

VOX ATL IS NECESSARY

VOX ATL's mission is to lead a youth-voice movement where teens from diverse backgrounds create a stronger, more equitable community through leadership and uncensored self-expression. Since 1993, Atlanta-area teens have joined VOX ATL to become better prepared for their futures, connected to their peers and supportive adults, and valued as leaders and communicators in our community.

KEEPING IT VOXY

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued virtual programming throughout the year. VOX's program model is adaptable to the virtual space and we have all learned so much about creating interactive and connected spaces on Zoom. We built on what we learned last year and ensured that we didn't skip a beat by continuing to offer community workshops to teens and adults outside of VOX all while keeping VOX teens connected and engaged! Highlights from our program year included:

- Every teen received a VOX Box to welcome them or welcome them back complete with swag and personalized snacks!
- Mindful Mondays, a digital meet-up every week, co-facilitated by VOX teens and adult staff is designed to provide structured time for us to slow down and connect with ourselves and one another.
- Facilitators' First Fridays provided a regular virtual meet-up for VOXY facilitators to connect, reflect and build formative new skills!
- Our weekly publishing meetings continued online with increased attendance. While remaining a space to pitch new stories and ideas these meetings also provided a crucial outlet to talk about a complex world - through all things like election season, a continued pandemic and bold movements for justice.
- We remained committed to getting a print edition done in 2020, complete with an insert for adults who work with teens aka Guides on the Side, highlighting quality practices and programs in our community. Our teen content was powerful and thought-provoking as always and we worked creatively to get this edition out into the community through grassroots methods and distribution!
- Small, in-person meet-ups outside so we could be with one another in safe ways.
- Community building, like game nights and Netflix parties.

During the 2020-21 program year, VOX served **more than 290,000** teens and readers:

- **69** active teen staff members from **46** different metro Atlanta schools
- **25** teens through VOX Media Cafe, our summer multimedia camp
- **7** teens through our poetry collective
- **1,635** teens and adults through **63** community workshops and events
- **288,793** digital readers on VOXATL.org

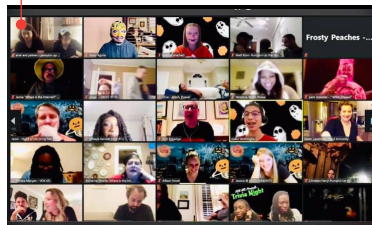
WHAT'S NEW AT VOX ATL?

In unprecedented times, VOX remained innovative and focused on supporting teens with opportunities to use their voice and build community. Some examples of these new opportunities include:

- 8 teens participated in our new VOXY Budgeting Group, where we discussed how the VOX budget is created, what we spend our money on, where we get our money from, how we make the budget VOXY (for both expenses and income) and what ethical questions might arise when raising funds.
- We hosted our first ever virtual fundraiser in October 2021 - VOX Trivia Night! This fun and interactive evening was complete with teams, costumes and DJ Marvel, a VOX teen DJ!
- We were extremely grateful to WarnerMedia for partnering with us this summer, making it possible for VOX Media Cafe to go national! We invited teens from across the country to participate in our digital media experience - complete with Q&As with WarnerMedia journalists like Carl Azuz.

VIRTUAL TRIVIA NIGHT

While we weren't able to gather in person for our second trivia night fundraiser, we made the most of our Zoom rooms, complete with a costume contest, DJ and team-style breakouts.



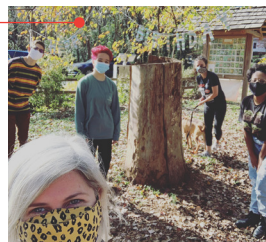
FALL 2020 TEEN EDITORS' TRAINING

Our team managed to stay connected and prepared and we had a committed group of teen editors leading their peers with plenty of great energizers like the virtual signature - 60 second scavenger hunt!



IN-PERSON MEET-UPS

Using Atlanta's beautiful outdoor spaces made it possible for us to gather even in the midst of the pandemic, bringing necessary energy and connection!



PRINT EDITION

We were grateful and excited to release a print edition to round out 2020. The cover pretty much says it all!

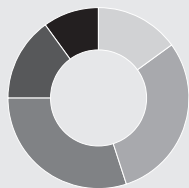
VOX MEDIA CAFE

Virtual programming made it possible for VOX Media Cafe to expand nationally as well as incorporate experts from the field like the one and only Carl Azuz!



FY21 FINANCIALS

In FY21, VOX ATL raised approximately \$680,000. We appreciate the many individuals, foundations, companies and government agencies who financially support us! For a full list of our donors, please visit www.voxatl.org.



Please note, these numbers are unaudited. Our FY21 independent audit will be available in early 2022.

THE VOX ATL COMMUNITY

We want to say a special thank you to everyone who made our 2020-21 program year possible: volunteers who shared their time, energy and expertise; donors and funders who returned resources to the community with their financial support; and organizations who partnered with us to create innovative program opportunities. And of course, the biggest shout-out goes to our VOX ATL teen staff members and alumni - we are grateful for the way you courageously share your stories and those of your peers, and the way you re-imagine what our world can be. Thank you for all you do to build a place where teens are creating, leading, and thriving.

PARTNERSHIPS AT VOX ATL

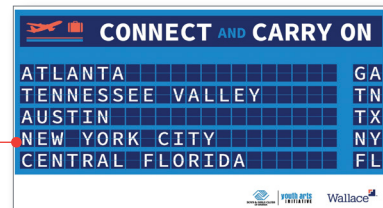
The Wallace Foundation

Since 2019, VOX has been grateful to partner with HTI Catalysts, The Wallace Foundation and the Boys & Girls Club through the Youth Arts Initiative (YAI). YAI convened learning communities of program practitioners, funders and administrators working together to bring high-quality youth arts programming to teens in 5 metropolitan areas: Atlanta, Austin, Knoxville, New York and Orlando. VOX was highlighted as facilitators and subject matter experts in youth voice. Zariah Taylor, VOX teen board member, stepped up our social media presence by serving as a paid intern on the project. As a result, VOX understands new possibilities for our earned revenue strategy as we see the importance of engaging adults in building a youth-voice movement.



WALLACE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Working with partners at HTI, the Boys & Girls Club of America and The Wallace Foundation, VOX was able to hone in on a further aspect of our earned revenue - supporting adults to work with youth in shaping their programs with best practices at the heart.

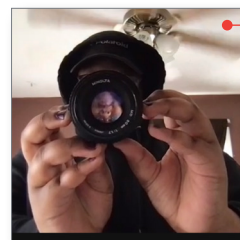


CONNECT & CARRY ON

Our virtual learning communities - facilitated with our partners at HTI - provided experiential learning for adult providers, built community and allowed for the wisdom in the Youth Arts Initiative to shine!

Center for Sustainable Journalism

Back in December 2019, the Center for Sustainable Journalism asked if VOX ATL would partner on a photography storytelling project. VOX would bring our youth-driven program model to system-involved youth to provide inspiring storytelling through photography. We all got excited about the possibilities of this collaboration, including co-publishing content along with CSJ & Bokeh Focus — including a gallery exhibition! Then the pandemic happened. We reformatted service delivery to include peer-led, hands-on learning and community building in a virtual world. youthSpark and VOX ATL partnered virtually to deliver on the photography workshop series in 2021. We recruited Chiron — a trained VOX ATL peer leader — who developed a pilot for youthSpark participants to help inform the series. That series led to teen-created and facilitated activities, culminating in a virtual gallery opening featuring twelve young artists. This was a powerful journey and culminating event for all of the partners and participants!



CHIRON'S PORTRAIT

Chiron Bates, VOX's peer leader, demonstrates a powerful way to take a portrait by turning the lens around for workshop participants from youthSpark.

INVITE FOR VIRTUAL GALLERY OPENING

Our culminating event for the teen-driven project with CSJ showcased many unique partners and perspectives coming together to amplify the youth voices!



In addition to the Wallace Foundation & the Center for Sustainable Journalism, we're grateful and proud to partner with these organizations in 2020-21 to amplify teens' voices:

TA & Training Partners - we provide training and technical assistance to increase youth voices and leadership in organizations that serve teens
 Afterschool Alliance
 Beyond School Hours
 Decatur Education Foundation
 Fulton County Youth Services
 GA DBHDD - CYF
 Georgia Teen Institute - GUIDE, Inc

Horizons Atlanta
 JumpSpark
 SOJOURN
 The Wallace Foundation Youth Arts Initiative
 United Way of Greater Atlanta

Program & Publishing Partners:
 The Alliance Theater
 Center for Sustainable Journalism
 Sandy Springs Together

Latin American Association
 Usher's New Look

Coalition & Public Awareness Partners
 Atlanta Regional Commission
 Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network
 Voices for Georgia's Children

PEOPLE AT VOX ATL

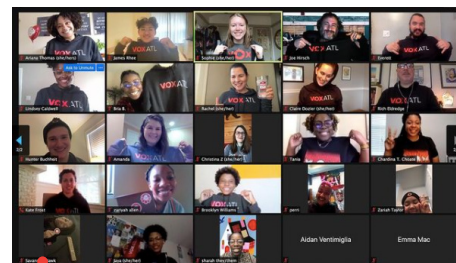
VOX ATL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2020-21

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 Dinah Rogers, Decatur High School
 Anne Seymour, Dixon Rye
 Everett Steele, City of Atlanta
 Zariah Taylor, Carver Early College
 Christina Zdanowicz, CNN Digital

VOX ATL ADULT STAFF, 2020-21

Susan Landrum, MSW, Executive Director
 Richard Eldredge, Senior Editor
 Josie Footmon-Smith, LMSW, Program Director
 Maurice Garland, Publishing Director
 Allison Hood, MSW, Associate Director
 Rachel Alterman Wallack, MSW, Founder & Mission Director



Here's a picture of our board and teens rocking VOX swag during our annual board retreat. We might've been apart physically but together we were very much on brand!

VOX ATL

229 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 725 • Atlanta, GA 30303 • 404-614-0040

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