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Amanda Susskind President

2021 Annual Report From the Chair and President

por years, advocates for civic education have made the case that civics is and always should be a a fundamental pillar of each school's curriculum. It is not a dry subject demanding only of students that they recite a list of checks and balances in our federal government, or that they merely memorize the Constitution's Preamble without trying to understand its application.

Today, for so many of us, hyper-polarized political discourse has driven home the need to see civics as a lifelong process of engagement: revitalizing our founding principles; honoring our complex national history; and developing the skills and dispositions the nation's young people need to one day become active stewards of our historic experiment in democratic self-governance.

In 2021, CRF crafted a new **vision statement** to meet today's needs and to fill the gaps between the many participants in our democracy that have been dug by polarization:

Our Vision: For a society in which all young people become lifelong, knowledgeable, and confident participants in our democracy.

We also revised our **mission statement** to complement our vision, consistent with CRF's tradition of educating tomorrow's citizens:

Our Mission: Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) inspires lifelong civic engagement through interactive programs and resources for teachers and youth because our democracy depends on informed participation by all.

To pursue our vision and mission as a national nonprofit organization, CRF leverages the commitment of teachers and amplifies the voices of young people. Our civic education resources are non-partisan, research-based, and aligned to standards, with an emphasis on civil discourse.

To these ends, in 2021:

- CRF's board of directors adopted a three-year strategic plan to deepen our national reach, improve infrastructure and staff support, and expand CRF's external profile.
- CRF's Civic Action Project (CAP), a program for students in U.S. government classes, was used by teachers in all 50 states and reached 235,000 students.
- CRF's Mock Trial competition engaged over 8,000 California students and thousands of teachers and volunteers, even as the program was conducted entirely virtually.
- CRF's acclaimed quarterly curricular magazine *Bill of Rights in Action* brought lessons on U.S. government, U.S. history, and world history free of charge to some 31,000 educators nationally.
- CRF created new curricula and professional development opportunities for teachers, both virtual and live, as educators started to return to in-person learning in fall 2021, including 600 new teachers registered to our CAP website.
- Within days of the January 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol, CRF created and disseminated relevant curricula for teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the country.

Moreover, with help from long-standing and new donors, CRF was able to complete capital improvements on a renovated headquarters building and implement upgrades to systems and equipment.

We are grateful to our many donors, volunteers, dedicated board members, and hard-working staff for this continued work. Above all, we thank the young people we serve and the teachers we collaborate with to keep civic education as exciting and relevant as we have always known it to be.

Kimberly A. Dunne

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Board Chair

Amanda Susskind

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President

What is CRF?

onstitutional Rights Foundation is a non-partisan educational nonprofit dedicated to helping our nation's young people understand their rights and responsibilities as members of our democracy and helping them become well-informed, engaged, and active citizens. Established almost 60 years ago, CRF is guided by a dedicated board of directors drawn from the worlds of law, business, government, education, and the media.

CRF's professional staff includes teachers and educators, lawyers, writers and editors, and youth development specialists. Volunteers also provide vital support for many CRF programs and activities and serve as adult role models for youthful participants.

Due to the pandemic, the year 2021 continued to present CRF with exceptional challenges to deliver the effective, high-quality civics and social studies resources CRF is renowned for. CRF has proved its adaptability and commitment to support teachers in both their virtual and in person teaching through an expansion of its online programs, publications, and professional development. To accomplish its goals and objectives, CRF applies its resources in the following areas:

Civic Action Project. In 2021, CRF continued to expand Civic Action Project (CAP), an innovative web-based program that provides a dynamic and youth-driven civic experience that features students exploring the connection between government, public policy, and social issues that matter to them. Through CAP, students identify an issue, problem, or need and complete discrete "civic actions" such as engaging their peers, policymakers, and other community stakeholders that enables them to initiate informed and positive change. CAP features a 15-lesson curriculum linked to state standards; student action-planning tools; and teacher professional development including follow-up support for participating classrooms.

CAP provides numerous opportunities for teachers to implement the proven practices of effective civic learning using CAP's online lessons, which also satisfies various state criteria for students to earn a state seal of civic engagement on their diplomas.

CRF staff continued to meet the needs of schools during the ongoing health crisis with offerings of online CAP programming for classroom partners and program participants. CRF staff also continued to provide a variety of virtual professional-development sessions resulting in another year of robust registrations to CAP's online platform and increased participation across all 50 states and five continents, including Africa, Australia, Europe, and South America. Evaluation data of CAP's implementation once again revealed high levels of teacher satisfaction and improved civic capacities among students who participated in the CAP program.

Expanding Horizons Institute. For over 25 years, our Expanding Horizons Institute program has provided intensive civic learning and college preparation seminars and work experience in professional settings to almost 2,000 of Los Angeles's most deserving and underserved youth. In 2021, due to the pandemic restrictions, CRF continued with the virtual format implemented the previous year that included the seminars but not the work experience. Sixty-four students participated virtually in transformative and educational seminars that uniquely prepared them for civic life, college, and career.



Talking About Democracy. With a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), CRF began working on this project in 2021, bringing together high school students from across the United States to reflect on the nation's founding documents and principles and to consider their enduring meaning for our democracy today. With an emphasis on the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and later amendments, students in the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years will complete three preparatory assignments in their own classes and then participate in three remote collaborative assignments with students from other states. The project brings together students from rural, suburban, and urban communities in California, Florida, Iowa, New York, North Carolina, and Oklahoma.

Project LEAD. CRF established this law-related education program in partnership with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office to teach children about the legal system and positive decision-making skills. The 20-week curriculum brings prosecutors into the classroom to teach lessons on the social and legal consequences of juvenile crimes, such as truancy and illicit drug use, and includes lessons about conflict resolution, tolerance, and respect for diversity. The culminating mock trial gives students a hands-on experience of America's criminal justice system. In 2021, Project LEAD persevered through the pandemic with nearly 120 volunteer facilitators from the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, reaching 46 classes in 32 elementary schools through online sessions.



The Police Commissioners Meeting. Since 2020, CRF has partnered with the Los Angeles Police Museum to develop a new curricular resource that helps young people understand the function and purpose of the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners (BOC). In a simulation activity, students explore the role of informed citizens as they weigh the equities of policy changes intended to improve public safety and foster positive police-community relations in their communities. The *Police Commissioners Meeting* lesson challenges students to examine various law-enforcement scenarios, share policy proposals, and evaluate the BOC's role in deciding policy issues related to police work. Piloting of the BOC lesson was successfully completed in 2021 and is scheduled to be officially launched at school sites throughout Los Angeles in 2022.



California Mock Trial. CRF's Mock Trial is an educational competition that teaches young people about law, the Constitution, and the trial process in a realistic simulation. Young people develop analytical, critical-thinking, and presentation skills that promote their success on their college and career paths. In 2021, over 8,000 students participated across 37 California counties using CRF's mock trial case materials. In 2021, we held the first-ever completely virtual statewide competition in March with 34 teams participating. In the fall, 121 middle and high school teams and over 200 attorney and judge volunteers participated in the 2021 Los Angeles County virtual competition.

Lawyer in the Classroom. Two CRF programs provide students throughout Los Angeles County with a deeper understanding of the judicial system and its processes by connecting them with members of the legal community.

Courtroom to Classroom brings judge and attorney teams to middle or high school classrooms where they engage students with materials designed to support U.S. history and U.S. government courses. In the traditional program, attorneys and judges visit a local classroom. The program has expanded to include school visits to the United States District Court for the Central District of California where middle-school students learn about what it's like to be a federal judge, U.S. marshall, assistant U.S. attorney, and federal public defender. Students then participate in a moot-court activity with help from volunteer attorneys and judges. In 2021, the program continued to be virtual and served 150 students.

The Appellate Court Experience (ACE) provides students with an opportunity to observe oral arguments in a criminal appeal, meet with presiding justices at the California State Court of Appeal, and engage in contentrich classroom activities. The ACE program serves students in Los Angeles County, Ventura, and Sacramento and, in 2021, the virtual program impacted 80 students.

California Three Rs Project. CRF administers this project to educate California's teachers and administrators about fostering rights, responsibility, and respect in teaching about freedom of conscience and religious literacy in our public schools with the First Amendment's establishment clause and free-exercise clause serving as guides. The project's advisory council and planning committee are comprised of partners from county offices of education, nonprofit groups, and religious studies scholars. In 2021, CRF staff presented online professional-development trainings for county offices of education, teacher education program classes, and professional educators on the three Rs and the FAIR Education Act in California, which added teaching about the history and contributions of LGBT Americans as well as people with disabilities to the California Education Code.



Publications. CRF's signature periodical *Bill of Rights in* Action ("BRIA") reached over 31,000 educators with four new issues to help teachers and students with contentrich, standards-based curriculum on U.S. history, world history, U.S. government, and current issues. Each lesson includes an activity based on the proven practices of effective civic education: simulations, small-group discussions, and productive deliberation of current issues and controversies. In 2021, BRIA published lessons on such topics as American Indian Sovereignty; Hannah Arendt; Frank Kameny and the gay rights movement; American Revolution-era poet Phillis Wheatley; Brazil and the Amazon; the New START nuclear treaty between the United States and Russia; and ongoing issues around the U.S. jury system, public funding for religious schools, and the Senate filibuster.

In 2021, CRF's websites attracted over three million visitors to access programs and download free lesson plans and classroom materials. Educators access our websites for Civic Action Project, Educating About Immigration,

Educating About Intellectual Property, The California Three Rs Project, and Project LEAD, among others, for online resources for the social studies and civic education. CRF continued adding lessons to our latest website feature Civics on Call, a one-stop page for classroom-ready lessons on issues of the day.

CRF continues to raise its profile on social media, with a steady growth of page likes and followers on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

In 2021, CRF's 17 staff members were able to plan, develop, and deliver new and ongoing materials and programs, guided by a 61-member board of directors and underwritten by an approximately \$2.8 million operation.





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Constitutional Rights Foundation

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For the Year Ending December 31, 2021

Revenues

Grants		
Governm	•	130,549 12%
Private		587,975 16%
Contributions		
General	4	13%
•	et of expenses) S materials,	920,925 25%
services a	and facilities 6	672,886 18%
Investments & Operating Reve		404,620 11%
Material Sales		2,012 0%
		·
Program Fees]	194,920 5%
Other Sources		4,592 0%
	\$ 3,7	713,558 100%
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Expenses		<u>·</u>
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Program Service		
Program Service Administration		450,536 16%
Program Service Administration		150,536 16% 196,281 7%
Program Service Administration	\$ 2,7 \$ 2,7	150,536 16% 196,281 7%
Program Service Administration Fund Raising Change in Net A	\$ 2,7 Assets Restrictions \$ 9	150,536 16% 196,281 7% 797,835 100%
Program Service Administration Fund Raising Change in Net A without Donor Change in Net A with Donor Res	\$ 2,7 Assets Restrictions \$ 9 Assets trictions	150,536 16% 196,281 7% 797,835 100%
Program Service Administration Fund Raising Change in Net A without Donor Change in Net A	\$ 2,7 Assets Restrictions \$ 9 Assets trictions	150,536 16% 196,281 7% 797,835 100%

A complete audited financial report is available at www.crf-usa.org or upon request.

Securing the Future for Generations to Come

Endowment Builders

since 1990, CRF has been fortunate to receive a number of endowments given by people who share our passion for civic education and support our mission, teaching young people how to be engaged citizens in our democracy.

CRF acknowledges with enormous gratitude past presidents who established endowments at CRF: Jerome C. Byrne, James A. Cobey, and Alan I. Rothenberg; to past board members, Jack Stutman and Robert Rosenstiel; and to our long-time supporters Phyllis and Robert Henigson for their continuing Life Income Gifts. We would also like to recognize Dr. Jama Laurent and the board of directors of the Creative Kids Foundation for establishing an endowment allowing CRF to place students as interns in arts organizations in Los Angeles. To all of you, a very special thank you. Most of all, we would like to send out a loud cheer and celebrate our champion of champions, Lloyd M. Smith, who throughout his life embodied the highest ideals of American democracy and believed in the importance that all young people be educated about their constitutional heritage. It was Lloyd who established the CRF Endowment Builders Program, ensuring that CRF's mission continue long into the future.

To all of our friends, supporters, and donors, and to those people who have indicated that they will remember CRF in their will or by bequest: We thank you for your generosity and for the trust you have given us. Most important, we thank you on behalf of the students of tomorrow who will have opportunities to learn about and celebrate our Constitution and its Bill of Rights for generations to come.



Lloyd M. and Edith Smith*



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James A. Cobey*





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We acknowledge with enormous gratitude those who have pledge to include CRF in their estate planning.

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