



The YCD Changemakers Gala

A Night to Ignite Youth Voices



Sponsorship Opportunities and Benefits

Date

Saturday, September 14, 2024

Location

Denver Art Museum
100 W. 14th Avenue Parkway
Denver, CO 80204

Event Website

ycdiversity.org/changemakers

About the Event

The Changemakers Gala is YCD's biggest community-building and fundraising event of the year! Come together with 300+ supporters of the youth movement for inclusion and justice as we honor and celebrate the work of our incredible students and educators. Join us on **Saturday, September 14, 2024** to empower students and educators lifting up marginalized voices, improving school environments, and tackling the social issues facing young people today.

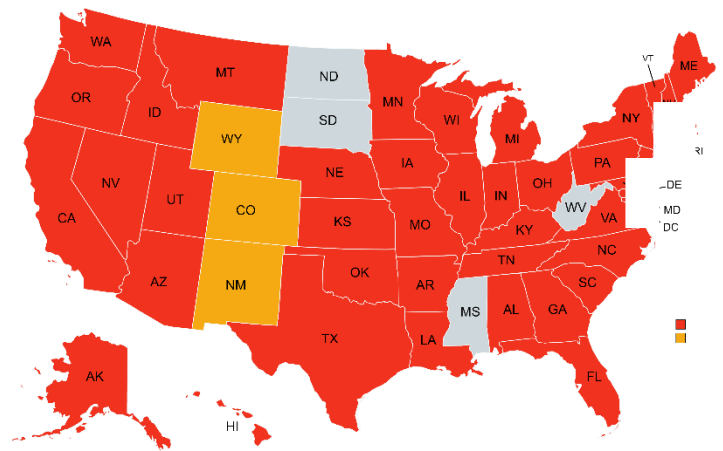
Who We Are

Youth Celebrate Diversity (YCD) is building a grassroots movement of students and educators organizing locally, educating themselves and their peers, and taking action for inclusion and social justice. Our vision is that one day, every teen in America will feel safe, respected, and empowered to achieve their potential.

Over the past several years, we have worked with and supported youth virtually across 46 states, in addition to our in-person programs in Colorado, New Mexico and Wyoming.

YCD is the proud recipient of the 2018 Colorado Governor's Service Award for Outstanding Nonprofit Organization and the 2021 Inclusiveness@Work Nonprofit Award.

All proceeds from The Changemakers Gala will support YCD in sustaining its current programs in Colorado and New Mexico, while also strengthening our youth-led virtual training and education curriculum centered on diversity, inclusion, equity, and social justice that can be used by any middle or high school student or club in the United States.



YCD Programs

Statistics from the 2022-23 program year



Started in 1994, today YCD Colorado reaches over 1,100 teens and educators in 185+ schools and youth organizations annually across the state through a mixture of virtual and in-person events, workshops, trainings, discussion groups, and resources. Through this program, YCD also supports and services groups in Wyoming.



Started in 2019 and modeled off its sister program in Colorado, YCD New Mexico reaches over 400 teens and educators in 50+ schools and youth organizations annually across the state.

Started in response to growing interest in YCD's programs during the COVID-19 pandemic, today YCD Virtual reaches hundreds of teens and educators in over 90 schools and youth organizations across the country, providing webinars, activity plans, trainings, discussion groups, and resources to empower teens and educators to advance inclusion and justice in their local school and community.



YCD's Student Virtual Board created and produces the Teens Talk Podcast, launched in August 2021, to elevate youth voice on the critical issues facing teens today. Now in its second season, the podcast is available on iTunes, Spotify, and YouTube.

Finally, YCD offers Professional Development for Educators based anywhere in the United States, to maintain their educational credentials while learning about the latest developments in the world of diversity, inclusion, and equity, inspired by the topics YCD hears the most about in our youth-focused programs.



Keynote Speaker



Lily Joy Winder is a Diné and Southern Ute activist and actor attending Stanford University. She currently has a following of 300,000 on TikTok (@sheshortnbrown) where she has gained traction because of her advocacy for Indigenous communities, specifically concerning issues that intersect with tribal sovereignty, environmentalism, and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People epidemic.

Winder is the founder of #PeopleNotMascots which is a movement that strives to retire offensive Native mascots in United States public schools. The People Not Mascots movement has amassed attention from Teen Vogue, Seventeen, Indian Country Today, The Harvard Institute of Politics, and Newsweek. Winder works to expand the #PeopleNotMascots movement toward a national conversation and continues to work on policy that would help Native Americans across the country.

Only 21, Winder plans on dedicating the rest of her life to shedding light on Native experiences, cultures, and people.

Gala Honorees

We hope you can join us on September 14 to honor and recognize these incredible individuals making positive social change in Colorado, New Mexico and beyond!

Student Changemakers of the Year



Robelle Abai is from Littleton, Colorado, where he recently graduated from D'Evelyn Jr./Sr. High School. He plans on attending the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado at Boulder in the fall of 2024. He is the youngest of three, and the son of two amazing parents who are immigrants from Ethiopia. When an incident concerning racism occurred at his school, Robelle used the tools and confidence acquired through YCD to help make a positive change within his school. By working with two other students, with whom Robelle formed the club "D'Evelyn DEI Coalition", he prepared a presentation to give in front of every staff member. He started by sharing his story and what he has experienced, highlighting how many of his encounters with racism happen right under a teacher's nose. This allowed him to transition into the impact that each teacher has, both positive and negative. Then, he offered ways of dealing with students who may have

participated in racist, homophobic, and other forms of oppressive actions. From there, alongside with the DEI Coalition, he met with individual faculty departments, specifically English and History. Ultimately, they were able to alter the English reading curriculum at their school and add more authors of color to the curriculum where they were not being represented. During his senior year, with the DEI Coalition, Robelle was also able to make alteration requests to the Student Misconduct Form in order to make it more equitable, and establish the first annual D'Evelyn Multicultural Night as a celebration of the cultures of its student body.

Student Changemakers of the Year (continued)

Maryam El-Kady has been an unstoppable leader in advancing inclusion and justice in her school and community. Maryam co-founded the Muslim Student Association at her school, creating a safe and important space for Muslim students to build community and connection in a school setting where they are often isolated and marginalized. She also spearheaded the creation of a coalition of all the various student unions at La Cueva High School, so that these groups could work collaboratively and collectively to build an inclusive culture. In addition, she has been highly active in the Albuquerque community, raising awareness and speaking out against injustice in Gaza by elevating the issue at her school, with state legislators, and on social media, and has personally raised thousands of dollars to support humanitarian relief efforts, in partner with political organizations. Maryam is a rising junior at La Cueva High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and has participated in the YCD New Mexico program for the past two years and has served on the board for one year.



Community Changemaker of the Year



Carlotta Walls LaNier, at age 14, was the youngest of the nine courageous Black students known as the Little Rock Nine who integrated Little Rock Central High School in 1957. The integration of the Arkansas high school was a catalyzing event in the American Civil Rights Movement testing the landmark decision by the U.S. Supreme Court declaring segregation in public schools unconstitutional (*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 1954).

LaNier and her fellow students initially were escorted to Central High School by the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army and later the Arkansas National Guard. Daily, they endured verbal taunts and physical harassment while at school. LaNier was one of three Little Rock Nine students to return to Central High School after the closing of all Little Rock high schools in 1958–1959 and became the first Black woman to walk across the Central

High School stage to receive her diploma.

After graduating from Central High in 1960, she studied at Michigan State University for two years before moving to Colorado. She enrolled at the University of Northern Colorado and earned her bachelor's degree in 1968. She, along with the other members of the Little Rock Nine, is the recipient of the nation's highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal, awarded by President Bill Clinton in 1999, the prestigious Spingarn Medal from the NAACP, and the Lincoln Leadership Prize awarded by the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation. LaNier is a recipient of four honorary doctorate degrees and is an inductee into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame.

LaNier has documented her journey with Lisa Frazier Paige in *A Mighty Long Way...My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High*. She was a founding Board member of Youth Celebrate Diversity, and has been an active supporter of YCD, as well as numerous other Colorado community organizations working for social justice, for decades. She is the President of the Little Rock Nine Foundation, a financial aid and mentoring organization dedicated to ensuring equal access to education for children of color.

Alumna Changemaker of the Year

Bianka Emerson is a campaign strategist with nearly 20 years of experience in electoral politics and the public/nonprofit sectors, including working as senior staff for presidential, gubernatorial, and mayoral campaigns.

She was the campaign manager for an important state ballot initiative that addressed the housing and homeless crisis - "Prop. 123, Make CO Affordable." Successfully becoming law, this provides millions of dollars per year to address the housing crisis and homelessness in the state of Colorado.

Bianka was also appointed by Governor

Jared Polis to the Environment Justice Advisory Board, where she works with a team in advising the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) on best practices for engaging disproportionately impacted communities, responding to environmental justice policy matters referred by the Governor's Office or CDPHE, and creating and overseeing an environmental justice grants program.

She was recently selected to join the first inaugural cohort of the BPIA Colin Powell Leadership Institute organized by Black Professionals in International Affairs. As president of Colorado Black Women for Political Action (CBWPA), Bianka leads efforts to advocate for political and policy solutions that are critical for the Black community throughout Colorado. Bianka has a master's in social science and a law degree. She is the 2nd Vice President of Top Ladies of Distinction, Mountain West Area, and a member of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW).



Sponsorship Levels

Presenting Sponsor – \$25,000

1 available

Hospitality

- Two premium tables of 8 with company logo/name on table signage
- 16 VIP invitations to meet privately with keynote speaker
- First right of refusal to become presenting sponsor of 2025 gala

Pre- and Post-Event Marketing

- Recognition as presenting sponsor with logo on all event materials
- Recognition as presenting sponsor with logo on event website
- Mention in all press releases connected to event
- Social media thank-you post
- Inclusion in follow-up thank you e-blast to attendees and supporters
- Recognition at all YCD conferences for youth throughout 2024–2025 school year

Recognition at Event

- Speaking opportunity (2–3 minutes)
- Verbal recognition from podium
- Recognition from digital screens at the event
- Full-page color ad in event program



Advancing Justice Sponsor \$15,000

1 available

Hospitality

- One premium table of 8 with company logo/name on table signage
- 8 VIP invitations to meet privately with keynote speaker
- First right of refusal to become Advancing Justice Sponsor of 2025 gala

Pre- and Post-Event Marketing

- Recognition as Advancing Justice Sponsor with logo on event website
- Social media thank-you post
- Inclusion in follow-up thank you e-blast to attendees and supporters

Recognition at Event

- Speaking opportunity (2-3 minutes) at the VIP reception
- Verbal recognition from podium
- Recognition from digital screens at the event
- Full-page color ad in event program



Accelerating Equity Sponsor \$10,000

Sold Out!

Hospitality

- One premium table of 8 with company logo/name on table signage
- 8 VIP invitations to meet privately with keynote speaker
- First right of refusal to become Accelerating Equity Sponsor of 2025 gala

Pre- and Post-Event Marketing

- Recognition as Accelerating Equity Sponsor with logo on event website
- Social media thank-you post
- Inclusion in follow-up thank you e-blast to attendees and supporters

Recognition at Event

- Verbal recognition from podium
- Recognition from digital screens at the event
- Half-page color ad in event program



Fostering Inclusion Sponsor \$7,500

Sold Out!

Hospitality

- One premium table of 8 with company logo/name on table signage
- 4 VIP invitations to meet privately with keynote speaker
- First right of refusal to become Fostering Inclusion Sponsor of 2025 gala

Pre- and Post-Event Marketing

- Recognition as Fostering Inclusion Sponsor with logo on event website
- Social media thank-you post
- Inclusion in follow-up thank you e-blast to attendees and supporters

Recognition at Event

- Recognition from digital screens at the event
- Half-page color ad in event program



Empowerment Sponsor – \$5,000

Hospitality

- One table of 8 with company logo/name on table signage
- 4 VIP invitations to meet privately with keynote speaker

Pre- and Post-Event Marketing

- Logo on event website
- Social media thank-you post
- Inclusion in follow-up thank you e-blast to attendees and supporters

Recognition at Event

- Recognition from digital screens at the event
- Half-page B&W ad in event program



Leadership Sponsor – \$3,000

Hospitality and Recognition at Event

- One table of 8 with company logo/name on table signage
- 2 VIP invitations to meet privately with keynote speaker
- Logo in event program

General Table – \$2,000

Hospitality and Recognition at Event

- One table of 8 with company logo/name on table signage
- Listed in event program

Individual Tickets

- \$150 per person early-bird tickets before July 1
- \$175 per person tickets on and after July 1
- Donors are invited to sponsor/pay for a YCD participating youth to attend the event for free





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Ticket and Sponsorship Form

Basic Information

Company: _____ Contact: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____ Email: _____

Sponsorship Options

- \$25,000 Presenting Sponsor
- \$15,000 Advancing Justice Sponsor
- ~~\$10,000 Accelerating Equity Sponsor~~
- ~~\$7,500 Fostering Inclusion Sponsor~~
- \$5,000 Empowerment Sponsor
- \$3,000 Leadership Sponsor

Tables, Tickets, and Donations

- \$2,000 General Table for 8 guests
- \$150 Regular Tickets (#: _____)
- \$120 YCD Alumni Tickets (#: _____)
- We are not able to sponsor/attend this year, but would like to make a tax-deductible donation of \$ _____

Payment Information

My check is enclosed (make payable to Youth Celebrate Diversity)

Please charge my credit card: Visa Mastercard American Express Discover

Name on credit card: _____

Card number: _____ Exp Date: ____ / ____ CVV: _____

Signature: _____

Please send an invoice to this email address:

Please mail/email this completed form to: Youth Celebrate Diversity, 7900 E. Union Ave, Suite 1100, Denver, CO 80237 or cmunro@ycdiversity.org. Contact Caleb Munro, Executive Director, at (720) 507-0746 with any questions.



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Silent Auction In-Kind Donation Form

Basic Information

Company: _____ Contact: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City, State, Zip: _____ Email: _____

Item Information

Description: _____ Est. Value: _____
Special arrangements, restrictions, etc.: _____

Please check the appropriate boxes below:

- Donor will deliver or send item to YCD.
- Committee should pick up item.
- This is a gift certificate (must be valid through December 2024).
- We will email a high resolution image or photo for the item.
- Please have YCD photograph the item.

Please mail/email this completed form to: Youth Celebrate Diversity, 7900 E. Union Ave, Suite 1100, Denver, CO 80237 or cmunro@ycdiversity.org. Contact Caleb Munro, Executive Director, at (720) 507-0746 with any questions.