



LEARNSERVE PRESENTS

**LEARNSERVE
VIRTUAL GALA
THE COURAGE TO CHANGE**

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021

**VIP Virtual Gatherings 6:00 pm EDT
Program 7:00 pm EDT**



Entrepreneurship Award
Malachi Byrd



Global Perspectives Award
Ginea Briggs



Civic Champion Award
Matt Gayer on behalf of The
Catalogue for Philanthropy

Text "LEARNSERVE" to 44-321 to donate tonight!

LearnServe website: learn-serve.org

@LearnServe on Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook



LEARNSERVE VIRTUAL GALA

Our 2021 LearnServe Virtual Gala will celebrate the LearnServe youth changemakers, gather our community, and honor inspiring leaders in social change! This year, we recognize the tenacity and bravery of our students and community. It takes courage to create change, and to grow ourselves.

2021 AWARDEES



2021 Global Perspectives Awardee Ginea Briggs is an educator at School Without Walls. Through her career dedicated to global education and changemaking, Ginea has been instrumental in shaping LearnServe's learning, and the learning of countless students about cross-cultural understanding. At School Without Walls, she sponsors the BOMB Squad (the Hip Hop dance team), the SASS Club (Sister Action, Sister Strength) sponsored by the DC Rape Crisis Center, and the National Honor Society. In 2015, Ginea spent four months in Hyderabad, India as a Fulbright Distinguished Award in Teaching Recipient. There she studied school communities and their effects on girls and self-esteem.



2021 Entrepreneurship Awardee Malachi Byrd is a rapper, poet, scholar, and changemaker. Whether speaking out about educational equity, gentrification, or police brutality, Malachi is committed to the battle against anti-Blackness. From his African-American studies degree and Creative Writing certificate to being selected as Washington D.C.'s inaugural youth poet laureate (2015) to publishing his book and mixtape, *Crowning Too Early* (2017), he displays in his artwork where his research interests lie: fully interrogating the evaporation of Black childhood. With the proceeds from *Crowning Too Early* he has launched a scholarship fund to support creative and academic endeavors of rising artists.



2021 Civic Champion Awardee The Catalogue for Philanthropy is the region's only locally-focused guide to giving and volunteering. Their goal is to create visibility for community nonprofits, fuel their growth with philanthropic dollars, and create a movement for social good in our region. Since 2003, the Catalogue has raised more than \$45 million for their network of vetted nonprofits. Co-Executive Director Matt Gayer will accept the award on behalf of The Catalogue for Philanthropy.



PROGRAM FOR THE EVENING

Welcome to our Virtual Gala from Emcee Aaron "AJ" Jenkins!

Brief Remarks from LearnServe Board Chair Ricardo Neal

Global Perspectives Award Conferred to Ginea Briggs

Changemaker Spotlight: Elevator Pitches

Haley Howard, Founder of Blues, School Without Walls

Musonda Mutale, Founder of Water and Sanitation

Sustainability, youth social entrepreneur in Lusaka, Zambia

Jena Le, Founder of BeeKind, Sherwood High School

Entrepreneurship Award Conferred to Malachi "MalPractice" Byrd

"Dancing" - A Poem Written and Performed by MalPractice

Changemaker Spotlight: Elevator Pitches

Ra'mya Davis, Founder of African & African American History Curriculum, Thurgood Marshall Academy Public Charter HS

Meaghan Quirk, Founder of 2-Minute English, Bethesda Chevy-Chase High School

Brief Remarks from Gala Chair Richard Perez

Civic Champion Award Conferred to The Catalogue for Philanthropy: Greater Washington. *Co-Executive Director Matt Gayer will accept the award on behalf of The Catalogue.*

Changemaker Spotlight: Elevator Pitches

Ashley Elizondo Ramos, Founder of Food Apartheid in DC, Capital City Public Charter School

Katherine Yoon, Founder of Unity Through Art, Holton-Arms

Thank you to our students, families, supporters, and community!

GALA EMCEE AND CHAIR



2021 Gala Emcee Aaron "AJ" Jenkins is the CEO and Partner for North Star Strategies LLC, an equity consulting practice that provides services in public policy and root cause analysis, strategic planning, and training. He has over two decades of experience in advocacy, community organizing, racial justice, interfaith and cross-cultural dialogue and education, and unconscious bias training. He is a servant leader and advocate who has worked in the non-profit, local, state and federal sectors.



2021 Gala Chair Richard Perez has spent the majority of his career growing businesses, either in-house as a Revenue/Growth Executive or as an advisor and consultant to large corporations, early-stage businesses, and startup organizations. He serves as an advisor at the Halcyon Incubator, and is dedicated to developing the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs. He is a LearnServe Development Committee member.

LEARNSERVE TEAM

Sabine Keinath - Co-Director & COO

Scott Rechler - Co-Director & CEO

Semira Tesfai - Office Manager & Program Coordinator

Emma Strother - Development & Communications Manager

LearnServe Programs Staff

Shari Boyce, Deja' Cherry, Deonna Cherry, Alessandra Clará, Sarina Haryanto, Quenton Horton, Ryan Steinbach, and Lalitha Ramaswamy - Fellows Cohort Leaders

Nick Boedicker - Incubator Leader

Erica Davis, Gaby Grebski, Randee Grant, and Norman Kim-Senior - Global Summer Fellowship Cohort Leaders

Ryan Steinbach - Global Summer Fellowship Program Manager

Japhet Chulu - Zambia Coordinator

Domingo Alonso - Paraguay Coordinator

Alessandra Clará, Lalitha Ramaswamy, Natalia Skolnik, and Kayla Waysome - LearnServe Facilitators in our partnership program with Girls Global Academy

LearnServe Board of Directors

Anna Bennett (Vice Chair), Philip Eliot, Scott Gilman, Timothy Graf, Deborah Greene, Martin Kalin, Deborah Levine, Ricardo O. Neal (Board Chair), Craig Rocklin, Irasema Salcido, David Selden, Jim Taylor, Catherine Tinsley, Maurice D. Wilkins Jr., and Gretchen Zucker

COMMUNITY NORMS

The LearnServe community is committed to building safe space and brave space in our programs and events. We ask all attendees of the LearnServe Virtual Gala to observe our community norms, set by our students and staff.

- Demonstrate respectful, honest, and kind behavior towards speakers and audience members.
- Communicate clearly in the chat. We love participation in the chat!
- Lean into brave spaces - allow yourself to be challenged and understand mistakes as learning opportunities.
- Recognize that in the LearnServe community and at tonight's event we will celebrate diverse experiences and contributions of participants.

LearnServe has a zero tolerance policy for abusive and discriminatory behavior.

SAFE SPACE COORDINATOR

If at any point during the LearnServe Virtual Gala you feel at all uncomfortable, please reach out to our **Safe Space Coordinator, Katara Aleem.**

Katara is a Human Capital Strategist at Deloitte Consulting, a long-time LearnServe Venture Mentor and partner, and a dedicated professional advocate for equity, inclusion, and social change.

You can enter a Zoom room with Katara during the LearnServe Virtual Gala at any time should you need support. The link to that Zoom room will be provided directly on the online event platform.

You can also reach Katara by phone during the event at 240-370-6963.





ABOUT LEARNSERVE

At LearnServe, youth are the leaders of today. We empower youth changemakers to process the real issues they encounter, find their unique purpose, and take action in their own communities. Through social entrepreneurship and global education programs, during the school year and over the summer, we channel our students' passion into agency.

LEARNSERVE FELLOWS identify social issues, then design and launch ventures to tackle them in their own communities.

In the **LEARNSERVE INCUBATOR**, youth maximize the impact of their social ventures through field testing and human-centered design.

Our **GLOBAL SUMMER FELLOWSHIP** connects young changemakers from Zambia, South Africa, Paraguay, and the US for social entrepreneurship training and international exchange.

FAST FACTS

- LearnServe has served 2,500+ students since 2003.
- Our students and alumni represent a diverse network of more than 50 public, independent, and charter middle and high schools in DC, Maryland, and Virginia. In 2020, students from Michigan and Pennsylvania joined us.
- 84% of alumni state that LearnServe empowered them to take action beyond our programs.
- 62% of our students remain civically engaged after LearnServe, over half of them serving in leadership roles.
- 4,000+ individuals have engaged in youth-led social change through LearnServe students over the past 18 years.

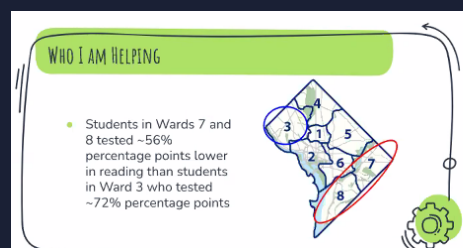
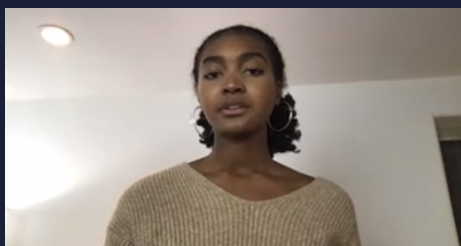
YOUTH CHANGEMAKER SPOTLIGHT



Meet our advanced 2021 LearnServe Incubator students!

Left to right and top to bottom: Akshay, Zoe, Deyaan, Libby, Tyonna, Demia, Musonda, Christopher, Nia, Sam, Michal, and Maya. Not pictured: Nate.

2021 LearnServe Incubator student **Maya** launched The Janie Foundation to donate menstrual hygiene products and other toiletries to folks facing economic hardship right now in her Silver Spring community. Maya has delivered 350+ items using Covid-safe methods to date.



2021 LearnServe Incubator student **Nia** created a book club and mentorship program to nurture literacy in public and charter elementary schools across Washington, DC Ward 7 and her home Ward 8. Nia's social venture won the 2021 LearnServe Incubator Pitch Competition.

GALA SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

Confirmed sponsors and partners as of April 27, 2021 in alphabetical order.

Innovator Sponsors

Catherine & Tom Tinsley
David Selden & Julie Wallick
Heather, John, & Aidan Lucas
Marc Cohen & Deborah Levine
Richard Perez
Social Driver
TenSquare

Lead Supporters

Sachiko Kuno Foundation
Anita & Matthew Rechler
NFP | The Meltzer Group
Philip Eliot
The Kalin Family

Entrepreneur Sponsors

Girls Who Start
Headfirst Companies
Howard University
LINK Strategic Partners
Jerome & Mary Vascellaro
Jim & Dee Taylor
Subject Matter
Zients Family Foundation

Investor Sponsors

Adam Shapiro Public Relations
Gardiner Lapham
Ghedam Bairu
Gretchen Zucker
Hager Strategic
Katherine & David Bradley
Marsha Beller & Rob Hoffnung
Richard & Joann Weiner
The Garfield Family
Dean, Chanda, Zari, & Ariel



Special thanks to our event vendors JPRose Consulting, Foodhini, Ryan Ladd, and Tribute.

We are thrilled to partner with Foodhini for dinner this evening, and the emerging, home-taught chefs from diverse immigrant and refugee communities there who celebrate their stories through delicious food!



SOCIALDRIVER

Thanks to the entire LearnServe team for working to create a bright future!

Catherine and Tom Tinsley salute the Catalogue for Philanthropy.



LearnServe International



ScholarCHIPS
Yasmine Arrington
LearnServe Alumna

*In gratitude and admiration for
all that the LearnServe
experience provides for our
future leaders and
changemakers.*

– David Selden & Julie Wallick

TenSquareTM
PERFORMANCE MATTERS



TenSquare is a national charter school
support organization with expertise in

School
Performance



Talent
Services



Authorizer
& Agency Support



Facility
Development



Results Driven. Unique Expertise.



thetensquaregroup.com



You have all the pieces.
I'll help you put them together.

Production, Facilitation, and Storytelling for
Virtual Events and Workshops

Thank you for the privilege of partnering with the LearnServe community on
this year's gala. It is an honor to help further your mission and work.

jproseconsulting.com • jill@jproseconsulting.com



Design • Photography • Videography

ryan-ladd.com | ryan.ladd10@gmail.com



FOODHINI IS AN ONLINE RESTAURANT THAT FOCUSES ON HIRING IMMIGRANT & REFUGEE CHEFS, SUPPORTING THEM IN PREPARING AND SELLING THEIR DELICIOUS HOME RECIPES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE DIRECTLY TO YOU

WE USE THE POWER OF FOOD TO CREATE LIVING-WAGE JOB OPPORTUNITIES & BUILD COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT OUR CITY

**LEARN MORE &
ORDER AT FOODHINI.COM**

We are deeply grateful for the more than fifty LearnServe venture mentors, pitch competition judges and reviewers, pro bono supporters, and other volunteers who have been so generous with their time, energy, and expertise to help LearnServe youth changemakers impact their own communities using their own ideas in this challenging year.

-The LearnServe Team





*Howard University
is proud to support
LearnServe International.*

*Congratulations on 18 years
of service to the next generation
of global leaders!*



*Congratulations to
the LearnServe
students and
community for all
that you do to
tackle social
challenges with
creativity and
empathy.*

- Jim and Dee Taylor



*Mary and Jerome
Vascellaro salute the
work of Generation
Citizen and LearnServe
as they support civic
engagement in our
nation's young people.*

HEADFIRST
SUMMER CAMPS



A proud sponsor of:



headfirstcamps.com

Strategic Communications | Community Relations | Stakeholder Engagement



Thank you to the LearnServe community
for creating lasting social impact
in DC and beyond!

www.linksp.com

   @LINKstrategic



Website: www.girlswhostart.org
Instagram: @girls.who.start

The world needs more female entrepreneurs! Girls Who Start creates the empowering community to make it happen. We are proud to support the youth entrepreneurs at LearnServe.

*In gratitude and admiration for
all that the LearnServe
experience provides for our
future leaders and innovators.*

- Heather, John, & Aidan Lucas