



Deep Center Annual Report

2021 - 2022
Savannah, Georgia



Deep Center's 2021 - 2022 Story

At Deep, we believe stories are the fibers of culture, and culture is the fabric of community.

When Deep youth and their families know their stories, and tell them well, they lead the way in creating a safer, healthier, and more equitable Savannah.

Your support this year made it possible for Deep Center to:

- ✓ Engage Savannah's highest-need youth in recovering from the learning, mental health, and developmental losses wrought by the pandemic.
- ✓ Partner with an intergenerational cohort of adult allies, community leaders, and youth-service professionals to build a Savannah that is healthier and safer for all youth and families.

This year, Deep's incredible staff brought 2,210 of hours of programming to 2,841 of Savannah's most underserved children and adults. Everywhere we look in Savannah, Deep's youth leaders and artists, community participants, and staff are leading the way to a more restorative community—especially through our partnerships with the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) and the Chatham County Juvenile Courts, and in their roles as creators and culture-keepers of diverse BIPOC arts, cultural traditions, and artworks.

Deep Center's Annual Impact

786 youth

engaged in arts education, literacy, and leadership learning experiences.

2,055 adults

engaged in professional development, creative placemaking, arts education, and critical literacy learning toward building a restorative community.

2,210 hours

of high-quality, intensive, evidence-based, and evaluation-tracked programming provided to youth and adult community members.



2021–2022

South Arts named Deep Center an inaugural **Southern Cultural Treasure** out of hundreds of arts organizations across a nine-state region.

This honor nationally recognizes Deep's achievements in building a transformative and culturally responsive arts, learning, and community change model.

"Savannah will be better for the work that gets done by Deep: not only is this a process of teaching writing, research, and empowerment. Instead, ultimately, it's about providing space for future civic leaders in the city. The kids at the Deep Center are connected in ways we'd do well to understand, honor, and support for the betterment of the city of Savannah, the state of Georgia, and the country at large."

—Dr. Kevin Burke, University of Georgia Department of Education

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation awarded Deep a three-year, \$600,000 grant.

This brings the Foundation's investment in Deep's Healing Schools Initiative—a model for building a healing-centered school climate—to \$1.2 million.

"Deep Center uses art and culture to center young people. By offering affirming spaces for young people, educators, and their surrounding community, Deep uplifts and honors their authentic voices and experiences to imagine a more just educational system."

—Kathryn Bradley, Hewlett Foundation



Highlights

Deep was awarded two grants totaling \$428,000 by the Georgia Department of Education and the Georgia Afterschool Network in recognition of **Deep's highly effective program methodologies proven to increase academic achievement and whole-child well-being for disadvantaged youth.**

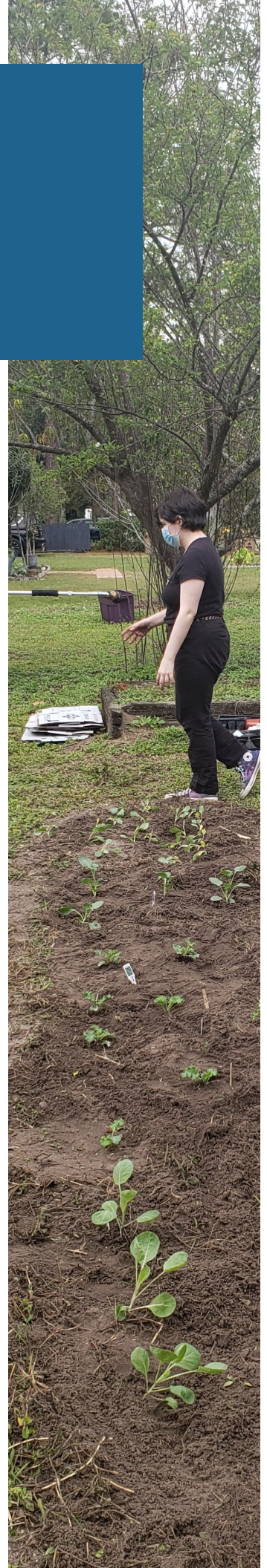
When the Juvenile Court, SCCPSS, and Deep Center began partnering in 2017, **Chatham County's juvenile justice system had nearly twice the number of court-involved youth as any other county in the state of Georgia (including Atlanta).**

This is no longer true.

Your support of Deep's work has made it possible to:

Provide meaningful learning and growth opportunities for the vulnerable youth caught in the justice system, which have contributed to lowering the number of court-involved youth in our community.

Engage the adults in youth-serving systems so youth get the services and support they need instead of punishment that limits their future.





Our Mission

Deep Center's mission is to empower Savannah's young people to thrive as learners, community leaders, and agents of change.

Through creative writing, cultural production, and art, Deep creates platforms for the city's youth and the village of support around them, including their families and adult allies, to share stories, engage in debates, and make Savannah a more just and equitable place.

Our work is trauma-informed, culturally responsive, and promotes a roots-cause model of youth and community development on three parallel tracks:

- Direct Service
- Narrative Change
- Systems Change

Deep's Youth Programs

Deep Center offers six award-winning sequential literacy and leadership programs for majority-BIPOC and low-income youth in Savannah and Chatham County. In 2021-2022, we served 592 youth in these programs.

The YOUNG AUTHOR PROJECT (YAP)

is Deep's introductory youth literacy program. SCCPSS and its dedicated teachers provide incredible support for YAP, coordinating with Deep to recruit and retain youth and hosting the creative writing program at 15-25 public school sites annually.

WREP and DROP-IN

are specially designed for systems-impacted youth. The Work Readiness Enrichment Program (WREP) is Deep's most intensive program. Conducted in partnership with the Juvenile Courts and SCCPSS, WREP supports court-involved young men in completing high school. Drop-In engages systems-impacted youth who have significant barriers to learning enrichment participation.

BLOCK BY BLOCK (BxB)

serves high-school-aged artists and community ethnographers who have completed YAP and shown a passion for writing and civic engagement. Youth conduct community research, discover Savannah's unfolding stories, and find their own stories' place in the world.

ACTION RESEARCH TEAM and SLAM TEAM

are Deep's most advanced youth programs and draw from YAP, BxB, and the broader community. In both programs, high school aged creative writers and community leaders engage in writing, research, and cultural production on community issues; co-facilitate community convenings on these issues; and go on annual leadership trips to engage with national peers.

Youth Programs Impact 2021-2022



Deep's programs yielded incredible outcomes for our youth:

- Significant developmental leaps in the internal assets that are foundational to social-emotional skills and learning capacity.
- Improved youth attitudes toward their writing, families, schools, and communities.
- Increased scholastic achievement across the curriculum in multiple subject areas.


Youth Programs Learning Evaluation

48% of youth saw an average increase in their English Language Arts grades of 7%.
(nearly a full letter grade)

81% of youth saw an increase in their critical literacy skills.

75% saw an increase in their ability to deal with challenging experiences.

63% of youth saw an increase in their leadership and collaboration skills.



In 2021-2022, Deep's tuition-free after-school programming increased equity and opportunity for Chatham County's highest-need youth.

592

public-school youth
in intensive
workshop series

1,708

hours of high-quality
literacy, arts education,
and leadership
development learning

80%

were youth of color

75%

received free and reduced lunch

103

public events

9

published books of youth writing
and artwork

33

program sites

22

public school partners

12

community organization collaborations

WREP

The Work Readiness Enrichment Program, co-led by the Chatham County Juvenile Courts, the Savannah–Chatham County Public School System, and Deep Center, served 17 systems-involved young men as they completed school online and came of age in a world that rarely seems designed for their success.

With your investment, Deep has grown our WREP programming, and now provides over 80 hours a week of direct youth development. WREP staff member Julius Campbell explained: “We don’t just deal with the educational or academic aspect—we also deal with what’s going on at home. We’re intentional about getting with their parents, their probation officer. Getting them what’s necessary: some clothes, a job. We support them not just academically, but also from a holistic perspective.”

"The biggest success is the bond we've all built," Julius shares. "They see we are intentional about helping them get a haircut or transportation. They can call us anytime to check up on them or if they need help." The young men who pass through WREP’s halls know that whatever they need, they’ll find trusted adults inside who can help them access it, whether it’s study skills, job training, or connection to resources they or their families might require.



All WREP youth are employed!

At the start of the school year, none of the WREP youth had an outlet to develop their work readiness skills. At the end of this school year, all 14 young men who completed the program were either engaged in paid employment or a meaningful volunteer internship, preparing them for workforce success.

WREP youth are leading the way.

One WREP participant won a national essay contest, qualifying him to participate in the **Journey for Justice Alliance National Convening** in Baltimore this past May. Another WREP participant was selected to **interview Representative Mary Margaret Oliver and Representative Mandi Ballinger** during a live broadcast forum on “Raise the Age” and the impact of that policy on children in the justice system.

Family Reunion

July 2022 saw the first-ever WREP Reunion, an important stepping stone toward building intergenerational mentoring networks for systems-impacted youth and adults. Julius shared, “We wanted to bring in everybody who has been part of this team over the past five years to celebrate them...and to follow up with them. We want to make sure that they are doing well in school or working. We want to know what their home situation is. Just because they are not a part of the WREP space anymore, that doesn’t mean they aren’t a part of the WREP family.”

**"The biggest success is
the bond we've all built."**

Our Youth: Lyla's Story

Lyla, a quiet 14-year-old student, started attending Drop-In at the West Broad YMCA. She was introduced to Drop-In by her cousins, two young men named Lucas and Xavier. At first, Lyla only came because the trio of cousins had to share rides after school—all of them waiting on the same guardian to arrive. Where Lucas and Xavier went, Lyla had no choice but to follow. However, after a few sessions, it was clear she really enjoyed Drop-In, especially the yoga and hands-on arts workshops.

As the Drop-In program manager got to know Lyla better and encouraged her to open up more, the young lady let slip that she thought of herself as a poet, but she only wrote for herself. Staff encouraged her to join the Block by Block workshops in the fall, which she did—bringing Lucas and Xavier with her.

In Block by Block, Lyla immediately showcased a penchant for writing heartfelt poems that wrestled with ideas around race, gender, power, and freedom. Although flipping through her journals revealed a powerful voice asking big questions, it took more coaxing before Lyla was ready to use her voice on stage. While still a Block by Block participant, she also started attending Deep's SLAM competitions and performances, and these older youth definitely had an impact on her. Soon, Lyla was ending every Block by Block session not only willing to share, but urgently asking to speak her poems out loud to the group.



After a while, Lyla was triple-enrolled in Deep programming: Drop-In, Block by Block, and SLAM. She was even awarded second place in Deep's first ever literary contest, winning \$200 and appearing in Deep's anthology "Savannah: A Tale of Two Cities. Two Stories. One (Educational) Outcome."

SLAM Team

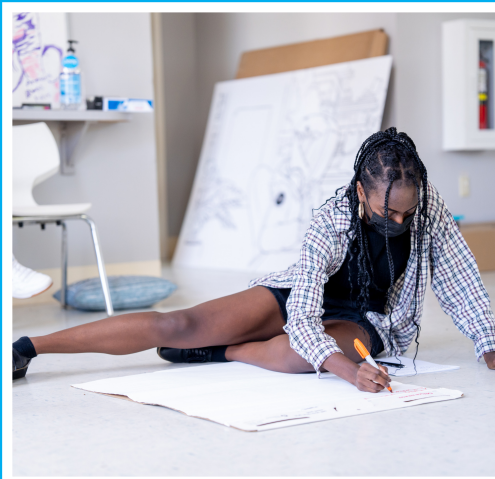
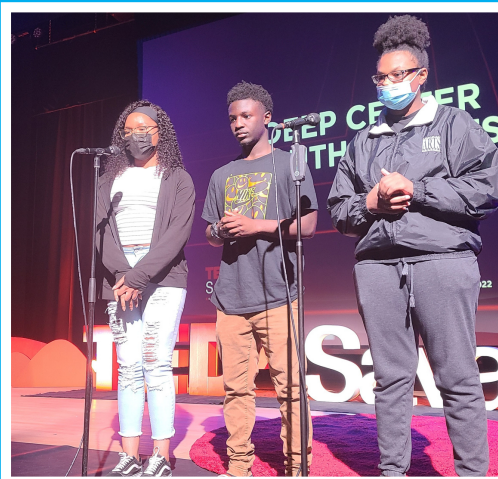
The SLAM Team shone in eight performances this year all across Savannah, from the Earth Day celebration at Tribble Park to the African Arts Museum's Juneteenth Celebration to TEDxSavannah.

In August 2022, SLAM Team debuted their spoken word album and chapbook at an album release party at the Savannah Cultural Arts Center.

Drop-In

Drop-In lowers participation barriers for Savannah's systems-impacted youth, making it possible for youth in under resourced areas to grow as learners, artists, and community leaders.

Drop-In met at PARC on Pennsylvania Ave, Gateway Behavioral Health Services' Club House on DeRenne Ave, and the Front Porch on Abercorn St. **Two hundred and thirty-one youth** explored creative writing, composing and producing their own music, podcasting, pottery, dance, and entrepreneurship, all under the mentorship of local community artists and Deep staff. Programming supported young people's social-emotional learning and mental health at a much-needed time during the pandemic.





Rising Literary Stars

The Young Author Project (YAP) provided free creative writing and arts workshops for **237 youth** in grades 6-12 to help young people heal, build community, share their stories, amplify their voices, and gain learning and leadership skills. Attending a Young Author Project workshop is often a rite of passage for youth in Savannah's public schools, and even when the program moved online during the pandemic, the excitement and dedication of its young people remained a constant guiding star.

Read our Young Authors' Fall 2021 Zine at the QR code.



Young Author Project



YAP's Volunteer Heroes

Deep's Ed Fellows (SCCPSS host teachers) and **Writing Fellows** (local adult volunteers trained in Deep's rigorous curricula, 32 in total) went above and beyond to recruit, engage, and retain youth in enriching and inspiring programming, despite the challenges of virtual instruction and COVID pandemic fatigue.

YAP's Deep Laureates

Thomas Kirk, Coastal Middle School: winner of the Butterfly Award, given to a young person who came out of their shell during the semester.

"Jim dialed his wife's number and talked to her about the playoffs, and she told him that his son won class president and his daughter learned to ride a bike while he was gone. He smiled and shed a tear: he would win for his family."

"Jim, Part 4: The Final Bullseye," by Thomas Kirk

Camdyn Jones, Esther F. Garrison School for the Arts: winner of the Most Fearless Award, given to an author who expressed fearlessness while writing a vulnerable piece.

*"To be an outcast is to make your own grave,
I am so worried about fitting in, looking right. Why?
My life is the path that I need to pave,
Life only starts with a try."*

"Alexithymia," by Camdyn Imani Jones

Lucas Micheline, Godley Station School: winner of the Most Imaginative Award, given to an author whose fiction writing made the reader's imagination soar.

*"I have watched fights
laughing
and crying
in this room."*

"Simple Sailor Man," by Lucas Micheline

Aubrie Huckabee, The STEM Academy at Bartlett: winner of the Young Activist Award, given to the best piece of writing about a social justice issue or belief that the young person holds.

*"She knows the stereotypes popping up here and there.
But she also knows how to reject them with a firm hand.
She unhinges her leash and doesn't sneak away.
Instead she yells, "Catch me, catch me," but they would have to another day."*

"Once Upon a Womanhood," by Aubrie Huckabee



Block by Block

This year, 31 Block by Block youth worked with choreographers, visual artists, composers, food activists, healers, farmers, and the Wandering Rootworkers to explore health and equity in Savannah. Youth envisioned what positive change could look like in their neighborhoods—especially in regards to COVID-19—and explored their experiences **coming of age in the time of COVID.**

Months of participatory community research by the youth of Block by Block culminated in an anthology of written and multimodal artworks which debuted at Deep's Block Party in June 2022. The Block Party allowed over 200 community members to experience the research, artworks, insights, and ideas of Deep's youth participants for a transformed Savannah.



This year, Block by Block's young writers teamed up with composers from the Savannah VOICE Festival to turn their poems into songs, sheet music included. Youth debuted their songs in a live performance at Deep's Block Party. Youth further stretched their creativity and drew from Savannah's rich arts and cultural histories through collaborations with the Savannah Jazz Festival, the community garden at Wesley Oak Church, and Jerry Bennet Taylor of Savannah's City Market.

Our Youth: Jahid's Story

Here's what Jahid, a recent Block by Block participant, had to say about his experience: "For me, Deep is synonymous with home. As a young adolescent figuring out my place in the world, the Deep community was a supportive environment where I felt like it was safe and okay to be me. There was never fear of judgment amongst the staff or my peers. All creeds and backgrounds and identities were welcome. At our core, we were, and still are, a love tribe.



Deep constantly challenged me to grow and push past my own self-imposed limits. Whether it was through intensive writing workshops, challenging and perspective-altering conversations, or engaging in community healing exercises, there was never a moment where I wasn't learning, growing, or reimagining the world through a new lens. Deep taught me that my words are so much more than just words—they are a way for young people to heal generational trauma and reshape the landscape of the future.

The relationship between Deep mentors and young artists is infinitely deeper and more personal than the usual student-teacher dichotomy. I have had educators in the past who, it felt like, only cared about me and my well-being when they were on the clock and in the classroom. That was never my experience in Deep. The staff never made me feel like an obligation or a thing on their to-do list. They always took the time to listen, understand, and most importantly, go the extra mile."

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Savannah, Georgia, showing a large bridge spanning a body of water, with various buildings and greenery visible in the background.

Programs for Building

In Deep's **Programs for Building a Restorative Community**, Deep leads the personal and community-wide reimagining, transformation, and activation required to build an equitable and just Savannah.

Policy Program

Development of Deep's policy briefs and accompanying campaigns is a year-long process that includes community-based participatory action research, monthly convenings of our youth and partners for dialogue, events designed for community input, and the creation and implementation of multi-modal, arts- and culture-fueled advocacy campaigns to realize the recommended reforms.

Community Organizing

Deep's youth and adult organizing program organizes, supports, and builds power amongst a broad coalition of everyday people, community stakeholders, faith communities, unlikely allies, and working-class youth and families from communities of color and other marginalized communities to build awareness, critical literacy, networks, power, and skills to lift up citizens as social justice leaders, artists, and advocates to transform Chatham County's and Georgia's juvenile and criminal justice systems, education systems, and other pressing social systems.

Healing Schools

In partnership with SCCPSS, Deep is developing, evaluating, refining, and implementing a model for a healing-centered school climate that can prepare students to be engaged, thriving participants in our democracy and communities.



a Restorative Community

Deep works around the clock to lift up the young people of Savannah, but when our young people run into barriers that they didn't create, Deep rallies its best people to transform the systems that put those barriers into place.

Action Research Team (ART)

ART is Deep's most advanced youth program, made up of young people between the ages of 14 and 18 who want to engage with their community in a lasting and transformative way. The members of ART collectively decide on a focus for their participatory action research, and through the power of grassroots activism and youth leadership, create waves of change that positively impact Savannah in micro and macro ways.

Deep Writing Project

Through creative writing and immersive learning, the Deep Writing Project brings together a cohort of educators to build community and reimagine what kind of world is possible inside and outside the walls of their schools. Part of the National Writing Project's network of 175+ sites across the country, Deep Center is honored to be the first National Writing Project site based in a community organization.

Restorative Community Impact

2021-2022

1,279 local officials, community allies, and professionals from court, police, schools, and other child-serving institutions participated in workshops to build understanding, analysis, and collective power for change around the issues most relevant to Deep's youth and families.



183

public events and workshops

502

hours of direct-learning programming and community organizing training

13

program sites

22

public school partners

4

university partners

Deep's 2022 Policy Brief

Bound Up in Each Other

Bound Up in Each Other is just one puzzle piece in Deep's continuing work around building a restorative community—that is, a community based in restorative justice, which goes beyond conflict resolution to become a vehicle for harm mediation and harm reduction in schools and neighborhoods, as well as a community-building strategy. According to Coco Papy, Deep's Director of Public Policy and Communications, such a community is “not just a set of protocols, but also a way to uproot harm before harm happens. A restorative community examines policy and laws through an equity lens to meet the needs of young people and families. It invests what is necessary to repair injustice.” Read Deep's 2022 Policy Brief at the QR code.



Pre-Arrest Diversion

Deep Center, Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition, the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, the Behavioral Health Unit, and the District Attorney's Office are working to pilot Savannah's first pre-arrest diversion program, which has been authorized by Savannah Police Department and was first introduced as a recommendation in Deep's 2021 policy brief.

Ending Wealth-Based Detention

Deep mounted a campaign to encourage the County Commission to allocate funds to end the Chatham County jail backlog. **The Commission has committed funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to do so.**



Fine & Fee Reform

Deep Center, the District Attorney's Office, and a member of the Chatham County Board of Commissioners have come together as a coalition to act on fine and fee reform. Our coalition, led and coordinated by Deep, was selected as **one of only six cities and counties across the US to participate in this year's Cities and Counties for Fine and Fee Justice Reform cohort** through the Fines & Fees Justice Center.

In partnership with Debt Free Justice and Berkeley Law Center, Deep has also been tackling youth fine and fee reform in Chatham County. Notably, with Deep's coalition leadership, **Chatham County Juvenile Court judges have codified the prohibition of the use of fines and fees through the drafting of an internal memo that memorializes this position for future judges.**

Policy & Organizing



Voting Rights

This year, Deep's community organizer was authorized to work with citizens within Chatham County Detention Center to support absentee voting. Deep is also partnering with State Representative Derek Mallow, Tabernacle Baptist Church, and DeVetter Law Firm to **host monthly expungement clinics to support returning citizens' rights restoration.**

Building Power

"We talk about change agents a lot," says youth community organizer Martina Allen. "But what does that mean?

For me, it's the moment when people think, 'I can help not only myself, but also the people around me.'"

The policy and community organizing teams have filled the past year with virtual and in-person events designed to create an abundance of change agents around issues of vital importance to Savannah and the South, including:

Unmasking COVID-19: Vaccination Awareness and Grappling with Medical Racism, exploring historical traumas such as the Tuskegee experiments that continue to fuel community mistrust in government medical initiatives.

Partnership with the Vera Institute of Justice and Southern Center for Human Rights to host a public town hall on bail/bond practices in Chatham County.

Talk Justice Tuesdays: "Creating Public Safety," "Leading with Data," and "Protecting Children's Rights," and **Justice Day 2022: Moving Forward with Courage**.

A **school board forum** alongside Loop it Up Savannah, Migrant Equity Southeast, Savannah Youth City, Movement Matters, and the Chatham County Youth Commission.

Pre-trial Detention Workshops: "Local Policy Solutions," with Step Up Savannah's Neighborhood Leadership Academy; "The Criminalization of Poverty: Cash Bail Solutions," with The Hamiltons; and "What is Pretrial Detention?," a youth-focused workshop.

State advocacy training every Tuesday during the state legislature session to help constituents learn how to advocate at the state level on topics such as vouchers, LGBTQ bills, and juvenile fines and fees.

Ban the Box forum, in partnership with Savannah State University's NAACP and Beyond the Box GA, to decrease discriminatory practices in higher education.

Healing Schools

Closing the educational attainment, equity, and opportunity gaps for the most vulnerable student populations in US public schools requires disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline.

Healing Schools is an academically evaluated model for a healing-centered school climate that prepares students to be engaged, thriving participants in our democracy and communities, and ensures students have the resources they need, are celebrated and served according to who and where they are, and are lifted up with their families and teachers as leaders able to influence school and district policies.

Healing Schools also encompasses Deep's youth-leadership program, the Action Research Team, and the Deep Writing Project, which serves teachers in search of critical literacy tools and solidarity. Both programs build the power of youth, their teachers, and families to imagine an education system that truly serves, empowers, and educates, and then to lead the transformation themselves to realize that vision.



Healing Schools Milestones

In just the first three years, Healing Schools:

Engaged **674** teachers, administrators, counselors, and school support professionals in workshops.

Provided **107** training sessions with over **459** hours of professional development.

Positively impacted the school environment of **11,000+** public school students.

Supported **66** public school students in leading transformation on education issues.

Created, tested, and documented a logic model for a comprehensive and sustainable approach to building restorative school systems.



Action Research Team

Youth Leadership for Education Equity

On March 28th, youth and adult facilitators from Deep's Action Research Team arrived at the Capitol building expecting to give testimony at the Senate Youth and Education committee hearing on House Bill 1084, a bill that defines race and racism as “divisive concepts” and bans discussion of them in K-12 classrooms. That didn’t happen. Instead, when it came time for public testimony, the hearing was closed from public comment and pushed forward with a vote from committee members. The group of 13 students—who came to the Gold Dome to voice their concerns in solidarity with and on behalf of other young Georgians who couldn’t make the 250 mile, four-hour journey to get there, and whose education is directly impacted by this bill—were told there was no time for their voices.



Instead of returning to Savannah defeated, ART youth rallied to host a press conference in the Capitol Rotunda, and made their voices heard on what education equity needs to look like in the state of Georgia. ART youth leaders followed this up with a round of press and op-eds on the issue, and finally shared their experience of civic engagement in a widely-distributed zine. Read ART's Zine at the QR code.



ART's 912 Freedom School

912 Freedom School was completely conceived of, designed, and implemented by Chatham County youth as a place for peer young people to build the knowledge, connections, and confidence to become a true force for transformation in both their school communities and Savannah at large.

Freedom schools are a Southern institution, a piece of our heritage that tells the story of resistance, perseverance, and a refusal to accept matters as they stand. In 2022, with the contents of America's classrooms a continuous source of political debate, ART believes that freedom schools once again have a powerful role to play.

In the summer of 2022, 912 Freedom School youth participants (called Freedom Fellows, and stipended for their time) studied America's long history of grassroots activism, developed campaign strategies for the changes they wanted to see in their communities, and, perhaps most importantly, connected in meaningful ways with other young activists already in their schools and neighborhoods.

Although 2022 was 912 Freedom School's first summer of operation, plans are already underway for the future. In its very first week of operation, 912 Freedom School created the kind of momentum that simply cannot slow down. When passionate young people are fed in body and mind and furnished with the knowledge they need to create change, anything is possible.



Deep Writing Project

“We spent 80 hours together at Deep Writing Project,” said Program Manager Megan Ave’Lallemant. “If you got to spend that quality time with the colleagues in your school, in dialogue and in getting to know one another, school could look really different.”

Through creative writing and immersive learning, Deep Writing Project (DWP) brings together a cohort of educators to build community and reimagine what kind of world is possible inside and outside the walls of their schools. “We’re looking to build and support **restorative teacher-leaders**,” Megan said. “Everyone in this year’s cohort is already a leader. By modeling how this kind of work can be done in a way that feels human and using our muscles to build critical literacy, the results will trickle into people’s classrooms and into their schools.”

The ten-day gathering remains the only National Writing Project site hosted outside of a university or education institute. Participants—stipended for their time—come from a range of different backgrounds and career levels, from pre-service all the way to late-career teachers. In working with Deep facilitators and in trusting each other as experts in their own experiences, teachers are taken seriously as writers and artists, regardless of whether they initially think of themselves as such when they first step through the doors. When teachers begin to trust their own voices on the page, they begin to trust their own voices in the rest of their lives as well.





Impact Partners

Regional and National Partners

A. Phillip Randolph Institute (Savannah, GA)
Arnold Ventures (Houston, TX)
Ban the Box (Atlanta, GA)
Berkeley Law Policy Advocacy Clinic, (Berkeley, CA)
Black Voters Matter
Debt Free Justice Campaign
Forward Promise (Huntsville, AL)
Fair Fight Action (Atlanta, GA)
Fund Georgia's Future (Atlanta, GA)
Georgia Appleseed (Atlanta, GA)
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute (Atlanta, GA)
Georgia Equality (Atlanta, GA)
Georgia Southern University, Drs. Peggy Shannon-Baker and Sabrina Ross (Statesboro, GA)
Georgia Youth Justice Coalition (Atlanta, GA)
JUST (Savannah, GA)
Highlander Research and Education Center (New Market, TN)
IMAN (Atlanta, GA)
Intercultural Development Research Alliance (San Antonio, TX)
Justice Reform Partnership (Atlanta, GA)
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (Washington, D.C.)
National Writing Project (Berkeley, CA)
Offender Alumni Association (Savannah, GA)
People's Agenda (Atlanta, GA)
Public Welfare Foundation (Washington, D.C.)
Red Clay Writing Project (Athens, GA)
Sapelo Foundation (Savannah, GA)
Savannah State University NAACP
The Southern Center for Human Rights (Atlanta, GA)
Southern Economic Advancement Project (Atlanta, GA)
The Southern Poverty Law Center (Montgomery, AL)
University of Georgia, Dr. Kevin Burke (Athens, GA)
Vera Institute for Justice (New York, NY)
Voices for Georgia's Children (Atlanta, GA)

Local Partners

9Twelve Studios
Chatham County Juvenile Court
Chatham County Parks & Rec at Lake Mayer
Chatham County Safety Net
Chatham County Youth Commission
City of Savannah Cultural Affairs Commission
City of Savannah Office of The Mayor
Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition
DayClean Tours with Jamal Toure
DeVetter Law Firm
DOC Savannah
First Presbyterian Church
Forsyth Farmers' Market
Fresh Start Radio
Front Porch Improv Theater
Front Porch Multi-Agency Resource Center
Gateway Behavioral Health Crisis Center
The Hamiltons
Healthy Savannah
Hudson Hill Neighborhood Association
Ivory Bay Community Development Corporation
Live Oak Public Libraries
Loop It Up Savannah
Migrant Equity Southeast
Movement Matters
Office of Neighborhood Safety & Engagement
Pennsylvania Avenue Resource Center
Savannah African Art Museum
Savannah Cultural Arts Center
Savannah Jazz Academy
Savannah Police Department
Savannah Repertory Theater
Savannah VOICE Festival
Savannah Youth City
Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools
Step Up Savannah
Tabernacle Baptist Church
Telfair Museums
Wandering Rootworkers
Wesley Oak Church
West Broad Street YMCA

Organizational Health

Deep has done an incredible job of **growing our budget more than 10x since our founding in 2008**. However, we need your support to increase our internal administrative capacity to match this growth.

Currently inflation is moving faster than grant income, and consistent, engaged support from our donors will make it possible for Deep to keep pace with these new financial pressures. Expense increases are due to new programs, driven by increased community demand and multi-year funding commitments, and modest salary increases in response to inflation.

While financially strong, Deep is bracing for impacts from a constricting economy. In 2021-2022, Deep remained debt-free and tapped significant new foundation and individual donors. Though offset by revenue increases, in 2022, we lost 10% in municipal, 25% in corporate, and 10% of federal funding. These losses remain harbingers of future challenges.

Audited FY 2021 Expenses	\$1,198,139
Audited FY 2021 Income	\$1,560,354
Projected to end FY 2022 with expenses in line with our committed income	\$1,830,000

Sources of Income

- 63% Institutional Funders
- 23% Gov't & Public Funds
- 5% Corporate & United Way
- 8% Individual Donors
- 1% Earned Income

Organizational Equity, Justice, and Reflection

Deep Center is dedicated to equity and justice, and to embodying the world we strive to create.

- Minority-majority board, 80% people of color.
- Deep's population served is 80% youth of color. Adults served track with youth demographics.
- Deep's staff is 65% people of color, 47% of staff identify as LGBTQ.

Since 2020, Deep Center has been working with an external facilitator to conduct a series of internal equity retreats. Our staff works intentionally to ensure our organizational practices reflect our values of equality around race, class, gender, language, and physical ability.

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Deep Center
Ships of the Sea Museum

Action Research Team Site

Deep Center

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First African Baptist Church
The Yard
Enmarket Arena
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Deep Center

PO Box 5582
Savannah, GA 31414
(912) 289-7426



deepcenter.org 
writewithus@deepcenter.org 
@deepcenter912   

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