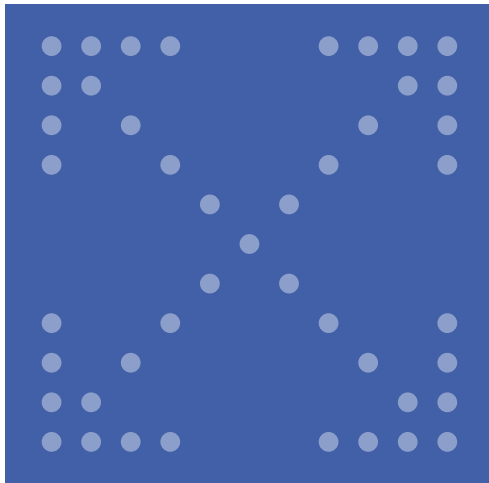
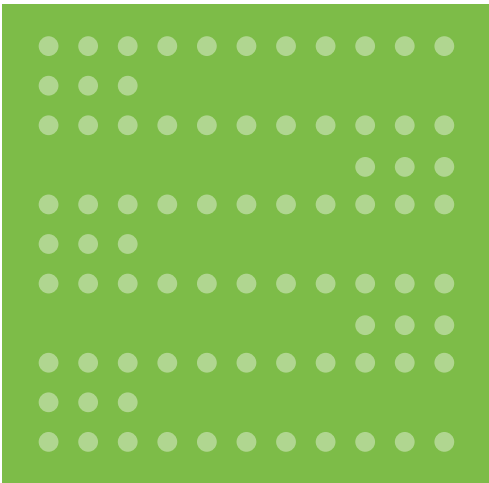
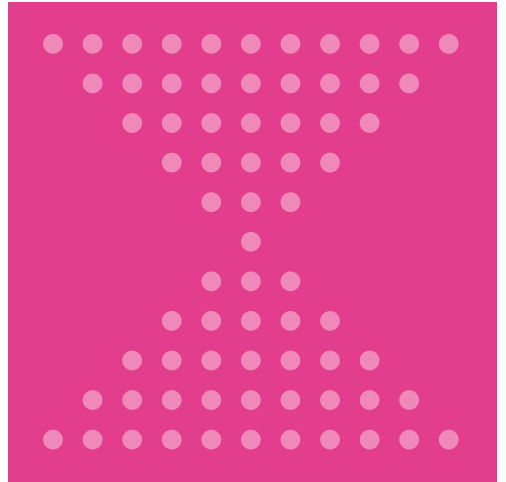
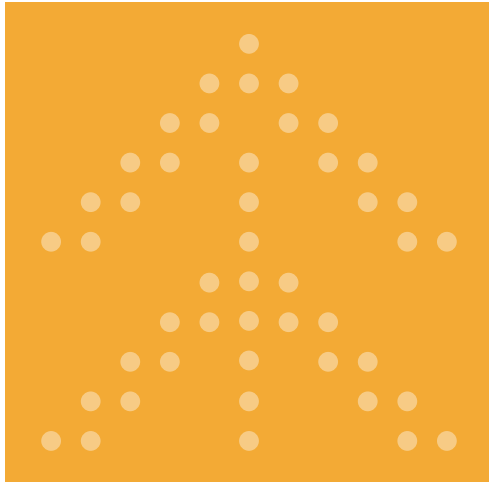
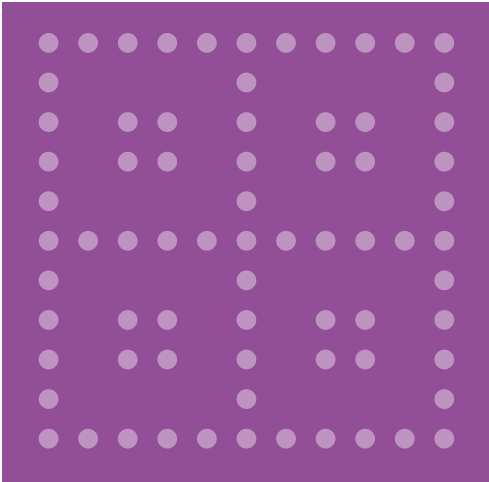


2022–2023

Impact Report

PKG Public Service Center



About the PKG Center

The Priscilla King Gray Public Service Center (PKG Center) was founded in 1988 by Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Shirley McBay, MIT first lady Priscilla King Gray, and Professor Robert Mann '50. Since that time, it has been the epicenter of

public service at MIT connecting thousands of students with community partners fostering systemic change in Greater Boston and beyond. Over the past 35 years, our vision of public service has evolved significantly from a “day of service” mindset to one that is more long-term, community-informed, and academically-aligned.

Today, the PKG Center taps and expands MIT students’ unique skills and interests to prepare them to explore and address complex social and environmental challenges to create change and build a better world.

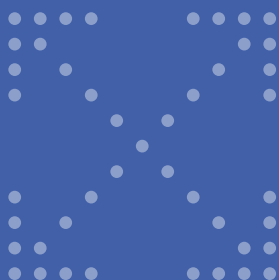
We connect students with opportunities to work side-by-side with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, social enterprises, and increasingly with corporations that are driving these changes locally, nationally, and globally. Furthermore, we educate students to collaborate ethically and effectively with these community partners to engage in meaningful public service, today and in their lives beyond MIT.

The PKG Center works with undergraduate and graduate students across all disciplines and class years, and our portfolio of programs are all free—and often provide funding—for students. Our programs are rigorous, immersive, driven by community perspectives, and include intentional reflections, which are all essential aspects of ethical and effective service. In addition, our programs create pathways for students to advance their knowledge and skills. Students begin by learning best practices for working with community partners and translating their skills to create social change. In our more advanced offerings, we support students while they collaborate independently with communities to create innovative ways to address complex problems.

Based on student feedback, our programs are primarily focused on three key themes: Climate Change, Health Equity, and Tech for Social Good. Racial Justice permeates these themes as communities of color are consistently and disproportionately negatively impacted by risks of climate change, health inequities, and issues related to tech, such as algorithmic injustices and limited access to technology.



Priscilla King Gray, the PKG Center’s co-founder and namesake, passed away in February 2023.



Farewell from the PKG Center's Departing Director

THE CLASS OF 2023 grew up in a world where extreme weather dominates the news, inequality persists, public health is politicized, democracy faces attacks, and technology plays a rapidly changing role in everyday life. They began their time at MIT during a pandemic and racial justice movement that challenged them to be resilient and socially engaged. As a result, although our society faces issues that are complex and existential—our students are eager to take them on.

MIT students want to change the world, and the PKG Center plays a vital role in preparing them to do so. The PKG Center's exceptional programs provide guidance and funding for students to collaborate with community partners. These partnerships produce solutions that are as diverse as the students creating them, from developing climate policy with Birmingham's city government to engineering water filtration systems for households in Nigeria.



Through PKG Center programs, MIT students have the unique opportunity to apply skills that they learn in the classroom to real-world problems. Our programs provide academically rigorous social impact experiences that complement their coursework: 93% of participants last year agreed that PKG Center programs gave them a new, social change-oriented perspective.

Incoming student demand for socially impactful experiential learning opportunities increases each year, as do the needs of our communities and partners. The PKG Center continues to expand our opportunities to meet this need, but we can't do it alone. We rely on you—our community of alumni, donors, volunteers, and public service advocates—to help us make it happen.

To those of you who have shared your financial resources, time, and talent with us this year: thank you. Your support has touched all of our programs, and the work we do would not be possible without you. I invite you to explore the impact of your gifts with the students whose quotes and reflections are in the pages ahead.

After joining the PKG Center in September 2019, I consider myself an honorary member of the class of 2023—and it is bittersweet to share that I too have graduated into a new role as the Chief of Staff for MIT Chancellor Nobles. It has been a joy and an honor to serve as the Center's Director over the past four years, and I am so proud of what the PKG Center has accomplished. Our impact is real: 100% of students who participated in PKG programs this past year agreed that they gained skills that allow them to contribute to social change.

Assistant Deans Alison Hynd and Vippy Yee will serve as interim co-directors. I have the utmost confidence in their ability to continue serving students as we launch the search for a new Director, and we appreciate your support as we do so.

All best wishes,

Jill Bassett

CHIEF OF STAFF TO CHANCELLOR NOBLES

Academic Courses

During IAP 2023 we taught Informed Philanthropy in Theory and Action, a course where students analyzed the work of non-profits to address the challenges and opportunities facing MIT's neighboring communities— with particular focus on community representation, equity, and social justice. The class culminated with students making a group decision on how our class partner, Learning by Giving Foundation, will disperse \$7000 to local non-profits.

In the coming years, the PKG Center hopes to continue building out community-engaged learning capacity and reach more students directly in the classroom.



Student Perspective

6.900 Engineering for Impact

“Throughout our ideation process and into prototyping, my team and I would often think about how our device would be received by people, beyond the technical functions. While we spent a great deal [of time] on the engineering and hardware design aspect, we also took a step back to think about how a passenger would interact with our system.”



6.900 student and EECS major Crystal Liang was careful to consider the community impact of her project. (Photo: Gretchen Ertl)

We have begun to more formally support faculty with community-engaged endeavors, such as the Spring 2023 EECS course, Engineering for Impact, where we connected professors with community partners in Miami. Engineering For Impact challenged EECS students to apply their engineering savvy to real-world problems beyond the MIT campus by integrating their knowledge into a large-scale project to help county planning officials develop solutions for extreme heat when waiting for public transportation. Engineering For Impact developed into a hands-on exercise in hardware/ software product development with real-world impact.

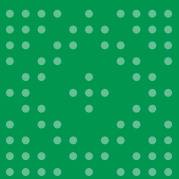
Community-Based Team Programs

Community-based Team Programs are catalytic for MIT undergraduates and deeply influence their trajectory.

Participants benefit from these experiential programs by meeting and building connections with community practitioners, accessing resources to develop and implement socially impactful projects, and improving their understanding of the context behind various social issues.

These team programs include our First-Year Pre-Orientation Program: Active Community Engagement (ACE), which introduces students to local community challenges and the organizations working to address these issues. In addition, PKG IAP: Health allows students the opportunity to work alongside medical professionals at Boston Medical Center and support capacity-building projects that provide equitable health services to patients.

For this coming year, the PKG Center launched the inaugural Social Impact Living Learning (SILL) Community program, which provided free MIT housing for students engaged in PKG Social Impact Internships and research over the summer. Students enjoyed living in community with one another and reflecting on their experiences through weekly dinners and team-building times. These team programs set students on service “pathways” that allow them to deepen their engagement by participating in progressively challenging and increasingly independent work in more advanced PKG programs.



Charvi Sharma

**Class of 2024, Course 6
(Electrical Engineering and Computer
Science)**

*Charvi worked on The Autism
Program’s Resources Team at Boston
Medical Center as part of the PKG
IAP: Health program*



“Although I came into this program not knowing exactly what to expect, I now leave with eye-opening experiences and incredible insight into the nuances of navigating an autism diagnosis and the disparity due to social determinants of health. Working with The Autism Program at Boston Medical Center this IAP certainly solidified my goals to pursue an MD after graduating from MIT. I immersed myself into the various aspects of the autism diagnosis and pediatrics as a whole. I feel empowered as an individual to have conversations about these injustices and increase awareness in my community.”

Social Impact Internships

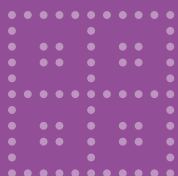
Social Impact Internships pair highly-skilled MIT undergraduates with nonprofits, government agencies, and social enterprises to build capacity and bolster the technical capabilities of these organizations while students address challenging social impact issues.

These full-time, paid opportunities allow students to deepen their analytical, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills by applying what they are learning in the classroom to real-world challenges. Internships also enable students to grow their professional network and explore career trajectories.

Though nonprofit and public sector agencies have a strong desire to work with MIT students, they struggle to compete for MIT student talent. For-profit employer demand is strong, and students covet industry internships for their

prestige, financial rewards, and career advancement benefits. Therefore, Social Impact Internships have several key objectives: creating paid experiences that combine critical social impact work with valuable professional development; building capacity for community agencies with limited tech and financial resources (particularly those serving vulnerable populations); and developing a pipeline of socially-conscious students to carry this work beyond MIT. In fact, 99% of Social Impact Interns indicated that they gained knowledge and skills that will be beneficial in their future careers.

In addition, student demand for these socially impactful opportunities far exceeds supply. During the 2022-2023 academic year, the PKG Center funded 143 internships from an applicant pool of 464 students during summer '22 and IAP '23.



Salomé Otero

**Class of 2023, Course 15-1
(Management and Education Analytics)**

Salomé worked as a Tech Curriculum Developer at G{Code}, a nonprofit that empowers BIPOC women and nonbinary people of color by providing foundational needs.

“The PKG Center has been key to my exploration of education equity. Now that my internship has concluded, I am happy to say that I am a better curriculum developer, especially when it comes to serving student needs. I am confident that I carry powerful insights from my time at G{Code} which will benefit my work.”





Catherine Mei

Class of 2023, Course 6-2 and 9

(Computer Science and Electrical Engineering; Cognitive Science)

During IAP 2023, Catherine worked as a web development intern with Rhymes with Reason, an education tech startup focusing on promoting vocabulary learning in underserved communities.

“My internship experience with Rhymes with Reason has been very valuable for me because I’ve been able to apply many of the technical skills I’ve learned in class to an impactful project. I’ve come to realize the power I have to create change with my STEM background, and I will be more aware of how I can apply my skills for social change in my future career.”



Rudiba Laiba

Class of 2025, Course 7

(Biology)

Rudiba interned with LAAL NYC, a nonprofit that specializes in improving the living standards and to empower Bengali women in New York City.

“I worked on creating surveys to see what topics the community would like more coverage on and it was very rewarding to use my childhood upbringing to be able to relate to the community on a personal level and understand the nuances and social stigmas that can cause lack of coverage of certain topics. I was able to understand power and privilege deeply through the internship by reflecting my upbringing to the one of my mom through working with LAAL NYC. This internship helped open me up to a new mindset and changed my perspective.”



PKG Fellowships

PKG Fellowships provide MIT students with more advanced opportunities to foster effective community/student relationships through the development and implementation of service projects in collaboration with a community partner. Fellowships enable students the opportunity to explore careers in public service while piloting their own nonprofit or service enterprise.

Through funding provided by these Fellowships, students turn their knowledge and passion into action that has the potential for sustainable benefit to underserved communities.

Because most Fellowships take place over IAP or in the summer, Fellows must forgo the chance to take on well-paid internships. We believe that every MIT student should have the opportunity to engage in meaningful public service, so the PKG Center provides stipends for travel, materials, and living expenses—which opens up social impact opportunities to the entire MIT student population.

Fellowships showcase what is possible when MIT students are given the freedom to pilot an idea or practice in context while also receiving advice and support from the PKG Center. During the 2022-2023 academic year, the PKG Center funded 49 fellows. We are endlessly impressed by the ingenuity of these students to create meaningful projects with community partners.



Ade Oyewole

MBA, Class of 2022

MIT Sloan School of Management

During his PKG Fellowship, Ade focused on the problem of widespread microbial water contamination seen in many homes in Nigeria. He installed and tested his UltraViolet water filtration prototype in local households in order to verify that the prototype can effectively disinfect poor-quality household water there.



“For me, public service means dedication to a selfless cause. Which involves bringing health, gender, and wealth equality to places of inequality, giving voice to the voiceless, and fighting for justice in places where it’s lacking.”

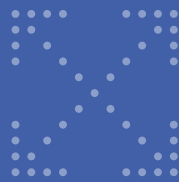
IDEAS Social Innovation Challenge

The IDEAS Social Innovation Challenge enables MIT student-led graduate and undergraduate teams to apply their education and expertise in developing community-informed solutions to tackle complex social and environmental issues in partnership with communities around the world. Through this social entrepreneurship program, students can recruit a team from anywhere and develop a creative solution in partnership with stakeholders. The teams benefit from a supportive network of volunteers who serve as reviewers, mentors, and judges, as well as funding to support and develop their solutions to create lasting impact.

Over the past 22 years, IDEAS has awarded ~\$1.1M in funding to 200+ student-led teams.

Through the work of these extraordinary teams, more than half of which are still active today, IDEAS has impacted over 2.5 million people.

During the 2022-2023 academic year, the IDEAS program engaged 88 student participants throughout the year-long educational curriculum. This culminated with the 18 finalist teams each receiving a \$1,000 Seed Grant. These finalist teams were featured in the IDEAS Virtual Showcase, during which 4,500+ individual votes were cast towards a favorite team. The three teams with the highest votes were awarded \$2,500 crowd-favorite awards. In addition, during the virtual IDEAS Awards Ceremony, five teams were awarded juried grants of up to \$20,000 to develop their solutions. In total, the IDEAS program awarded \$80,000+ this academic year directly to support the work of these teams.



LifeSaveHer

**2023 IDEAS \$20K Grantee
Cambridge, MA**

LifeSaveHer is an anatomy attachment for existing CPR mannequins to decrease demographic disparities in cardiopulmonary resuscitation outcomes for people with breasts. Alongside increasing representation of people with breasts in CPR trainings, this team also aims to develop tools to measure whether learning CPR with the LifeSaveHer attachment impacts emergency responders' comfort with performing CPR on people with breasts, ultimately saving more lives. This device will be used to generate interest and discussion around disparities in CPR initially at CPR classes taught on MIT and Harvard's campuses, and these trials will later be used to partner with the AHA to have a national roll-out.



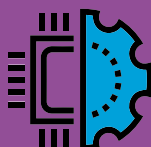
VENTA BELL SHAW/BS PHOTOGRAPHY

Two LifeSaveHer team members with their CPR mannequin

By the Numbers 2022-2023

28 DEPARTMENTS REPRESENTED WITH TOP MAJORS BEING:

COURSE 6
Electrical Engineering
and Computer Science



COURSE 11
Urban Studies
and Planning

COURSE 15
Management



COURSE 2
Mechanical
Engineering



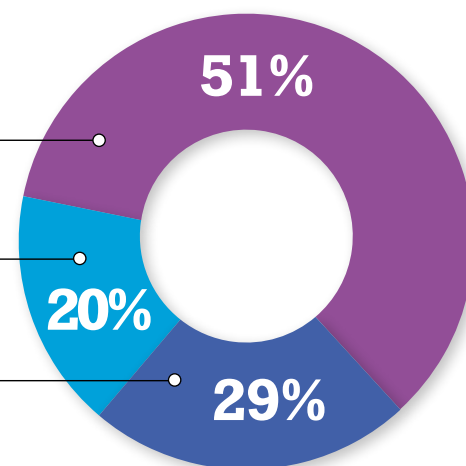
Left to right:
Cecilé Sadler (G),
Wilhem Hector (UG),
Kelsey Merrill (G),
Jill Bassett

FUNDING NEEDS — \$1.87M TOTAL ANNUAL BUDGET

Annual
Fundraising
Needed

Endowments

General
Institute
Funds

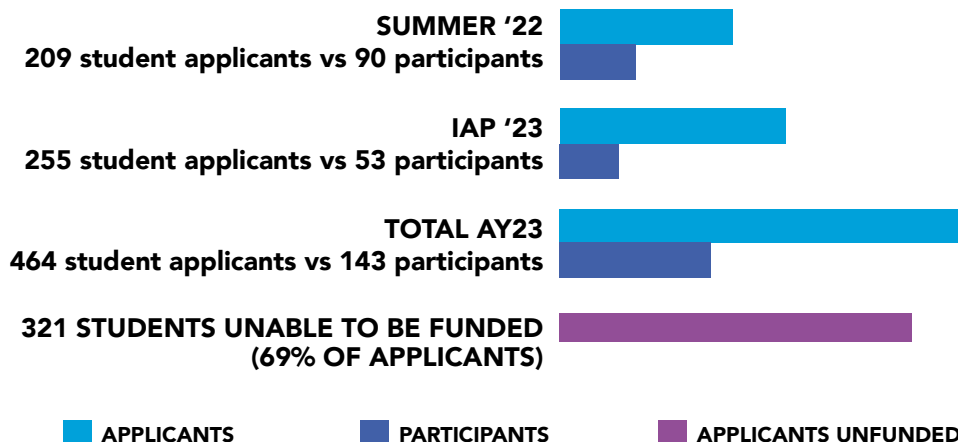


\$800,000+

FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO STUDENTS TO SUPPORT SOCIAL IMPACT WORK



GROWING DEMAND FOR PKG SOCIAL IMPACT INTERNSHIPS



This example shows Social Impact Internship application data

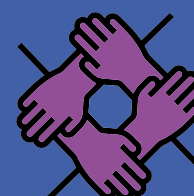


300+

TOTAL STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

270+

NUMBER OF
COMMUNITY
PARTNERS



Looking Ahead

As demonstrated by these highlights from the past year, the impact of PKG programs is vast, for students and community partners alike. MIT students want—and are uniquely equipped—to change the world, and PKG programs build an understanding of social issues and empathy for communities that students will carry long after they leave the Institute. We believe it is imperative to provide all MIT students with at least one PKG social impact experience.

MIT continues to recognize and prioritize the importance of these experiences. The Chancellor's office has emphasized that the PKG Center plays a vital role in the Institute's commitment to educate the whole student, with programs that cultivate personal and intellectual growth, support academic success, and foster community and wellbeing on campus. Additionally, President Kornbluth has made climate action a pillar of her presidency, and the PKG Center stands at the ready to expand our climate programming.

Demand from students and community partners continues to grow across our programs. Our biggest limitation? Funding. Each year, we rely on supporters and philanthropists like you to raise over 50% of our annual budget. Classes, IAP programs, internships, fellowships, living and learning communities, and social innovation programming—everything at PKG is made possible with your support.

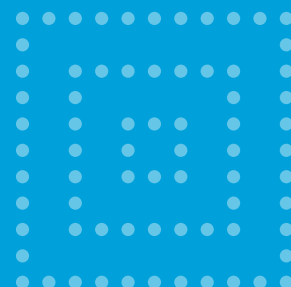
Meeting this moment—increased student demand and urgent community needs—by expanding opportunities will significantly increase our costs. Therefore, now more than ever, [gifts to the PKG Center](#) directly support MIT students who participate in social impact work and, in turn, the communities with whom they are partnering.

Supporting the PKG Center goes beyond supporting the growth and development of MIT students; it means connecting local and global nonprofit and government entities with the technical talent they may be otherwise unable to access or afford.

If you are passionate about the work of the PKG Center and would like to learn more about how you can support our efforts, please reach out to us at pkgcenter@mit.edu any time. Thank you for your consideration of helping to make tangible, systemic change and build a better world.



PKG Students representing the PKG Center at Campus Preview Weekend 2023



PKG

PRISCILLA KING GRAY
PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

A special thank you to our Friends of the PKG Center Members:

Dheera Ananthakrishnan '90, MBA '23

Priscilla Elliott* '10

Kristin K. Foss* '83

Priscilla King Gray*, member emerita

Kat Jiang* '20

Bonny S. Kellermann* '72

Paul M. Kominers* '12

Sze-Wen Kuo* '73

Joseph H. Levitch* '69

Sahithi Madireddy '23

Elena J. McFann* '90

Adam Miller* '07

Hyun-A Park* '83, MCP '85

Elizabeth Pettheo MBA '14

James W. Taylor* '65, SM '67

Victor Tung Tom* '72, SM '73, SCD '81

Caroline Wang* '86, chair

Eberhard F. Wunderlich* SM '75, PhD '78

Shahla Wunderlich* PhD '78

**Denotes Founding Member*

“Because the world needs people like MIT students. It’s that simple.”

– PRISCILLA KING GRAY

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