



**2022-2023 Annual Report**

## What is LEAP?

LEAP is an educational partnership between Carnegie Mellon University and City Charter High School that uses the arts, humanities, and social sciences to empower under-resourced high school students to become agents of social change. It provides a supportive learning environment for students to engage with issues of equity and justice in their lives and communities.

In this year-round program, students learn with and from local artists, activists, and CMU faculty who are working to create positive change in the world. They participate in hands-on learning experiences focused on personal reflection, artistic expression, and civic engagement. Students work individually and collectively to cultivate self-efficacy, a love of learning and creating, and the confidence to envision and build a better future.



## 2022-2023 Student Cohort

The '22-'23 LEAP Student Cohort consisted of 25 students from City Charter High School (CCHS).

These students applied to the LEAP program by writing essays about their interests in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and justice. They were selected by our partners at CCHS, including their teachers and principals.

12 students in the cohort are juniors at CCHS.

13 are seniors who are expected to graduate in June 2023.

16 students identify as BIPOC.

16 students receive free and reduced meals at CCHS.

Our students are passionate about many things: from artistic pursuits like painting to poetry to social issues like racial justice and gender equality. LEAP is focused on the arts, humanities, and social sciences, but we do not require our students to have particular strengths in those fields. Indeed, many of our students are passionate about science or engineering. With that said, the majority are drawn to LEAP because of an interest in the arts, humanities, or social sciences.



## 2022-2023 Workshops

Students engaged with a wide variety of experiential learning workshops throughout the academic year. Each workshop was led by an expert in the arts, humanities, social sciences, and/or social justice. These leaders create positive change in their lives and communities through their chosen fields. LEAP students learned about the phenomenal work that each of these individuals do around the city of Pittsburgh and then explored some of the big questions and con-

highlights include:

- Students grappled with the question, “How do we create public spaces that welcome everyone?” They observed spaces of play in their neighborhoods before studying Liberty Green Park as a group. They learned how 1Hood Media created the Fridays on Deck event series to help teenagers in East Liberty feel safe in Liberty Green Park. Then they saw examples of how artists around the world alter spaces to create welcoming environments. Inspired by these local and global examples, students proposed their own designs for parks that would give a sense of belonging and community in Pittsburgh.
- A local podcaster and climate justice activist shared how he uses storytelling to call people to action in Southwestern Pennsylvania. He taught the students how to structure an audio interview before tasking them with creating their own media. LEAP students collaborated with the Youth Climate Advocacy Committee at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens to record stories of how young people can have a foothold in environmental justice in Pittsburgh.

# 2022-2023 Workshop Leaders

## **Ari Brazier**

CEO and President of ATL Parent Like A Boss, Inc.

## **Kyle Haden**

director, Equity actor, Assistant Professor of Acting and Senior Associate Head of CMU's School of Drama

## **Isla Hansen**

artist / designer, instructor of sculpture at CMU's School of Art  
<http://islahansen.com>

## **Michael Pisano**

filmmaker, illustrator, and climate storyteller  
[www.michaelpisano.com](http://www.michaelpisano.com)

## **Arko Dasgupta**

doctoral student at CMU's history department  
<https://arkodasgupta.medium.com/>

## **Scott Andrew**

artist, curator, instructor in University of Pittsburgh's Department of Studio Arts <http://www.scottandrew.com/>

## **Kody Manke Miller**

professor in CMU's Department of Psychology

## **Kevin Jarbo**

assistant professor in CMU's Department of Social and Decision Sciences  
[kevinjarbo.com](http://kevinjarbo.com)  
[d3lab.org](http://d3lab.org)

## **Clarence Grant II**

Pittsburgh-based musician, drummer

## **Riccardo Schulz**

Recording engineer, Teaching Professor in the CMU School of Music, co-founder of the Arts Greenhouse

## **Lyss Cypher**

educator, consultant, and coach in radical mental health and disability justice  
[www.alyssaecypher.com](http://www.alyssaecypher.com)

**ChaRon Don**

Pittsburgh, PA based hip-hop artist, writer and educator

**Valeria Martinez**

diversity, equity and inclusion practitioner

**Annie Hui-Hsin Hsieh**

Assistant Teaching Professor of Music at CMU

<http://www.anniehuihsinhsieh.com>

**Wyatt Erchak**

doctoral student at CMU's history department

**Stephanie Murray**

Senior Associate Dean of Interdisciplinary Initiatives and Teaching Professor at CMU

**Ausar Stewart**

Assistant Professor of Voice & Acting in CMU's School of Drama

**Sheika Lugtu**

Director of Undergraduate Admissions & Enrollment in CMU's School of Art

**Abi Stewart**

CMU student studying Anthropology and Music Performance

**Sharon Dilworth**

Associate Professor of English at CMU

**Damian Dominguez**

costume designer for film, TV, theatre, opera, and dance

**Naomi Chambers**

Pittsburgh-based painter and assemblage artist; she also runs The Flower House in the Pittsburgh neighborhood Wilkinsburg

**Marvin Touré**

interdisciplinary artist

**Jasmine Green**

visual artist, Director of Education at 1Hood Media

**Felipe Gomez**

Teaching Professor of Hispanic Studies at CMU

**Gabi Maier**

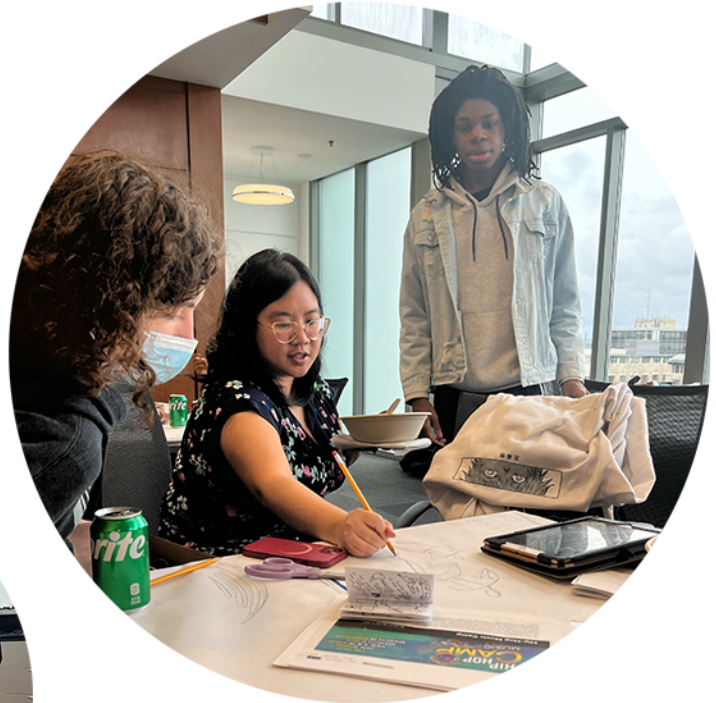
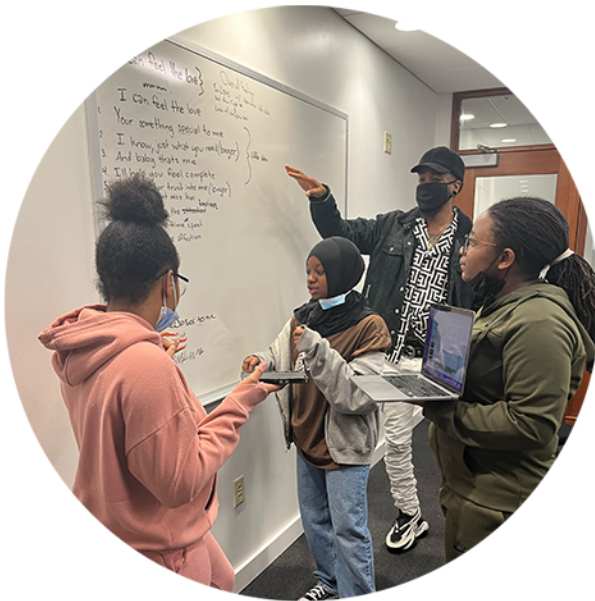
Teaching Professor of German at CMU

## **Jill Chisnell**

senior librarian and liaison librarian to the Schools of Art and Design at CMU

## **Felicia Savage Freidman**

Founder & CEO of YogaRoots On Location



**In addition to working with these workshop leaders, students in the '22-'23 LEAP Cohort also got to learn alongside the following student groups:**

CMU students in the *Dietrich Community Engagement Fellowship Program*

High school and college students on the Phipps Youth Climate Advocacy Committee  
CMU students in the *Grand Challenge First-Year Seminar: Becoming Resilient in Challenging Times*

CMU students in the course *Education, Democracy, and Civil Rights*, co-taught by CMU professor Dr. Nico Slate and City High teacher, Dr. Mark Barga

## Wrapping Up the Year

- LEAP students showcased the work they created through-out the program at a public event held at The Frame Gallery on Saturday, May 27th .
- Alumni of last year's LEAP program joined the current cohort on June 17th for a panel discussion on life after high school.
- 13 members of the current LEAP Cohort graduated from CCHS on June 24th .
- 12 members of the current LEAP Cohort will become high school seniors. They will have the option to participate in the LEAP program for another academic year.





## Looking Ahead

We plan to have about 25 students participate in the LEAP Program next year, so we are not seeking to expand our numbers. However, we will have students returning to the LEAP program for a second year, so we will need to structure two different cohort experiences – one for juniors and one for returning seniors. We envision that these two cohorts will share many experiences together but that they will also occasionally meet separately.

Over the course of the next year, the LEAP leadership team will develop a core curriculum for the program. Guest workshop leaders will supplement and enrich that curriculum but will not be the central focus of the program. Moving away from a teacher-specific program and into one based on a consistent curriculum will help us with assessment, as there will be less fluctuation from year to year in students' experiences.

Educational consultant, Catherine Nelson, will continue to reach out to LEAP stakeholders in order to create a logic model for the program. This logic model will be used as the basis for program assessment. With Catherine's help, we are planning to pilot an extensive student survey with our current students.

Over the course of the next couple of years, LEAP will continue to build relationships with community partners, such as other youth programs around the city of Pittsburgh.

## **LEAP Advisory Board**

### **Ayana Ledford**

*Advisory Board Chair*

Executive Director of PROGRESS and Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion at CMU's Dietrich College

### **Nico Slate**

*Faculty Director*

Professor and Department Head, Department of History at CMU

### **Sarah Ceurvorst**

*Program Director*

Academic Pathways Manager at CMU; Art21 Educator

### **Angela Welch**

*School Coordinator*

Education Director of City Charter High School

### **Mark Barga**

*Advisory Board Member*

Senior Faculty Member, Cultural Literacy Department, City Charter High School

### **Dara Ware Allen**

*Advisory Board Member*

CEO and Principal of City Charter High School

### **Richard Purcell**

*Advisory Board Member*

Associate Professor of English at CMU and Director of Arts Greenhouse

## **Mike Mayer**

*Advisory Board Member*

Board member of the COPD Foundation and former leader at General Electric, Honeywell (formerly Allied Signal), and the Aramark Corporation

## **Marlene Williams**

*Advisory Board Member*

Director of Operations for the Center for Shared Prosperity at CMU

## **Miguel Alvarez**

*Advisory Board Member*

Associate Director of Admission and head of the Access and Diversity Initiatives team in the Office of Undergraduate Admission at CMU

## **David Lehman**

*Advisory Board Member*

Partner, K&L Gates LLP

