

# Proving the Possible



2025–2026

## Annual Impact Report

# Dear Partners,

In a city as dynamic as Los Angeles, our schools remain our greatest shared investment. In a year of changes with LAUSD leadership, the mission of the LAUSD Education Foundation remains urgent. We are the independent 501(c)3 nonprofit governed by an independent board that creates outcomes for the students in Los Angeles.

Public schools are the foundation of our city, and the young Angelenos who depend on them need us now more than ever. Every day, nearly half a million students rely on the Foundation to bridge critical gaps. By funding mental health services, dedicated resources for unhoused students, and targeted investments in our highest-priority schools, we strengthen academic outcomes, foster wellness, and expand access to enrichment and innovation.

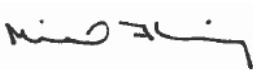
But we cannot do this work alone. The future of Los Angeles is being shaped in our classrooms today, and our collective investment has never mattered more. We invite you to deepen your partnership with us. Together, we can ensure every young Angeleno has the resources, support, and opportunities they deserve to thrive.

Thank you for your unwavering belief in our students and our shared city.

Sincerely,



**Dr. Sadie Jefferson**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
LAUSD EDUCATION FOUNDATION



**Michael Fleming**  
BOARD CHAIR,  
LAUSD EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDING  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
DAVID BOHNETT FOUNDATION

## We Are the Bridge Between Philanthropy & Los Angeles Unified Schools

### MISSION

The LAUSD Education Foundation (LAEF) is dedicated to advancing equity and opportunity for all students in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). The Foundation serves as a bridge between the District and the private sector, mobilizing expertise and resources to *enhance* targeted programs, *expand* learning opportunities, and ensure that every child has the tools to learn, thrive, and succeed.

### HOW WE WORK

As the independent, 501(c)(3) of LAUSD, we have a unique position to identify gaps with District leaders and **design** research-backed and evidence-informed solutions. We then **test** these solutions in schools, collaborating with partners, while measuring outcomes and what moves the needle. After finding what works, we then **scale** the models by handing proven strategies to the District to sustain over time improving outcomes for students across the District.



Identify gaps with District leaders and design evidence-informed solutions

Pilot in real schools, learn fast, and measure what moves outcomes.



Grow what works — handing proven models to the District to sustain.

# Our Impact at a Glance

This year, LAEF directed \$14 Million of resources quickly and strategically across Los Angeles Unified, supporting students and families in moments of crisis, investing in schools, expanding access to arts and opportunity, and connecting partners to the places where their generosity could make the greatest difference.

## \$13.5M+

resources quickly and strategically  
directed across Los Angeles Unified

## 3,000+

families supported

Sponsor a Family provided **745 families** with gift cards to purchase holiday gifts for their loved ones.

## 80,000+

students reached

Events like the Student Innovation Challenge provided scholarships for high school students who created innovative solutions to problems facing their community.

## \$880,000

In-Kind Supports Received in addition to funds raised

## 300+

schools supported

Through the Opportunity Fund, Priority Schools received funding to create STEAM labs to strengthen science instruction and creativity.

## 600+

partners engaged

# Strengthening Schools Where Opportunity Gaps Are Deepest



## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

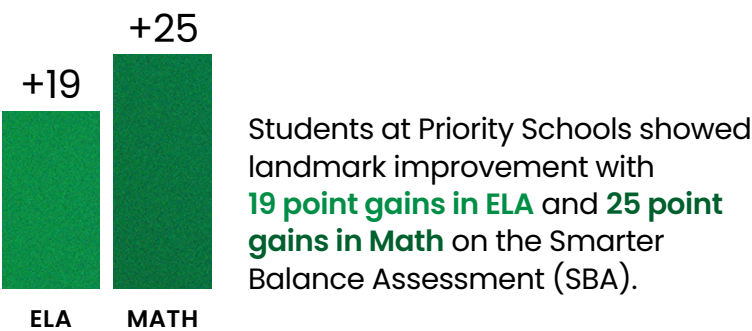
An \$11M investment from Ballmer Group, The Broad Foundation, and The Chuck Lorre Family Foundation is fueling the Opportunity Fund’s mission to prove what many thought impossible: that a large urban district can combine stellar leadership and research-backed strategies to transform student success.

This vital funding drives immediate impact across our Priority Schools, powering world-class professional development, deep data analytics, and high-dosage tutoring through Ballmer Group and The Broad Foundation, while The Chuck Lorre Family Foundation activates creativity and discovery through state-of-the-art STEAM labs, makerspaces, and music programs. Ultimately, this work carries profound national implications—because if we can achieve this level of district-wide transformation in Los Angeles, we can do it anywhere.



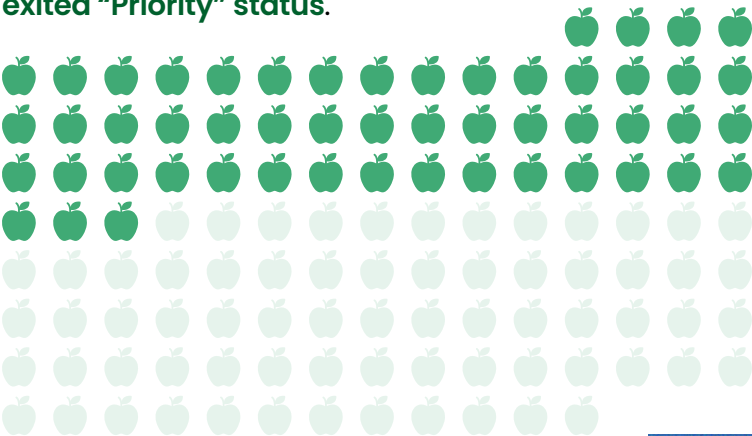
The Opportunity Fund is our flagship initiative, a bold, multi-year investment in LAUSD’s Priority Schools, the campuses serving students furthest from opportunity. Through sustained investment in innovation and school improvement, we are working to transform the long-term life outcomes of hundreds of thousands of students in Los Angeles.

This investment is designed to strengthen instruction, expand access to high-quality learning experiences, and help schools build the conditions students need to thrive.



Priority Schools students are outpacing the District across the board, with **Black students making the most significant gains across all student groups.**

As a result of the hard work of teachers and students, combined with intentional investment, **52 of the 121 Priority Schools exited “Priority” status.**



# Compassion Fund

1,703  
families  
impacted

\$867,000  
funding raised  
and deployed

3,109  
students  
impacted

\$500  
one-time grant per  
applicant, available  
annually

<\$25,000  
average household  
income

TOP AREAS OF NEED  
Rent, utilities,  
groceries, and  
transportation

In its first six months, the Compassion Fund reached families across Los Angeles, including communities in South Central, Van Nuys, Pacoima, Pico-Union, and nearly every zip code in the city. Many student recipients were young children, and many families were navigating housing instability.

The need for this urgent and rapid support is vast in our city, and LAEF has proven an incredibly flexible and nimble support provider to families in crisis. Through continued philanthropic support we have the opportunity to increase our scale and meet the demand of our most at risk families in the city by responding quickly when students and families face crisis, ensuring that one emergency does not become a permanent barrier.

**A gift of \$500 can provide an emergency grant to one LAUSD student or family.**

## WORDS FROM LAUSD PARENTS:

"Thank you Compassion Fund. Your generous donation helped my family when we were in need. The money received was used for groceries and some new clothing for my son. We are thankful for your support."

"I am so thankful to the Compassion Fund. The money came at a time when we needed it most. I was very sick and the money helped to pay the rent."

"The money was used for groceries. Thank you for the help that you gave."



# Supporting Unhoused and Foster Youth

Along with direct cash assistance for families through The Compassion Fund, the Foundation also invests into LAUSD's Student Support Programs, including unhoused students and foster youth. Through events like Sponsor-A-Family and graduation ceremonies, we provide multiple touchpoints for students and families to receive the support they need and celebrate their accomplishments.



## GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Students experiencing homelessness and students in foster care have a special graduation ceremony at the end of the school year. With our partners, the Foundation was able to provide 300 laptops to seniors as well as nearly \$7,000 in scholarships.

## SPONSOR-A-FAMILY

Each December, the Foundation partners with LAUSD to distribute gift cards for families to purchase gifts for the holidays and other personal needs.



## HOPE DEALERS SCREENING

In May, the Foundation hosted a screening of KCLS's Hope Dealers at Paramount Studios. The LAUSD student and her family were interviewed, and all funds raised went directly to supporting our students facing homelessness.



~\$200,000

Funds raised and deployed to support unhoused and foster youth

2,000  
students supported

300

Laptops provided for graduating seniors

"I want to take the time to say thank you. For caring enough to give to children you have never met or seen so that they will have a chance to have a wonderful xmas. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. The world needs more people like you."

—Recipient of Sponsor-a-Family gift

"On behalf of the Homeless Education Office, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the District's Education Foundation and the team behind the scenes for standing alongside our students and families experiencing homelessness by ensuring they have the support they need to continue learning, growing, and pursuing their dreams despite the numerous challenges they have to face...The Foundation's commitment to our students and families provides more than financial assistance; it provides hope, dignity, and the resources that our students need to thrive."

—Letisia Alvarado,  
LAUSD Homeless Education Office Coordinator

# Wildfire Fund

**\$2.5M+**  
total wildfire support  
deployed

**8,420**  
students  
reached

**13**  
schools  
supported

**\$850,000**  
mental health  
supports funded

**340**  
classroom projects  
funded through  
DonorsChoose

**384**  
educators  
reached

**\$900,000**  
funds distributed to  
school and  
classroom projects



In January 2025, when wildfires disrupted school communities, LAEF helped philanthropy move quickly from emergency response to long-term recovery. The work did not end when the immediate crisis passed. LAEF continued to support affected schools through providing recovery supplies, mental health resources, educator support, partner events, and community wellness efforts that helped students, families, and staff begin to heal and rebuild.

Recovery is not a single moment, but rather the ongoing act of helping students feel safe, supported, and whole again.

## RESTORING SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Thanks to our supporters at SoCal Fire Fund, Amazon, and Disney Consumer Products, we partnered with DonorsChoose to distribute \$300,000 to 13 fire-impacted campuses. To date, we have funded 331 classroom projects. With the funds, educators have replaced essential items that have been lost or damaged, including furniture, classroom seating, and the basic supplies required to rebuild safe and functional learning environments.

## SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH AND HEALING

Wildfires can leave lasting emotional effects on students, educators, and families. LAEF supported mental health and wellness resources to help school communities process disruption, rebuild routines, and create calming spaces where students could feel safe and supported.

Mental health supports included psychiatric social workers, Calm Corners and wellness spaces for students, wellness supports for staff and students, and parent workshops. LAEF also provided funding to the Paul Revere Middle School Farm, a place of solace for students where they learn important life skills and have various therapeutic outlets to enjoy.



"January 2025 was devastating for our family. We lost our home, our community, and our schools. During one of the most difficult times in our lives, the LAUSD Education Foundation stepped in with compassion and meaningful support. Through vouchers, direct financial assistance, and even an unforgettable day at a Rams game, they helped restore a sense of hope and normalcy for our family. We are deeply grateful for everything they have done and will never forget the support they provided when we needed it most."

—Joanna Curtis, LAUSD Employee

## EDUCATOR + PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

A special shoutout to the Los Angeles Rams, who donated proceeds from their Home Opener Raffle, bringing in \$84,000 for the Compassion Fund. The Rams also graciously sponsored five LAUSD employees & their families who lost their home in the fires by providing \$15,000 each for rebuilding their homes and sense of safety.

# Signature Funds

## Arts & Music

Opportunity is not only measured in test scores. It is also measured in whether a student has an instrument to play, a stage to stand on, and a reason to believe their voice matters. In order to continue providing free instrument repair and restoration services, some much needed upgrades have been underway at the Repair Shop.

This year with support from our partners, the following upgrades have been made: new HVAC systems for the repair shop and instrument storage warehouse, two new ultrasonic cleaning baths with deionized water purification, and a freshly painted building façade — creating a healthier, more efficient environment for the technicians who care for students’ instruments

Additional upgrades include new workstations for four repair technicians and a completed 20’ exterior instrument washroom with additional storage have expanded our capacity to serve more students, more efficiently.

13,000  
instruments  
repaired

\$4.9M  
raised to support  
The Last Repair  
Shop

## College & Career Readiness

Preparing students for life after high school means giving them real opportunities to see themselves in the world beyond the classroom. Internships and work-based learning allow young people to explore careers, build confidence, and understand how their education connects to real jobs and real futures. LAEF advances college and career readiness by investing in paid internship and apprenticeship opportunities for students across Los Angeles. Students gain real life experiences through pathways such as healthcare, logistics, aerospace, and construction.

Over the coming year, LAEF will collaborate with district leadership and regional partners to develop new pathways aligned with dynamic local industries and growth sectors. These pathways will integrate career exploration, hands-on experience, and training and credentialing partners – ensuring all LAUSD students have access to the jobs of tomorrow.

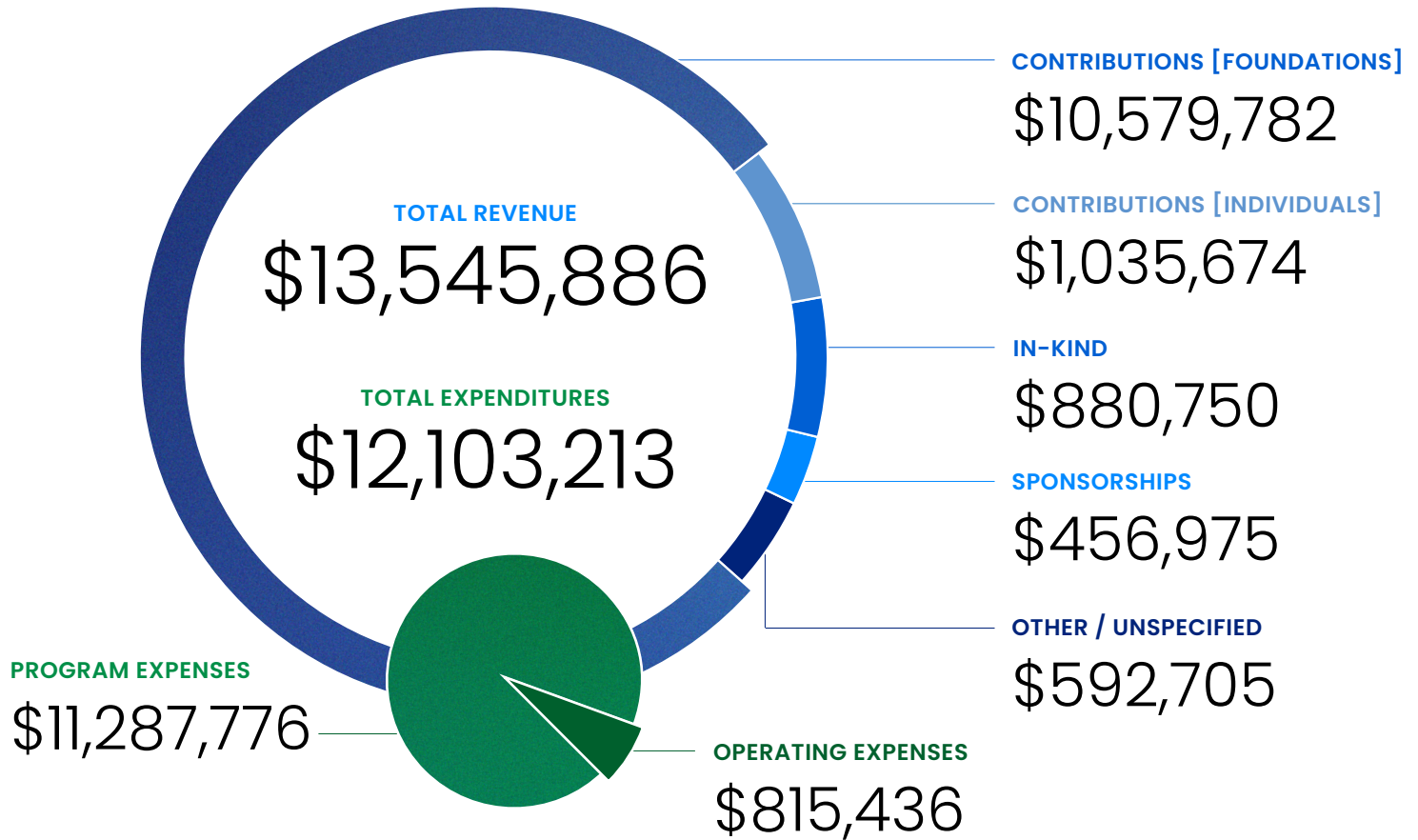
OVER 480  
students  
participated in  
career-aligned  
pathways

ALMOST  
\$500,000  
in student  
scholarships  
distributed



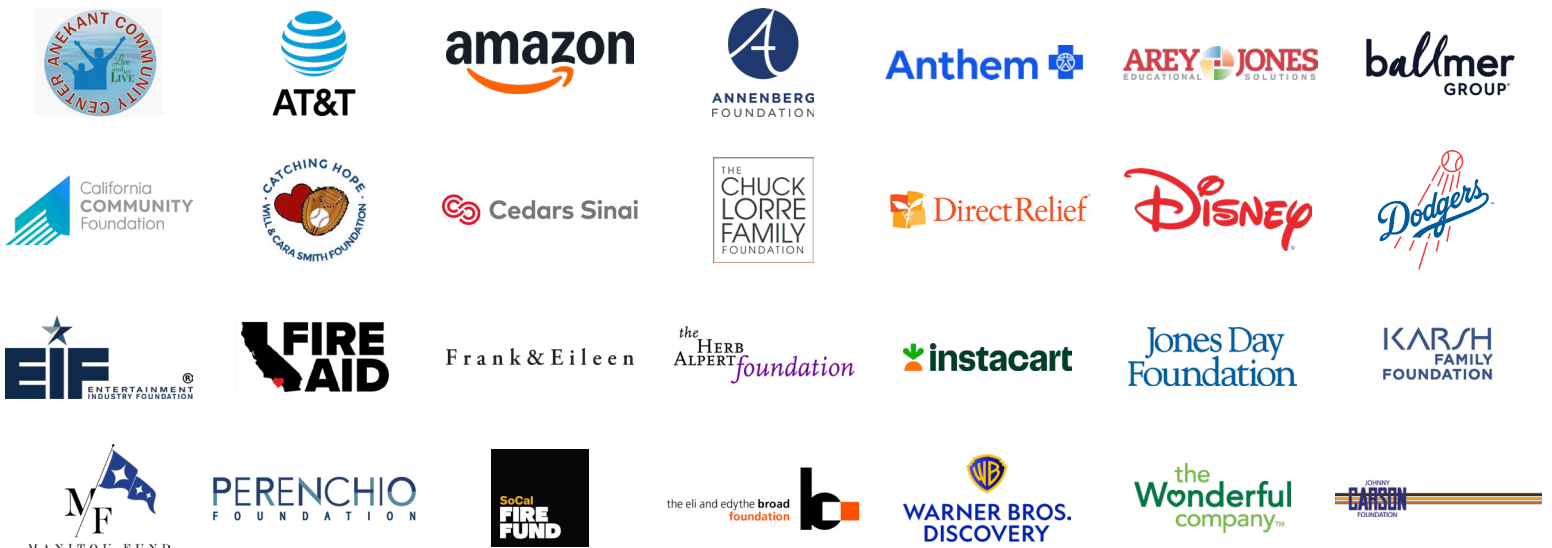
# Partners & Financials

LAEF's impact is made possible by donors, foundations, companies, school leaders, District partners, and community members who believe that public education is one of Los Angeles' greatest shared responsibilities.



## Our Partners

From funding wildfire relief to supporting our highest-priority schools, these partners have made a recent commitment of \$50,000 or more through the Foundation. Together, we are ensuring that every LAUSD student has the tools, care, and community they need to thrive.



# Join Us

## DONATE

Make a gift today



## PARTNER WITH US

Collaborate with us to increase opportunities for LAUSD youth:

[info@lausdedfoundation.org](mailto:info@lausdedfoundation.org)

## CONNECT

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 LAUSD Education Foundation



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Silver  
Transparency  
2025

**Candid.**