

PORTLAND URBAN DEBATE LEAGUE



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

MISSION

The mission of Portland Urban Debate League is to address opportunity gaps in education and empower students through competitive policy debate to become engaged learners and critical thinkers who are effective advocates for themselves and their communities.

VISION

Creating a thriving debate community, in which engaged students are partnered with trained coaches, the Portland Urban Debate League provides workshops and evidence to students, continuing education and curricular materials to coaches, and debate competitions with experienced judges throughout the school year. These resources are free or low-cost for member schools and available for purchase by non-member schools. We are committed to sharing expertise and ideas between programs, to mentoring and support, and to further discussions about debate and education. We also connect students to college and further education and leadership opportunities.

CONTACT US

info@portlanddebate.org

P.O. Box 1684
Portland, OR 97207

OUR TEAM

Interim Executive Director

Mallory Copeland

Board of Directors

Jake Weigler, Board Chair

Dylan Amo, Treasurer

Russell Hanes, Secretary

Amanda Pham-Haines

Autumn Steele

Jason Trombley

Avneet Sidhu





DEAR SUPPORTERS,

The last year has been challenging for our program, the community, and society at large. We have navigated new ways of living to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and a national uprising against racism and police misconduct. Portland Urban Debate League has adapted, helping support students and embracing this moment to help make our work timely and relevant to students. Thank you for your ongoing assistance in making this work possible.

We were well into our first full year of programming when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Working in collaboration with our teachers and volunteers, we transitioned to online competition. And when students were struggling to prepare for competition, we shifted our focus on the debate topic – the timely issue of criminal justice reform – to connect students with criminal justice leaders here in the community and learn about local efforts like the Portland Committee on Community-Engaged Policing (PCCEP). Even under these difficult conditions, we were one of the few extracurricular activities to keep students engaged and we stand ready to move forward in the coming school year – whether it be virtually or in person.

The last year also saw a transition in our team. After our previous executive director left for a new opportunity, I was elevated from program coordinator to interim executive director. I am so thankful of the opportunity to serve in this new role and appreciate the increased support of our board members in this time of organizational transition. We look forward to sharing with you later this year our selection for a new executive director.

We are poised for significant growth this year, expanding two new high schools and adding the first phase of our college & career connections program. We look forward to a resurgence as we emerge from the pandemic charged with a passion to help students recover and succeed. Thank you for your partnership in this critical work!

Sincerely,

Mallory Copeland
Interim Executive Director

OUR IMPACT IN 2021

140
students
from 5
schools

New Programs

- ✓ Roosevelt High School
- ✓ Parkrose High School

New Partnerships

- ✓ Self-Enhancement Inc.
- ✓ Portland Public Schools
- ✓ Portland Parks & Recreation

WE OFFERED

Weekly school
and afterschool
programming

1
summer
camp

2
tournaments

4
conversations with
local leaders in
criminal justice

A NEW PARTNERSHIP TO RESUME IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

Debate camp was a foundational experience for many policy debaters over the years. The summer program gives kids a head start on the upcoming season. Unfortunately, registration costs make many traditional debate camps unaffordable to the students we serve.

In the past, we have partnered with Lewis & Clark College to attend their on-campus camp. With that camp suspended this year, we were excited when Portland Public Schools offered to host and support summer programming. Even with short notice, we had students attend from Centennial High School and other Portland Public high schools.



Special thank you to Dani Ledezma, Lidia Lopez Gamboa, and the Oregon Community Foundation for their help in making this program possible!

OUR NEW PROGRAMS FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

We are excited to grow our league in the coming year with the addition of Roosevelt and Parkrose High Schools.

We are expanding to Roosevelt through a collaboration with Self Enhancement Inc., a comprehensive, one-stop resource for youth and families, primarily African Americans and others living in poverty or seeking culturally responsive services.

About Roosevelt High School

Roosevelt High School is located in North Portland and is the #4 most diverse public high school in Oregon, according to Niche ratings. Approximately 71% of its 994 students identify as Black, Indigenous, or Persons of Color (BIPOC).

The addition of Parkrose High School is thanks to a partnership with the Portland Parks & Recreation Department through the Multnomah County SUN Community Schools program.

About Parkrose High School

Parkrose High School is located in East Portland and is the most diverse public high school in Oregon, according to Niche ratings. About 72% of its 948 students are BIPOC.

OUR 2021 COMMUNITY IMPACT

117
students enrolled in League-supported debate courses

50%
identified as BIPOC

39%
qualified for free/reduced lunch

28
students competed in our two League-hosted tournaments

1st
League team to qualify for the OSAA State Championship



"I am an enthusiastic supporter of PUDL. Without their help, a majority of teachers in Portland will not receive the funding nor support for debate programs, thus depriving students of critical thinking skills which we desperately need in today's society."

– Jen Loeng, Centennial High School

"The Portland Urban Debate League has been invaluable to my success in debate. Not only for the amount of skill I have gained, but for the amazing friendships I made. The debate practice I received led me to be confident enough to compete in bigger tournaments against students who've been practicing debate for years, which has helped me gain the confidence to test my skills in so many other facets of life."

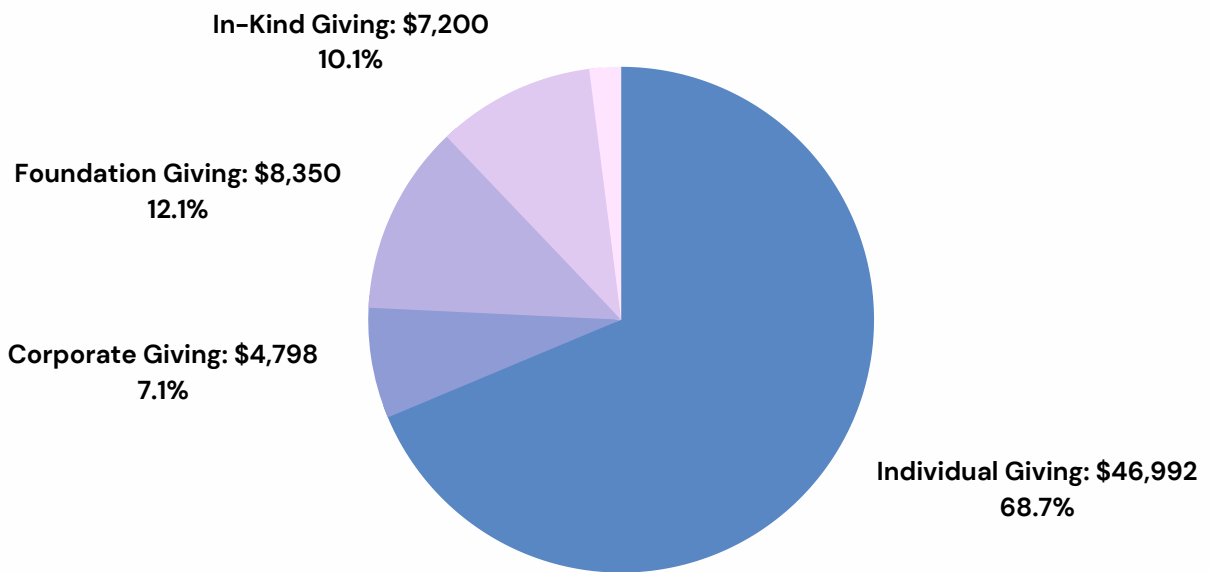
– Sahara Lally, Debater at McDaniel High School

"I started policy debate as a 14-year-old Vietnamese-American in rural Idaho. I am continually shocked at how often, "policy debate" is the answer to someone asking where I learned a particular skill. I know for a fact that I would not be the advocate I am today without my 8 years of policy debate experience." – Amanda Haines, PUDL Board Member

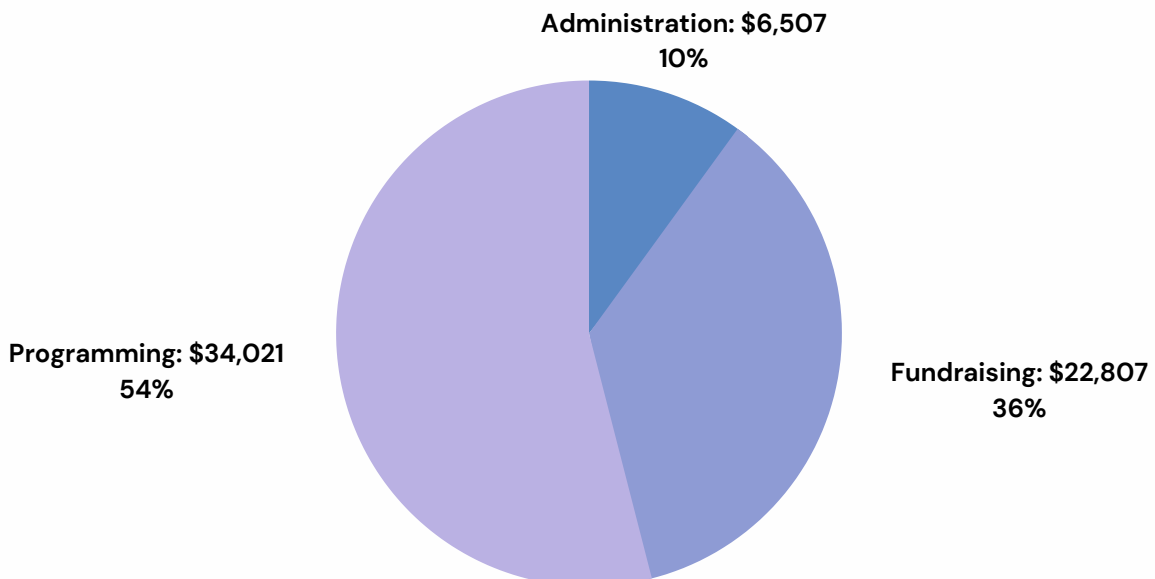


OUR FISCAL YEAR 2021 FINANCES

TOTAL RAISED: \$68,748



TOTAL EXPENSES: \$63,335



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!



\$1001+

Dylan Amo & Andi Easton
Dan Bates
Russell Hanes
Bill & Jenn Lynch
Jake & Heather Weigler
Jerard Weigler

\$501-\$1000

Bina Mehta
Tim Cunningham
Chris & Laura Dominic
Katie Mapes
Judy McKeever
Ray Moreno
Joseph Shapiro

\$251-\$500

Keith & Chris Amo
Marc Abrams
Jalon Alexander
Kara Borden
Janelle Bynum
Ryan Clark

\$251-\$500 Continued

Cameron Crowell
Barry Dysart
Ellen Rosenblum
Geoff Elzner
Lainie Ettinger
Nicholas Greenfield
Jim Hanson
Cody Hoesly
Misha Issak
Mark Jackson
Elizabeth & Ethan Knight
Kyle Lachmund
Greg H. Macpherson
Brian Marshall
Brit McLean
Joe Patrice
Rick & Rebecca Thomas
Jennifer Treichler
Melaura Wittemyer
Joe Worthey
Bruce Wren

\$101-\$250

Emily Baker
John Balduzzi
Steve Blackhurst
Ian Christy
Keith Eddins
Rima Ghandour
Mick Harris
Morgan Holm
Stephen Pilson
Brian Simmonds
John Treadway

\$1-100

Ron Bronson
Mallory Copeland
Leann Do
Joseph Flores
Emma Gray
Amanda Pham Haines
Dixie Hanes
Joanne Kim
Anders Larson

\$1-100 Continued

Bill Messer
Scott Odekirk
Valerie Plummer
Brian Shipley
Christi Siver
Mark Skoglund
Katie Staggers
Suzanne Suwada
Kristin Thiel
Joshua Tripp
John Turner
Angela Wilhelms
Harry Wilson