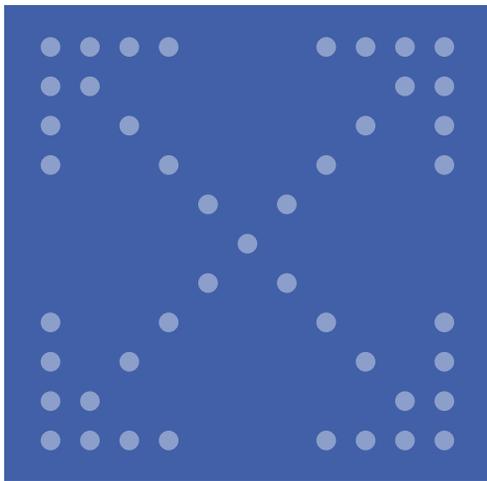
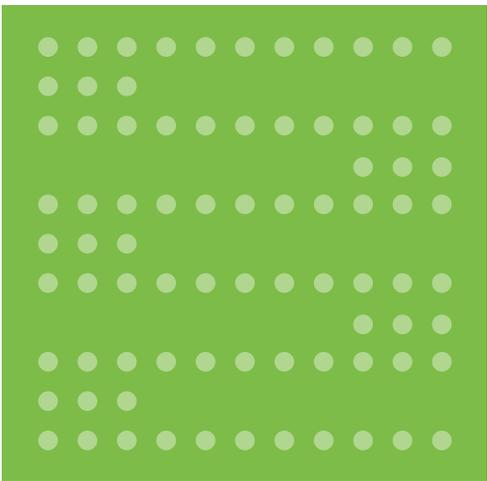
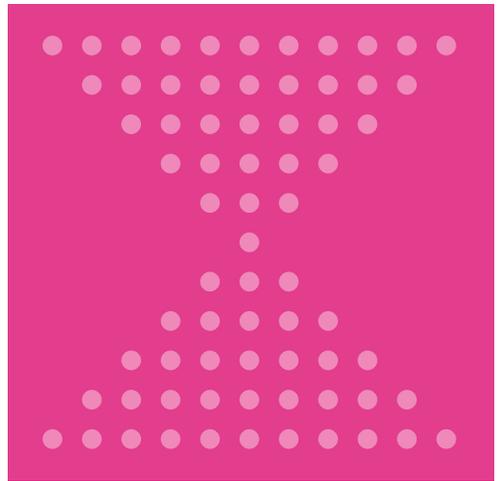
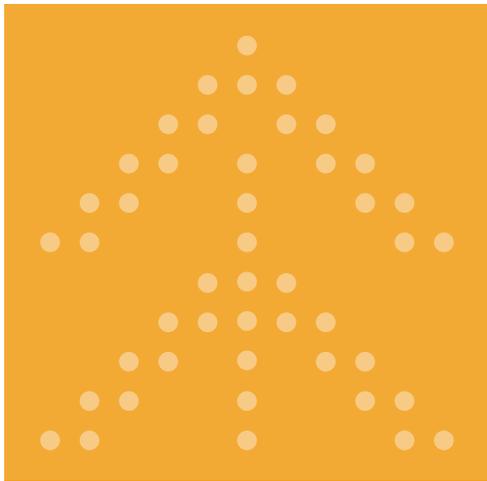
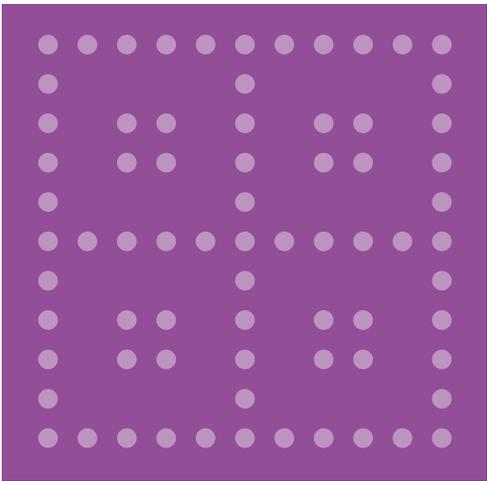


2023–2024

Impact Report

PKG Public Service Center



About the PKG Center

The Priscilla King Gray (PKG) Public Service Center was founded in 1988 by MIT's First Lady Priscilla King Gray, Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Shirley McBay, and Professor Robert Mann '50. Since its inception, PKG has been the center of public service at the Institute, fostering community engagement, social impact, and social innovation.



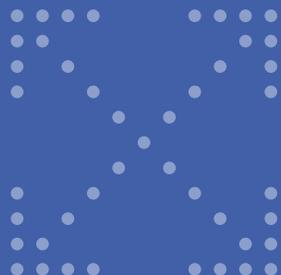
Priscilla King Gray, the PKG Center's co-founder and namesake, passed away in February 2023.

The PKG Center's mission is to tap and expand MIT students' unique skills and interests to prepare them to explore and address complex social and environmental challenges, in order to create change and build a better world.

We educate students to collaborate ethically and effectively with community partners to engage in meaningful public service, today and in their lives beyond MIT.

PKG programs are rigorous, immersive, driven by community perspectives, and intentionally reflective, which are all essential aspects of ethical and effective service. Students begin by learning best practices for working within communities and translating their skills to create social change; in our more advanced offerings, we support students while they collaborate independently with partner organizations to create innovative ways to address complex problems.

Reflecting Institute priorities and student interests, our programs focus on three key issues: **Climate Change, Health Equity, and Tech for Social Good**. Racial Justice permeates each as communities of color are consistently and disproportionately impacted by climate events, health disparities, algorithmic injustices, and other tech inequities. PKG programs connect students with opportunities to work on these issues side-by-side with those impacted by them, and with organizations that are driving positive change locally, nationally, and globally.



We work with MIT students, both undergraduate and graduate, across all disciplines and class years. Not only are all PKG programs offered free of charge to students, but we also provide internship stipends, paid fellowships, and social innovation start-up funds, which are critical to students pursuing public service.

Letter from the Director

As we approach the end of our term as interim directors, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the support and collaboration we've experienced this year.

The past year has been a year of transformation and growth for the PKG Center. We have seen student demand for our programs continue to rise combined with increased needs from our community partners; in response, as you'll see in the coming pages, we have expanded our programming and strategic partnerships across MIT. It has been an exciting journey, and we're proud of what we've accomplished together.

We are excited to introduce Alison Badgett, who is stepping into the role of Associate Dean and Director. She brings a remarkable blend of expertise and enthusiasm that will inspire and guide us, building upon our achievements to reach new heights.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to public service at MIT. We're looking forward to working alongside you as we embark on this new chapter together.

Alison Hynd and Vippy Yee

INTERN CO-DIRECTORS AND ASSISTANT DEANS



I am thrilled and honored to introduce myself as the new Associate Dean and Director of the PKG Center. I join and serve a remarkable legacy of public service at the PKG Center, which, for over 35 years, has helped students leverage their unique talents to tackle our most complex social and environmental challenges.

To those of you who shared your financial resources, time, and talent with us this year: thank you. Your support enabled us to deepen our impact, offering rigorous, life-changing public service opportunities to hundreds of students in collaboration with faculty, staff, alumni, and community partners. The student experiences and reflections in the pages ahead illustrate the transformational learning that results from PKG programming, and they are a testament to the impact of your support.

Student demand for PKG programming continues to exceed what our resources allow. I look forward to working with all of you to ensure that any student who wants to pursue public service has the opportunity to do so through PKG.

As I begin this new role, I'm eager to get to know everyone in our community. I hope you'll reach out to share your thoughts on the Center, our impact, and the future of public service education at MIT.

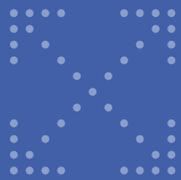
Alison Badgett

PKG ASSOCIATE DEAN AND DIRECTOR

IDEAS Social Innovation Challenge

The IDEAS Social Innovation Challenge enables MIT student-led graduate and undergraduate teams to apply their education and expertise to tackling complex social and environmental issues in partnership with communities around the world. Through this social entrepreneurship incubator, students recruit a team from both within and outside of MIT and develop a creative solution in partnership with stakeholders most affected by the challenge. The teams benefit from a supportive network of alumni and other experts who serve as reviewers, mentors, and judges, as well as funding to support and develop their solutions to create lasting impact.

Over the last 23 years, IDEAS has awarded over \$1.5M to over 240 teams addressing societal and environmental challenges globally. This year, IDEAS awarded \$108,000 in funding to student innovators working on social impact projects.



Lyme Alert

2024 IDEAS \$20K Grantee
Cambridge, MA

What if testing for Lyme disease were as simple as dropping a tick in a test tube at home, waiting a few minutes, and looking for a change of color? IDEAS team Lyme Alert has used nanotechnology to create the first truly at-home Lyme screening kit, which also offers an app to decipher unclear test results. The team focuses on social impact in its mission to deliver faster diagnoses, improve access to testing, and use their technology to help epidemiologists track disease spread.



During the 2023-2024 academic year, 14 student-led finalist teams participated in iterative workshops throughout spring semester, refined their ideas with mentors, pitched their solutions to peers and judges, and received \$4,000 each in seed funding—which helped turn their ideas into social innovations in healthcare, finance, climate, education, and many more fields. Their projects were evaluated by a panel of experienced entrepreneurs based on feasibility, impact, and innovation; seven teams received additional prizes, from \$2,500 through \$20,000.

The 2024 IDEAS cohort has already made a big impact. They partnered with 29 community organizations and their work spanned 8 sectors, 8 countries, and 2 U.S. states. They have explored and implemented non-profit, for-profit, and hybrid business models that focus on systems change—learning about challenges from communities and leveraging a social innovation to change the systems that reinforce social problems.

Community-Based Cohort Programs

Students benefit from a wide range of PKG experiential cohort programs that allow them to meet and build connections with community practitioners, access resources to develop and implement socially impactful projects, and improve their understanding of the context behind various social issues.

PKG cohort programs are catalytic for MIT undergraduates: our offerings build community for changemakers on campus and deeply influence their trajectory.

This includes several programs during the Independent Activities Period, such as PKG IAP: Health, which allows students to work alongside medical professionals and support projects that provide equitable health services to patients, and the Indigenous Communities Initiatives (ICI) program, which pairs students with MIT Solve fellows to build capacity for indigenous social innovation projects.

Over summer 2023, we piloted a PKG Social Impact Living Learning Community (SILL), now called Boston Summer of Service (BSOS). Students participating in Social Impact Internships in the greater Boston area received a stipend from the PKG Center, lived together in MIT housing, participated in an experiential ethics course, attended weekly reflection dinners, and initiated direct service projects in the local community.

The PKG Center also sponsored a new first-year pre-orientation program geared towards incoming social innovators called the Social Innovation Exploration (SIE) FPOP, which welcomed first year students into MIT's social innovation and entrepreneurship community while introducing the PKG Center as the entryway to public service and meaningful social change.

“[IAP: Health] solidified my aspiration to pursue a career in healthcare, as I am inspired by the fact that this multifaceted and dynamic field presents numerous avenues for making impactful contributions. I am truly impressed by how much the experience taught me, not only about different processes and policies in healthcare but also about the power of group collaboration especially when the group members come from a diverse range of careers and backgrounds. It was exciting to see how fellows and scholars working in separate fields brainstormed different approaches to a problem definition. The process also helped me grow as a researcher, student, and team player.”

Michelle Peng

Class of 2027, Course 3

Michelle participated in the inaugural PKG: IAP Health partnership with Catalyst. She identified unmet medical needs in the healthcare system through the development of problem definitions.



Social Impact Internships

The PKG Center's Social Impact Internship program connects MIT students with challenging internship opportunities that yield significant community impact in their field(s) of choice. These full-time, funded 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.

Social impact internships help students refine their leadership and communication skills while solving real-world problems and connecting with fellow changemakers, both at MIT and externally.

Thomas Stueber

Class of 2026, Course
15-3 and 6-14

Thomas worked as a Data Analyst and Impact Assessment Intern at the Ek Kadam Aur Foundation for Education and Health, which provides quality education to the children of underserved communities in India and Nepal.



This program helps MIT students deepen their understanding of social issues and systems change in their communities while developing civic values that will inform their professional and personal lives. It also builds capacity for community agencies serving vulnerable populations, with limited tech and financial resources.

Student demand for these socially impactful opportunities continues to exceed the amount of funding that we are able to offer. During the 2023-2024 academic year, the PKG Center provided stipends and mentorship for 143 interns from an applicant pool of 464 students.

“Witnessing the tangible impact of EKAF has ignited a deep sense of purpose within me. The experience of directly contributing to their educational opportunities and personal growth has shown me the significance of individual actions in driving broader societal transformations. This firsthand exposure to the power of accessible education and mentorship has solidified my commitment to advocating for equitable opportunities, especially within the realm of data analysis and technology. At MIT, I am motivated to leverage the resources and knowledge available to me to further advance social change. Looking forward, I am determined to carry forward the lessons learned and the passion ignited by this program, striving to make a lasting impact by addressing pressing social challenges through data-driven insights and inclusive education initiatives.”

Federal Work-Study

Federal Work-Study (FWS) is a federally funded financial aid program that pays eligible undergraduate and graduate MIT students to apply their unique skills, talents and interests to addressing complex social and environmental challenges, especially those relating to poverty and inequality.

100%

of interns and FWS students indicate that they have gained skills that will allow them to contribute to social change within a community.

The PKG Center recruits and coordinates with local and national nonprofits and government agencies to match MIT students with off-campus internships, community service jobs, and research projects.

While off-campus employers typically pay the portion of student wages that are not otherwise covered by federal funds, the Center often supplements funding for our community partners who may not otherwise be able to pay. We also offer support with recruitment, hiring, onboarding, and resources throughout the student's time at the organization.

Off-campus work-study jobs provide tangible community benefits and build capacity for our partners. They offer real-world experience, professional and personal development, career exploration, and leadership opportunities for MIT students who receive financial aid; the programs also improve the quality of life for the community (particularly low-income individuals) and the environment.

Anonymous Participant

Graduate Student, Course 11
(Urban Studies and Planning)

“Working at [my internship host site] this summer has reaffirmed my passions with community engagement. From supporting a weekly farmer’s market and meeting local residents to developing a youth curriculum centered around food justice, I’ve learned how involved you must be within a community to be able to make an impact and why it is important that you have a coalition of people to do so.”



PKG Fellowships

PKG Fellowships allow MIT students to turn their skills, knowledge, and passion into action that has the potential for long-term, sustainable benefit to underserved communities.

Fellowships support student-led work with community-focused organizations: nonprofits, government offices, aid agencies, schools, for-profit social enterprises, student-initiated service enterprises, and more. Fellows are undergraduates, masters candidates, and PhD candidates who receive mentorship and funding from the PKG Center to pursue advanced social impact projects.

If MIT students want to engage in meaningful, full-time, independent public service projects over IAP and summer, they often must forgo significant income from internships or employment—so the PKG Center provides stipends for travel, materials, and living expenses, which makes it possible for students to pursue social impact projects regardless of their socioeconomic background.

Fellowships showcase what is possible when MIT students are given the freedom to pilot an idea or practice in context while also receiving support from experts and mentors at the PKG Center. During the 2023-2024 academic year, the PKG Center funded 46 Fellows whose work spanned several sectors, including climate, education, food insecurity, health, housing, indigenous issues, public interest technology, racial and economic justice, transportation, and more.



Émilie Flamme

**Master in City Planning Candidate
MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning**

Émilie used her PKG Fellowship to develop climate adaptation strategies for coastal resilience in Sint Maarten in partnership with the Dutch government and community organizations over IAP 2024.



“My fellowship really highlighted how important flexibility and patience and perseverance are to accomplishing even the smallest acts of environmental justice work, let alone comprehensive climate strategy planning. [...] I would also add that knowing PKG was supporting my work was very helpful for developing my sense of confidence in furthering the project. Being a PKG Fellow has given me the opportunity to continue to hone the skills that can align with my desire to integrate public service and public interest at the core of my work going forward.”

Academic Courses

In fall 2023, the PKG Center introduced a new class: SP.259 Pathways to Social Justice at MIT and Beyond.

The course explores student pathways to support social change and social justice efforts within the greater Boston region, shows students how to be change agents, and builds a network of MIT stakeholders dedicated to creating social good in the world. Students are introduced to ethical, reciprocal, and community-informed approaches to creating social change through readings, lectures, class discussions, critical reflection, and direct service experiences with local organizations.

We have also focused on building our faculty partnerships over the past year as a part of our strategic goal to reach students in the classroom.

Recognizing the transformative potential of community-engaged learning, the PKG Center provides an array of resources, workshops, and tailored consultation services to faculty members and graduate students.

By equipping educators with the necessary tools and guidance, the Center empowers them to integrate community-based projects seamlessly into their curricula, enriching both student learning experiences and community impact.

We also serve as a resource hub for students who want to take classes focused on social impact.

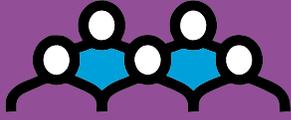


Student Perspective

SP.259 Pathways to Social Justice at MIT and Beyond

"I grew a deeper sense of responsibility to the community and feel a need to continue in service in my future career, with the understanding that the community knows their needs better than anyone else and that initiatives must be community-centered to be effective. I was challenged by the difficulty of knowing there is only so much I can do, realizing that the people I get the opportunity to serve are going through so much more than is within reach, and feeling as though what I am doing is not enough. This makes me more interested in working towards social change in a way that will target the breaking of cycles, prioritize long-term healing/growth, and be in-tune with the community I seek to serve, especially in the area of public and global health."

By the Numbers 2023-2024

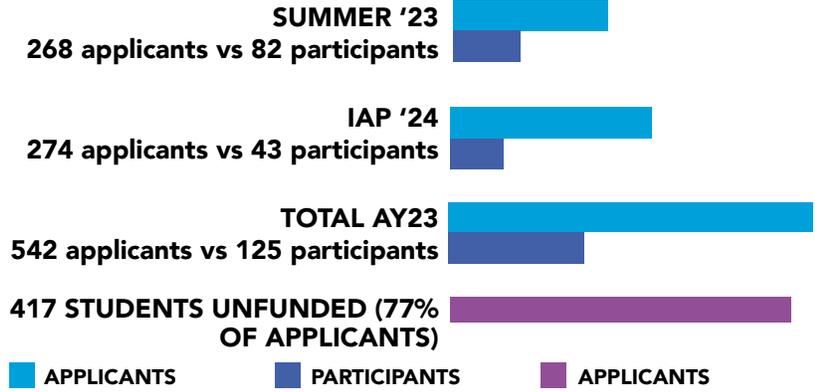
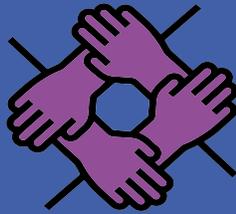


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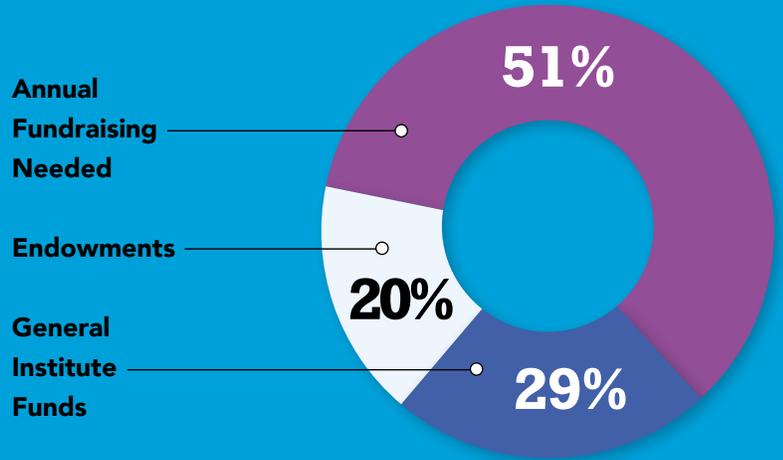
TOTAL STUDENT PARTICIPANTS

300+

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

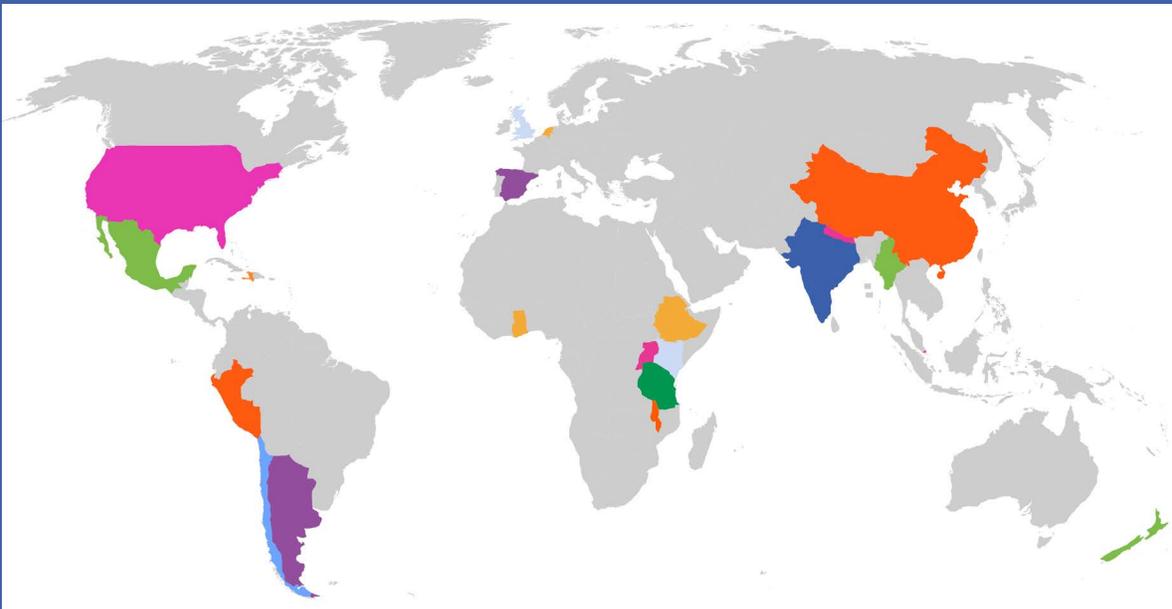


ANNUAL BUDGET — \$2.3M TOTAL



\$1M+

FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED DIRECTLY TO STUDENTS TO SUPPORT SOCIAL IMPACT WORK



A SNAPSHOT OF PKG GLOBAL IMPACT

ARGENTINA, THE CARRIBEAN, CHILE, CHINA, ENGLAND, ETHIOPIA, HAITI, INDIA, GHANA, KENYA, MALAWI, MEXICO, MYANMAR, NEPAL, THE NETHERLANDS, NEW ZEALAND, PERU, SINGAPORE, SPAIN, TANZANIA, UGANDA, AND THE USA

Looking Ahead

As these program profiles and student reflections illustrate, the PKG Center is educating transformational leaders with the skills and motivation to change the world for the better. Through the PKG Center, MIT students can take an idea for solving a seemingly intractable problem and receive the training, support, and network necessary to make it a reality. The lessons they learn, the experiences they gain in leveraging their talents for social impact, stay with them long after they leave the Institute.

We believe all MIT students should have the opportunity to participate in at least one PKG social impact experience during their time at the Institute, a goal that is aligned with the Chancellor’s commitment to educating the whole student through programming that fosters a sense of community, and engaged and purposeful citizens.

The PKG Center also advances the President’s commitment to harnessing MIT’s intellectual resources for addressing some of the most challenging societal issues of our time, from Artificial Intelligence to climate change. The PKG Center has chosen to focus on three issues aligned with Institute priorities: the climate crisis, health equity, and tech for social good—these are also the issues students want to tackle most.



PKG Students at Campus Preview Weekend 2023

Looking forward, the PKG Center is well positioned to play a vital role in educating the whole student, and increasing student engagement in the Institute’s social impact initiatives. **Our biggest limitation is funding.**

We rely on gifts from our generous supporters for 75% of our \$2.3 million budget. Classes, IAP programs, internships, fellowships, living and learning communities, and social innovation programming—everything at PKG is made possible with your support.

Gifts to the PKG Center directly support MIT students who participate in social impact work, through stipends, fellowships, and social innovation start-up funds. But supporting the PKG Center goes beyond enabling the growth and development of MIT students; as importantly, your support also benefits the community partners with whom they work, providing local, national, and global organizations with problem solving talent.

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 helping to build a better world by supporting transformational public service education.

PKG

PRISCILLA KING GRAY
PUBLIC SERVICE CENTER

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

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
York Lo MBA '18
Sahithi Madireddy '23

Elena J. McFann* '90
Hyun-A Park* '83, MCP '85
Elizabeth Pettheo MBA '14
Anh Vu Sawyer MBA '20
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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