to continue thriving, and we are grateful for their consistent support.

In the 2024 fiscal year, we began planning for the 2025 launch of LIT CREW, a literacy program that combines project-based learning with extensive research known collectively as the ‘science of reading’ to help students develop critical thinking and real-world literacy skills. Supported by the New York City Council, LIT CREW will serve over 500 students across 20 schools and afterschool programs, fostering collaboration between educators and young learners.

A team of seven visits sites to identify promising practices as well as opportunities for strengthening quality. These expert coaches provide written feedback to school-CBO teams to foster continuous improvement. During these visits, staff spend time in classrooms, reviewing instructional methods, classroom management, and student engagement. The visits aim to identify areas where additional resources or strategies could help strengthen educators’ teaching practices, ultimately improving learning outcomes.

“The real measure of our success is seen in the growth and development of the young people—whether they are building literacy skills, engaging in STEM activities, or gaining the confidence to succeed in school and beyond,” said Natalie Colón, Senior Director of Comprehensive Program Support. “We are proud to know that our work has a lasting impact.”



“Being part of the NYC Reads Initiative has provided Reading Partners with access to ten other partners who understand the challenges and opportunities faced by literacy-focused nonprofit organizations. **This collaboration has allowed us to deepen our knowledge, gain a broader understanding of the landscape, and strengthen our work** in early literacy tutoring through partnerships with other school and community-based organizations.”

- Primo Lasana, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, READING PARTNERS NEW YORK CITY

## NYC READS INITIATIVE

# PREPARING NYC'S YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE THROUGH LITERACY

Reading sparks imagination, builds vocabulary, and develops essential skills for success in school and beyond. However, despite the clear benefits of fostering a love for reading early on, many young people still face significant challenges in accessing books and enriching literacy activities.

The NYC Reads Initiative, our newest program, evolved from the Pinkerton Foundation's Neighborhood Literacy Initiative. It has since expanded to improve literacy for young readers across three New York City neighborhoods.

Initially, the initiative funded literacy programs in South Jamaica. In 2015, it expanded into East New York, and by 2021, it reached East Harlem. That same year, the Carmel Hill Fund became an equal funding partner. Today, the NYC Reads Initiative works with ten literacy partners, all united by a shared vision of promoting early literacy and improving outcomes.

In 2023, the partners distributed 37,068 bilingual books across 16 local health clinics and reached 45,646 young people and their families. This year, we are projecting to reach similar targets.

Fostering a love of reading and partnering with programs to build literacy-rich communities is an essential part of our work. While raising reading levels is one of the primary goals, the community aspect of this initiative is fundamental. NYC Reads Initiative focuses on connecting schools with community partners, engaging families to reinforce literacy practices at home, and providing books and resources to book deserts through literacy zones—designated areas that promote access to reading materials—and community events. We believe strong literacy ecosystems strengthen literacy efforts for everyone.

These collective efforts helped young people become better readers while also building stronger connections within the community—giving them the tools they need to prepare for the next phase of their lives, whether in the classroom or as curious minds exploring the world around them.

Principals and educators regularly share the positive outcomes they see. In alignment with the national focus on the science of reading, we are proud to contribute to the broader movement dedicated to improving literacy rates, with a particular emphasis on expanding access—an essential step toward meaningful progress.

Since taking on the role of facilitator for this community-based initiative in early 2024, we have implemented streamlined data collection, improved the efficiency of tracking partner activities and progress, and created more time for planning strategic ways to engage with communities. In addition, we launched two high-engagement newsletters—one for our literacy partners and one for parents and families—that provide valuable content and help drive attendance at events organized with our literacy partners.

These efforts allow our partners to overcome barriers and concentrate on what they do best: improving reading levels.



“Participating in the STEM Fair through the NYC STEM Education Network has allowed Drone Cadets to connect with educators and students who might not otherwise have access to drone technology. **These opportunities help us inspire young people from all backgrounds to explore STEM in a fun way.**”

- Tony Reid, FOUNDER, DRONE CADETS

## THE POWER OF STEM

# IGNITING THE MAGIC OF NEW POSSIBILITIES

The NYC STEM Education Network, supported by ExpandedED Schools, is a coalition of over one hundred organizations working together to create meaningful opportunities that introduce young people from across New York City to the magic of STEM. A big part of that magic lies within the Network partners who do incredible work, from engaging students in coding, data science, artificial intelligence, and other fields to fostering collaborations.

Drone Cadets, one of our partners, is using drone technology to spark an interest in STEM and take learning to new heights. Their programs combine hands-on drone experience with industry-recognized certifications, providing participants with technical and problem-solving skills.

Drone Cadets' founder, Tony Reid, has led the nonprofit organization with a deep commitment to inclusion. Part of this objective is to ensure that underserved young people can access opportunities in this rapidly growing field. Their work showcases how education can be a powerful tool, helping bridge the gap between aspirations and meaningful careers.

Similarly, DIVAS for Social Justice encourages young people to use technology and visual arts to advocate for social change. Co-founded by Clarisa James and Sha Sha Feng, DIVAS started as a grassroots initiative and has grown into a free STEAM afterschool program in Brooklyn and Queens.

Through multimedia projects focused on environmental justice, leadership, and reproductive rights, students channel their creativity into addressing real-world issues. With plans to expand to the Bronx, Staten Island, and beyond, DIVAS demonstrates how tech education can inspire the next generation of changemakers.

“As a former Kelley Fellow, I have seen firsthand how the NYC STEM Education Network connects organizations like DIVAS for Social Justice with the resources and partnerships needed to expand our impact,” said Clarisa James, Co-founder, DIVAS for Social Justice. “These connections empower more young people to use technology and creativity to drive social change in their communities.”

This year, the Network is preparing to distribute another round of mini-grants to support matchmaking events between schools and STEM providers, fostering collaborations that expand access to opportunities.

According to the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, Hispanics, Blacks, and American Indians or Alaska Natives make up just 16% of those working in STEM roles requiring a bachelor's degree, highlighting the clear need to address this gap.

Coalitions and partnerships like these ignite the magic of STEM, inspiring young New Yorkers to envision themselves in high-demand careers they may not have imagined. By expanding possibilities and fostering curiosity, we are working towards a brighter, more inclusive future.

“Pfizer’s School of Science organized workshops that significantly impacted approximately 30 programs across all five boroughs, offering engaging experiences for over 900 children. These workshops **enabled participants to explore career pathways in science, empowering them to learn, grow, and acquire valuable skills through hands-on experiences and expert guidance.**”

– Amalie Marajdeen, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, YOUTH SERVICES OPERATIONS, DYCD



## CAREER-CONNECTED LEARNING

# EXPLORING FUTURES: OPENING DOORS FOR NYC'S MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Part of preparing young New Yorkers for tomorrow means exposing them to workplace environments they might not normally access. It also helps them see themselves in a wide range of high-growth career fields. Despite the value of early preparation, meaningful career exploration opportunities remain out of reach for many young people in our city.

To address this important phase of career discovery, Exploring Futures—a collaboration between the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), the Mayor’s Office of Talent and Workforce, and ExpandedED Schools—facilitates access to impactful experiences that help students begin considering a wide array of career options.

The program exposes middle school students to careers they might never have imagined, through an early career exploration curriculum paired with experiences, including employer and college site visits, where they see firsthand how roles intersect with innovation and creativity.

This summer, more than 1,000 students from various schools in the city participated in career exposure events, which included high school panels and worksite trips for young people to engage with professionals.

Participants visited leading companies in our city, gaining an inside look at SummerStage’s production process and exploring the complexities of emergency management at the New York City Office of Emergency Management. At Uber, thirty-three students engaged with leading women professionals, explored career paths, toured the office, and discussed challenges and opportunities in the tech industry.

They also spent time at multinational companies like Pfizer, where they met staff, learned about drug discovery and immunology, and engaged with field professionals.

In addition, students were introduced to Artificial Intelligence in healthcare through hands-on games that Pfizer facilitated, teaching them about machine learning, robotics, generative AI, and the implications of using AI technology in medicine. These interactive experiences provided a glimpse into real-world applications.

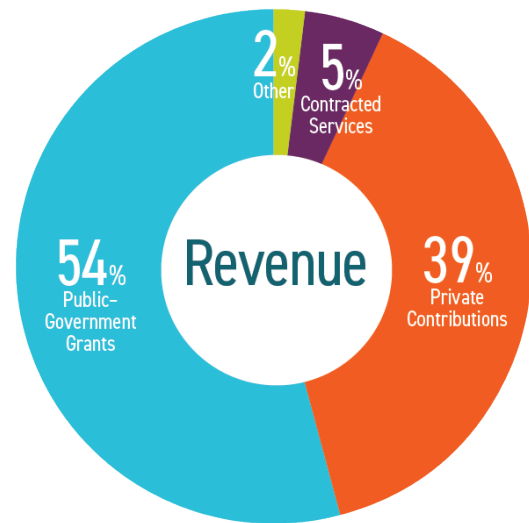
This school year, Exploring Futures will support DYCD-funded afterschool programs to implement 15 hours of middle school career-connected instruction, trips and panels, and high school choice advising. To ensure smooth coordination, we have developed an accessible resource hub on our website that streamlines program implementation. This hub provides the necessary support, helping sites access resources and tools to lead their career-connected trips and panels.

The program has gained significant momentum, growing from an initial cohort of three sites to more than 300 sites today reaching over 35,000 students. Our focus remains on expanding our reach to more young people and engaging additional field trips and event partners, providing opportunities for students to explore careers they may not have previously considered.

Photo courtesy of Alyssa Dreifus from the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development

# FINANCIALS

NET ASSETS FROM PRIOR YEARS FOR USE IN FY24	\$3,058,903
FY24 REVENUE AND SUPPORT	\$15,723,329
TOTAL	\$18,782,232
FY24 EXPENSES	\$14,101,846
NET ASSETS YEAR-END (RESTRICTED & UNRESTRICTED)	\$13,836,478



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\* Mimi Corcoran stepped down on December 4, 2024, as Secretary and from the Board after 27 years. We are incredibly grateful for her vision, steadfast leadership, and service to ExpandED Schools and the young people of New York City.





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