

Annual Report 2023



Making Our Work, Work

A Letter from Our Board Chair

I couldn't be prouder of the important work the team at Discovering Justice continues to bring to our communities. This year's Annual Report showcases the variety of innovative civic education programs we delivered throughout our 2023 fiscal year. Importantly, we provided those programs to more than 20,000 Massachusetts students and residents during the year.

Our programs are proving to be more critical than ever. As our democratic institutions are showing some cracks, Discovering Justice is dedicated to doing the work to prepare the next generation of Massachusetts residents to be active and positively engaged in their communities.

What makes our work, work? It starts with our talented staff, and it blossoms with the pantheon of partners who make it all happen, including:

- * More than 30 teams of Legal Mentors, who volunteer an afternoon a week to train student attorneys for our Mock Trial and Mock Appeal Programs.
- * Hundreds of elementary school teachers, who bring our unique Children Discovering Justice curriculum to the Commonwealth's earliest learners, from Kindergarten to Grade 3 in school districts across Massachusetts.
- * Federal and State judges, who welcome students into their courtrooms during Courthouse Field Trips and preside over our Mock Trial and Mock Appeal Final Events.
- * Individual donors, corporate sponsors, and charitable foundations who provide the financial resources we need to evolve and deliver our programs to meet the needs of the community.
- * A dedicated Board of Trustees who help steer the ship.

Thanks to these partners and more, Discovering Justice is able to play a vital role in Massachusetts students' civic education journeys. Thank you for your continued support.

Tony Jordan

Discovering Justice Board Chair

A Letter from Our Executive Director

Three years ago, Discovering Justice laid out an ambitious Strategic Plan to work in deeper partnership with the Massachusetts legal community, to update and upgrade its civic education programs, and to make our programs available and accessible to more students across the Commonwealth. I am glad to report that the plan is working.

- * Our Children Discovering Justice curriculum (CDJ) teaches students, starting as early as Kindergarten, to explore issues of justice and engage in civic action projects in their schools and communities. It is being taught in 30 school districts to more than 21,000 elementary school students.
- * Our Mock Trial and Mock Appeal Programs have more than doubled to 15 school districts and 35 middle schools, providing opportunities for more than 700 middle schoolers to become "student attorneys" and wrestle with First and Fourth Amendment issues.
- * Overall, our programs are embedded in most of the largest school districts in the Commonwealth, including Boston, Springfield, Worcester, Brockton, Lowell, Lawrence, and New Bedford.
- * Our growing staff of nine participated in training to ensure that diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) policies are built in Discovering Justice's program and operating principles.

As we embark on the development of our next three-year Strategic Plan that will guide us through 2027, I want to thank you for your continued support of our work to prepare Massachusetts students to fight for a more just and equitable world.

Keep up the good work,

Matt Wilson

Discovering Justice Executive Director



Building on the Past, Looking to the Future

Our Vision and Mission

Discovering Justice envisions a society in which everyone is well-equipped to help build an equitable democracy. We believe in the power of the next generation to sustain our democracy, and we value the belief that the justice system can and should work for everyone.

For over two decades, Discovering Justice has been bringing together students and communities through our innovative civic education programs to examine the workings of the justice system, explore the ideals of justice, and prepare them to engage in our democracy.



Children Discovering Justice

This year was the breakout year for Children Discovering Justice (CDJ), our Massachusetts standards-based K-5 civics curriculum, which engages students in topics such as community, rules, leadership, and equity. CDJ students explore the essential question, "What is Justice, and how do I use my voice to advocate for it?"

Now 30 school districts provide CDJ to more than 21,000 students, introducing our earliest learners to civic education.

The culturally responsive CDJ curriculum provides students with the foundational knowledge, skills, and dispositions to be engaged, critical, compassionate, and active leaders of our democracy. It also supports their teachers with tools, lessons, activities, and professional development they need as they guide their students through critical topics and conversations.

"CDJ is teaching kids how to think, not what to think."

- Karen MacKinnon, Foxborough Public Schools





NEW CHILDREN DISCOVERING JUSTICE CURRICULUM FOR GRADE 3 EXPLORES JUSTICE AND NATIVE PEOPLES

In the fall, our CDJ team released an updated Grade 3 curriculum focusing on justice and Native peoples. The curriculum consists of lessons on Native histories, colonial relationships, tribal sovereignty, local government, and case studies of present-day advocacy. To support lesson development, Discovering Justice partnered with many Native speakers across Massachusetts. Victoria Suri, K-5 Curriculum Developer, used feedback from teachers to update and revise the K-3 Curriculum.

The CDJ team also initiated the process of translating curriculum materials into Spanish and Portuguese.

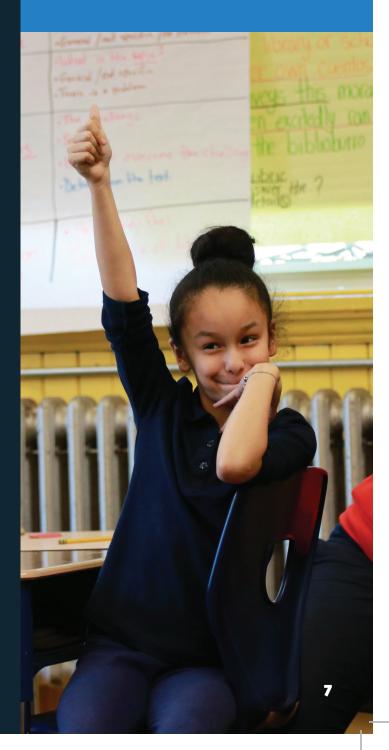
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS

The CDJ curriculum is supported by a comprehensive Professional Development program that worked with more than 300 educators in Grades K-5 across a dozen school districts this year. More than 100 teachers in six districts participated in Professional Learning Cohorts/Communities (PLCs) led by Discovering Justice Education Director Laura Brenner.

PLC participants unpacked CDJ pilot lessons, problem-solved challenges, and discussed culturally responsive civic pedagogy with a focus on student discourse.

"Teaching the Children
Discovering Justice
curriculum and supporting its
implementation district-wide can
have a profound impact on my
students, equipping them with
the knowledge, skills, and values
necessary to become informed,
active, and responsible citizens in
a democratic society."

- Katie Xie, Grade 3 Teacher, Boston Public Schools



Mock Trial and Mock Appeal Programs

Discovering Justice's Mock Trial and Mock Appeal Programs pair middle school students in Massachusetts with legal professionals to explore the judicial system, analyze a First Amendment case about student free speech, and learn and practice civic skills needed to persuasively argue their case.

Through ten weekly after-school sessions, student attorneys work with volunteer Legal Mentors to develop the skills and vital civic tools like perspective taking, critical thinking, writing, civil discourse, and self-confidence. These semester-long programs culminate with students presenting their case before either a Federal or State judge and jury of community members (for Mock Trial) or a panel of judges (for Mock Appeal).



SPRING 2023 MOCK APPEAL PROGRAM

Celebrating 14 years!

290+ Student Participants

26 Student Teams

Federal and State Courthouse Venues

Teams of 4-8 Legal Mentors

Final Events

83 Panel Judges

Spectator Seats at Final Events Filled with Family and Friends

FALL 2023 MOCK TRIAL PROGRAM

The largest of its kind in the program's history!

400+ Student Participants

34 Student Teams

13 MA Courthouse Venues

Communities in
Massachusetts and Rhode Island
Represented

180 Legal Mentors

300+ Volunteer Jurors

36 Teacher Coordinators

35 Federal and State Judge Volunteers

"Students strive, stumble, and succeed... The freedom to grow and learn was on full display."

> - Kathleen McMenimen, Waltham City Councilor

This year continued the growth of the Mock Trial and Mock Appeal Programs, with 60 student teams joining us from 15 communities across Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Deepening District Relationships

In 2023, Discovering Justice pursued strategic program growth through collaboration with districts in gateway cities like Brockton and Springfield.

We added new volunteer lawyers from the Plymouth County Bar Association, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, and Hampden County Lawyers for Justice. In just a few years, these collaborations have resulted in increased attendance at Final Events, including multiple fall Mock Trial opening ceremonies that were standing room only.

Volunteer Driven

During the summer, a group of teachers and Legal Mentors volunteered to create a new case, update the curriculum used by the Legal Mentors, and host us in their workplaces and communities for the program's first in-person orientations since 2019.

"I loved how supportive the judges and the courtroom staff are to the students in the Mock Trial and Mock Appeal Programs. Very informative, pleasant, organized - a tremendous experience for the kids."

> - Andrea Gates, Volunteer Juror

Fall 2023 Case: Student Shock on TikTok

For a class project, student Jordan King uses TikTok to aggressively call out fellow classmates on their environmental practices. When the school principal tells Jordan to take down the videos, she refuses and is suspended. Using Tinker v. Des Moines (1969) and Mahanoy v. B.L. (2021) as precedent, student attorneys argue whether Jordan's free speech rights were violated.



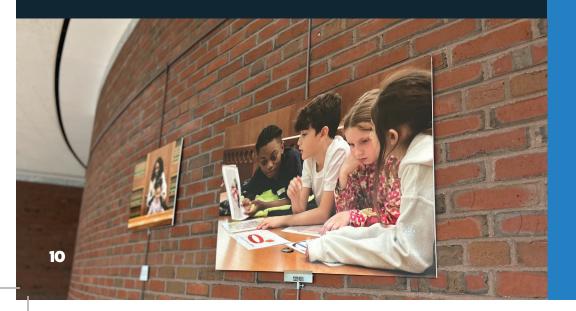
Moakley Courthouse Programs

Courthouse Field Trips

This year, Discovering Justice brought students and community members of all ages into the John Joseph Moakley U.S. Courthouse in Boston for community tours, Field Trips for students from Grade 1 through law school, and other educational events. These programs invite the public through the doors of the Courthouse to explore the unique art and architecture of the building, witness the justice system in action, and have discussions with the judges and lawyers who work there.

The Art of Civics

Discovering Justice students took the spotlight in the Moakley Courthouse this fall through an art exhibit on display in the Courthouse Atrium. Across ten photographs from photographer Reba Saldanha and former Discovering Justice Communications Fellow Megan Schneider, the display highlighted Discovering Justice students from ages six to 16 engaged in Discovering Justice programs. The exhibit featured middle school students in the Mock Trial and Mock Appeal Programs and Boston elementary school students participating in Field Trips to the Moakley Courthouse.





By The Numbers

2,391

Student Field Trip Attendees

324

Community Tour Attendees

185

College Court Visits Attendees

3,915

Total Attendees - All Programs

"I am grateful that my
5th Grade students
were welcomed into the
Moakley Courthouse to
learn about our justice
system. They were thrilled
to explore the Courthouse
and meet staff from all
different courtroom
positions. This experience
has impacted my students
in a positive way and will
motivate them to learn
more about civics in future
grades."

-Alicia Quinn, Grade 5 Teacher, Braintree Public Schools



"Learning about the function of the justice system was an eye-opening and highly enjoyable experience. The courthouse itself was very beautiful and full of history and symbolism and the tour provided by the **Discovering Justice staff** was even more impressive.... The experience opens your eyes."

-Cameron Howard, Emmanuel College Student, Class of 2025

MOAKLEY COURTHOUSE EVENTS

Partnering with the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, Discovering Justice co-hosted two Courthouse events in 2023:

Her Honor: Stories of Challenge and **Triumph from Women Judges April 26, 2023**

Moderated by Judge Patti Saris, this hybrid Moderated by Discovering Justice panel discussion told stories of women judges and their paths and experiences on the bench, including the inequalities, bias, and other barriers they faced and how they overcame those obstacles. Panelists included: Lawyers Defending American Democracy Director, former Discovering Justice Board Member, and editor of the eponymous *Her Honor* book Lauren Stiller Rikleen; Judge Nancy Gertner (Ret.); Justice Fernande R. V. Duffly (Ret.); and Judge Angel Kelley.

This program was co-sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts, the U.S Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, the Women's Bar Association of Massachusetts, the Hampden County Bar Association, Citizens for Juvenile Justice, the Massachusetts Black Lawvers Association, and the Harvard Women's Law Association.

Court Interpreting Within the Judiciary: Making Justice Accessible December 5, 2023

Executive Director Matt Wilson, the panel discussed the essential role interpreters play in the courtroom and larger legal system and the challenges those interpreters face. Panelists included: U.S. District Judge Myong J. Joun, American Sign Language interpreter Denise Martinez, Spanish interpreter Narda Berrios, and Attorney in Charge of the CPCS Lawrence Office Carol Cahill.

The event was co-sponsored by the Federal Bar Association, the New England Translators Association, and the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Civic Learning Week

Discovering Justice Reaches Over 3,000 Students During Massachusetts Civic Learning Week

Discovering Justice brought the wisdom and experience of Federal and State judges into more than 200 K-12 classrooms during the Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition (MCLC)'s Third Annual Civic Learning Week, March 6-10.

Coordinated by MCLC, a 50-member civic education coalition, Civic Learning Week offers workshops and events designed to highlight the importance of civic education in sustaining and strengthening our democracy.

"Civic education programs benefit the future leaders of our society. We have many students who already excel academically, and civics allows us to pair those great academic skills with the kind of moral compass we want our future leaders to have."

-Derek Doherty, Grade 6 Teacher, Boston Public Schools, speaking at the State House



By The Numbers

3

"Zoom with a Judge" virtual events hosted by Discovering Justice

3,000

K-12 students in attendance from 200 classrooms

6

Judges answering students' questions: Judge Donald Cabell, Judge Page Kelley, Judge Denise Casper, Judge William Hadley, Judge Julie Bernard, and Justice Diana Maldonado

1

Briefing at the Massachusetts State House, featuring Senator Becca Rausch, Representative Andy Vargas, and Massachusetts students and teachers speaking on the importance of civic education

8

Student speakers

2

Legislative speakers

90

Legislators and their staff in attendance



Civics in Action

Discovering Justice and Partners Take Action to Increase Civics Funding

Led by Discovering Justice, members of the Massachusetts Civic Learning Coalition (MCLC) successfully urged legislators and lawmakers to override Governor Maura Healey's veto that called for cuts to the Massachusetts Civics Education Trust Fund.

Dedicated to expanding civics education statewide, the Civics Education Trust Fund supports professional development training for teachers and the development of curriculum materials for civics instruction.

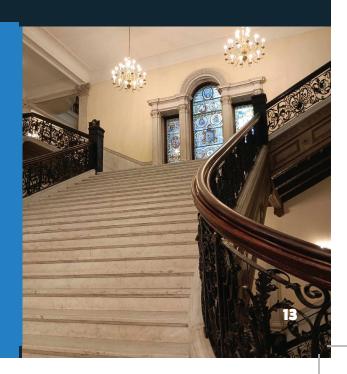
In July, Gov. Healey vetoed a proposed increase to the Fund, instead calling for a reduction to the \$2 million Fund by 25%.

As a result of the actions of Discovering Justice and its partners, the Commonwealth's investment in civic education increased from \$2 million in 2022 to \$2.5 million in 2023 – a win for civic education in Massachusetts.

Discovering Justice Executive Director Matt Wilson praised the actions taken by MCLC members to restore civic education funding as "civics in action," adding that "at a time when our democracy is showing signs of fragility, it's reassuring to see a commitment to [funding civic education] so that students are prepared with the skills and knowledge to engage in civic action."

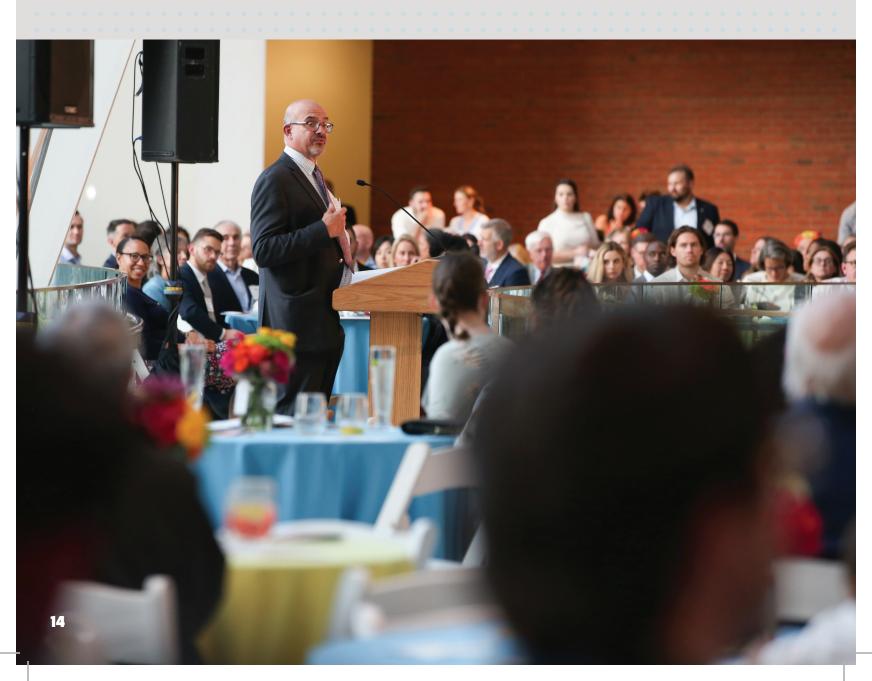
"I can confidently say that I have been able to grow as a person through community service and civic education, and that is why I believe more people should have access to civic education. After seeing the impact I was able to help make, and my growth being acknowledged by myself and my peers, I believe that every student in the Commonwealth should be able to experience those same things."

-Anthony Gonzalez, 11th Grade Student, Radio and TV Broadcasting Program, Lynn Vocational Technical Institute, at a State House event urging increased investment in civics education



Annual Gala 2023 AMPLIFYING STUDENTS' VOICES

In June, Discovering Justice's Annual Gala brought together more than 325 students, partners, and community members at the Moakley Courthouse to celebrate and support a year of bringing unique civic education programs to schools throughout Massachusetts.





Fellows

Over the past four years, Discovering Justice's Fellowships have provided more than 25 young professionals with opportunities to work directly with staff to coordinate civic education work and programs for students across the Commonwealth.

Thanks to our donors, we are able to provide Fellows with a stipend to support themselves through their semester-long Fellowships. Many Fellows have used their time at Discovering Justice as a launching pad for nonprofit careers or as a stepping stone to law school and other master's degree programs.



VINCE PAPILLO
Mock Trial Fellow

Vince worked with Community Programs Manager Malia Brooks to support the Mock Trial Program and ensure the program's Legal Mentors and Teacher Coordinators were set up for success.



CATHERINE
CHALADOFF
Courthouse
Programs Fellow

Catherine supported Courthouse Programs Manager Kiara Batista to conduct Tours and Field Trips of the Moakley Courthouse.



JACOB LEVITT
Elementary Civics
Fellow

Jacob worked with K-5 Curriculum Developer Victoria Suri to create and implement the Children Discovering Justice curriculum.



ADAM HARRINGTON
Massachusetts Civic
Learning Coalition
Advocacy Fellow

Adam worked with ED Matt Wilson to increase the Commonwealth's investment in civic education for MA students.



KATIE KUYKENDALL
Development and
Event Fellow

Katie worked with COO Ann Gogol on Discovering Justice's 2023 Annual Gala, as well as assisting with Discovering Justice's Courthouse and Mock Appeal Programs.



CORITA MILES

Mock Appeal Fellow

Corita worked with Mock Trial and Mock Appeal Programs Manager Luke Matys to run our spring 2023 Mock Appeal Program.

"Discovering Justice has been an outstanding partner. They've always kept student learning at the center."

- Jeffrey LaBroad, Assistant Superintendent, Hopkinton Public Schools

Staff



ANN GOGOL Chief Operating Officer



MATT WILSON
Executive Director



LAURA BRENNER
Education Director



MALIA BROOKS
Community
Partnerships Manager



KIARA BATISTA Courthouse Programs Manager



VICTORIA SURI K-8 Curriculum Developer



LUKE MATYS
Mock Trial and Mock
Appeal Programs
Manager

NEW STAFF MEMBER: KATHERINE SUSICH Development and Administrative Associate



Katherine Susich believes strongly in the role of democracy and civic education in mitigating social conflict and building prosperous, inclusive communities. Before joining Discovering Justice in November, she worked as the Program Associate for the Consortium on Gender, Security, and Human Rights at the University of Massachusetts - Boston. A key administrative support and essential member of Discovering Justice's Fundraising team, Katherine works with COO Ann Gogol to improve administrative and development systems, to steward donors, foundations, and more, and to coordinate our spring Gala's online auction.

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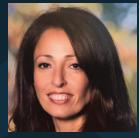
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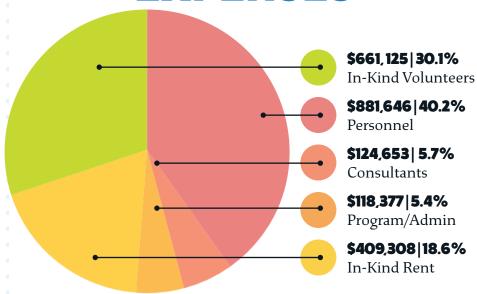
JONATHAN SPACK Former Executive Director, TSNE

"When I read the news every morning and think, 'What can I do?' I think of Discovering Justice. This work is as important a thing as you can do."

- Thaddeus Beal, Discovering Justice Board of Trustee

inancials Fiscal Year 2023

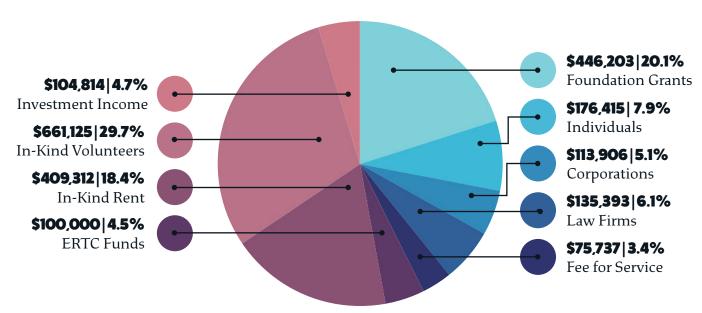
EXPENSES



Total Expenses \$2,195,109 Total Revenue \$2,222,905 Net Income \$27,796 Net Assets

\$1,708,345

REVENUE



Donors

\$100,000+

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\$500-\$999

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Jayme Moore
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Aldo Petronio
Matthew Quick
John Regan
Jonathan Spack
Christine Wichers
Michael Wilson

<\$500

Anonymous (11)
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Kathryn Alessi
Amazon Smile
Richard Amster
Austin Anderson
Paula Bagger
John Balboni
Anurag Banerjee
David Barron
Marieljane Bastien

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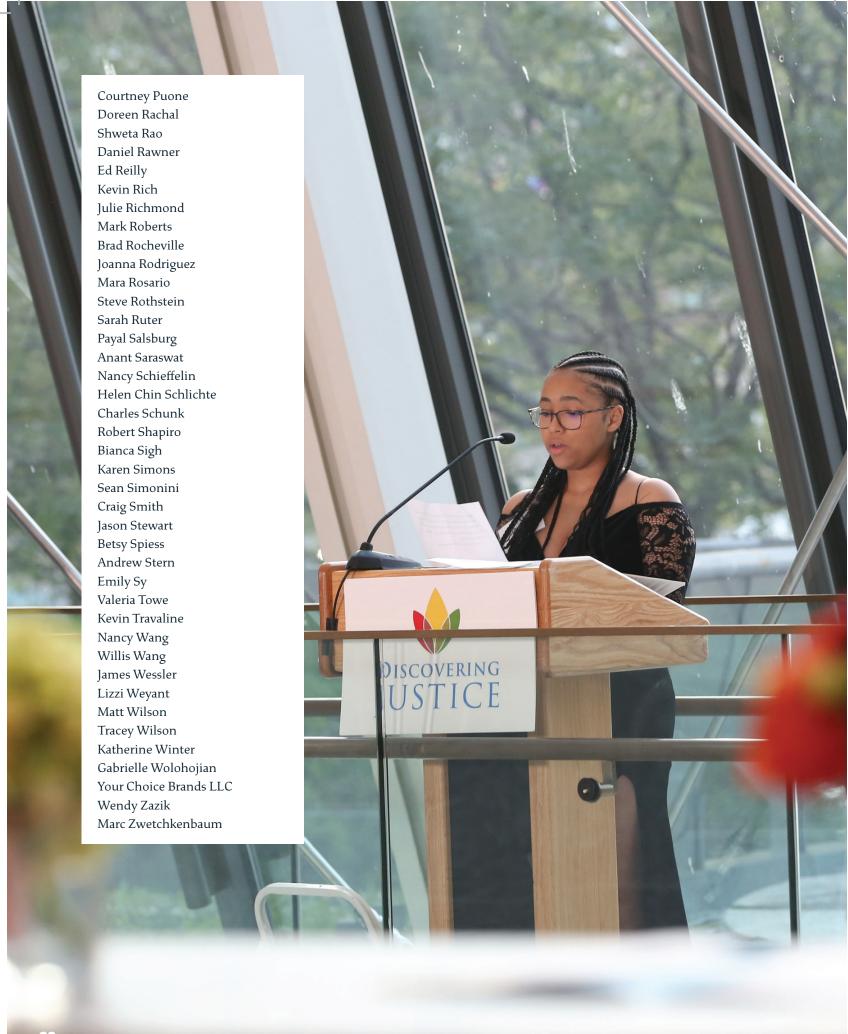
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Jonathan Spack

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Abim Thomas

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Tipping Cow Ice Cream

Universal Power Yoga

Upper Crust

Upper Falls Beverage Newton

USS Constitution Museum

Vitamin Sea Brewing

Whale Watch - Dolphin Fleet of

Provincetown

Matt Wilson

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Individuals

William Abely

Jayme Addy

Rilwan Adeduntan

Rhoda Agyeman

Sean Ahern

Sanghyun Ahn

Sobia Akhtar

Andrea Akinbola

Robert Alba

Mirian Albert

Chris Allen

Ellie Allen

Paula Altman

Rick Alves

Sarah Amorin

Alexandra Amrhein

Nancy Anthony

Shireen Ardaiz

Tanisha Arena

Julian Aris

Joseph Arsenault

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Debra Ashley

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lacob Binnall

William Black

Sara Bloom

Adienne Bock

Kevin Bolan

Lynn Bonesteel

lames Bor-Zale

Tara Boudreau

Anne Bowie

Randall Brachman

Jim Bradbury

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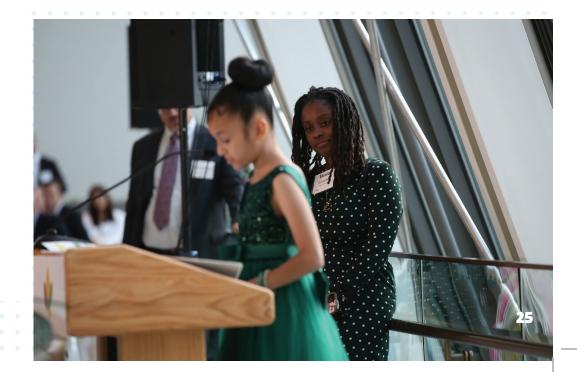
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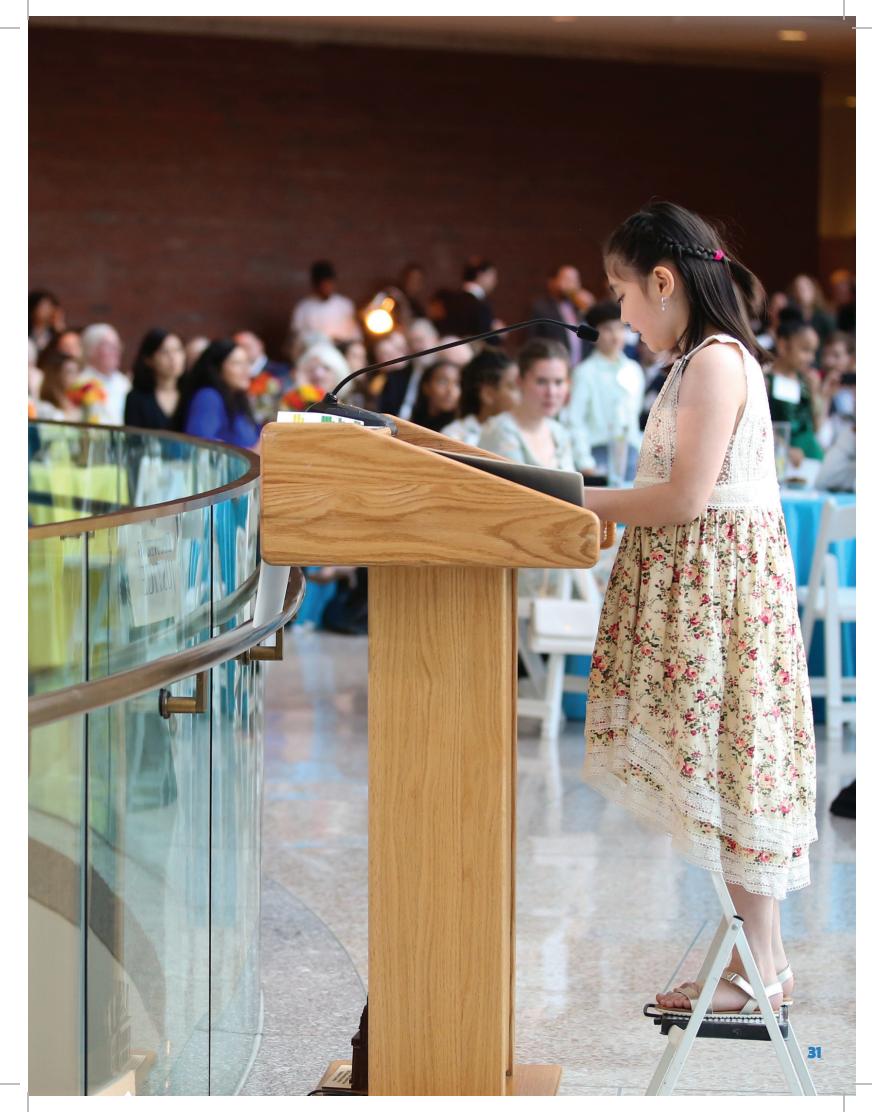
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