

BERKELEY  
HIGH SCHOOL  
DEVELOPMENT  
GROUP



*Raising Funds to Support Excellence*

# Empowering Students. Building Futures.

2023-24 BERKELEY HIGH SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GROUP ANNUAL REPORT





# BY THE NUMBERS

« ————— »

The BHSDG makes it so that teachers are not intimidated to dream BIG about a project, an activity, or an excursion. They make the planning, execution, funds distribution, and reimbursements process so manageable. If we can envision it, they help us execute it!

— Hasmig Minassian, U9 Teacher Leader

————— »



**85 GRANTS**

**\$378,429 AWARDED • \$4,452 AVERAGE GRANT**

BHS Club Fair

**9,458** Afterschool tutoring sessions

**50** First Step Awards to college-bound seniors

**197** College application fees paid for low income students

**154** Teachers awarded classroom supply grants

**679** Students supported on field trips

**18** Student clubs and student-led activities supported

**10** Professional Grants awarded

**1,050** Seniors celebrated with Prom, Yard Signs, and Senior Surprise



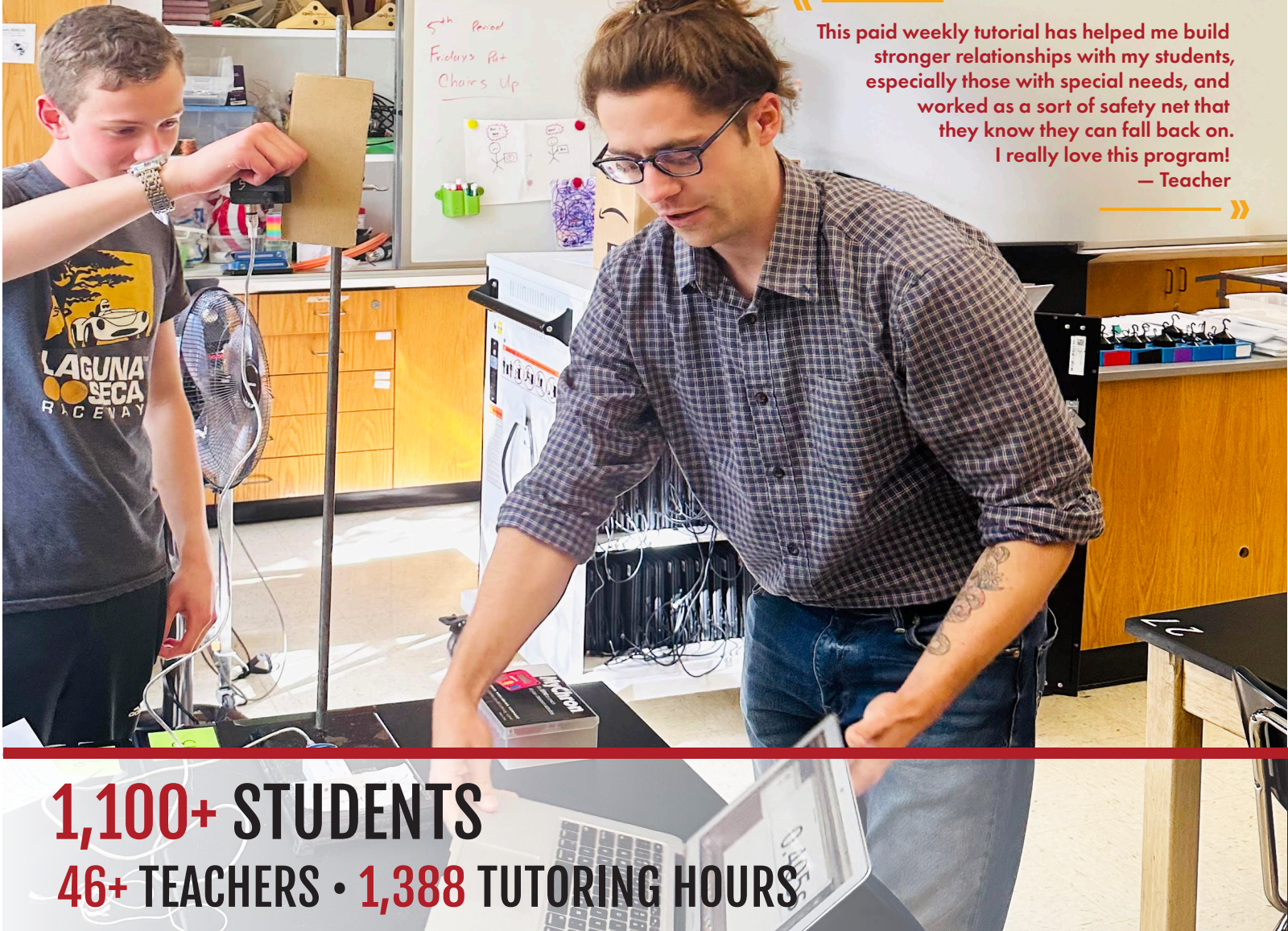
# AFTERSCHOOL TUTORING

« ————— »  
I respect my teachers and I know they try hard, so I don't like to disrupt the class if I don't get something, which is a lot. After school is much more comfortable for me. Thank you for having my history teacher stay after school to help me. This is very important for me. Thank you.

— Student

« ————— »  
This paid weekly tutorial has helped me build stronger relationships with my students, especially those with special needs, and worked as a sort of safety net that they know they can fall back on. I really love this program!

— Teacher



Afterschool Physics Tutoring

**1,100+ STUDENTS**  
**46+ TEACHERS • 1,388 TUTORING HOURS**

Afterschool tutoring continues to be the largest and most impactful program that your generosity makes possible. Thanks to your donations, **one-third** of the student body accessed additional resources and personalized support with their teachers.

Last year, 46 BHS teachers stayed after school to help in a range of subjects, from math and science to world languages, English, history, and the arts, an increase over last year. One teacher shared, "The Development Group's commitment to the U9 Physics team's afterschool tutorials has been integral to our program's success. Students often come after school to review labs and make up tests and quizzes throughout the year. The tutorials have also created

a sense of solidarity and alignment across all of our U9 Physics teachers. We appreciate your support and hope it continues!"

Math, science, and world language continue to be the most in-demand subjects with increased sign ins over the year before. The impact of your donations continues to be tremendous: Students recorded more than 9,450 tutoring session log-ins, over 400 more than the year before. One student said about the math tutorials, "I literally use the MATH 2 tutoring room everyday after school. Sometimes there is a different math teacher in there who can explain things in a different way that helps me understand better."



# GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Your generosity supported new student-led initiatives and clubs, sponsored enrichment activities, built a stronger school community, provided mental health support, and offered essential training and mentoring to retain teachers. Your giving provided students with the resources to succeed and pursue their dreams beyond high school.

## EMPOWERING STUDENTS

Student-initiated grants play a vital role in promoting leadership and personal growth. With your support, students organized the first **BHS Green Jobs Fair**, giving 700+ student attendees the chance to meet company representatives and learn about careers that help the environment. 100 students participated in the **Sustainable Fashion Show** as designers, models, student business owners, and volunteers, drawing an audience of 200+. BHS students in the **Sprouting STEMs** club led hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) activities with students at Washington Elementary. With your support, hundreds of members of student clubs connected and explored a wide range of interests including bikepacking, climbing, film, drone racing, jewelry making, and ultimate frisbee, among many others.

## EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENRICHMENT

Your support enriched learning through field trips and travel opportunities for 679 students last year. 200 students attended the **San Francisco Film Festival Youth Works Program**, and 83 ninth-graders traveled to the **Oregon Shakespeare Festival** to supplement their reading of Macbeth and experience live theater—many for the first time in their lives. 16 members of the BHS Black Student Union attended the **Afrikan Black Coalition Conference** in Santa Barbara where they had access to workshops and networking with peers from BSUs across the state. And with your support, 14 students traveled to Atlanta for the **National Society of Black Engineers National Conference**, an annual trip that has led to an increase in participants taking AP Calculus, AP Physics, and AP Statistics at BHS.

## INVESTING IN TEACHERS

You helped to invest in talented, highly trained, motivated teachers, supporting a wide range of professional development opportunities for BHS staff. Approximately **20 teachers** new

to BHS received coaching and one-on-one mentoring through the **New Educator Support Team**. With your support, teachers in science, math, Spanish, and English language development had the benefit of designated time to collaborate on **curriculum development** last year. And a grant for **equity-focused professional development**, including workshops, mentoring, texts, and other resources, helped to support staff in critical antiracism work.

## PROMOTING COMMUNITY AND WELL-BEING

Throughout the year, your donations helped to strengthen the BHS community and promote social, emotional, and mental well-being. You supported the newly launched **BHS Wellness Center**, **team building for B-Tech students**, and the all-school **Carnival**, a highly anticipated springtime tradition. With your support, the **Mental Health Peer Educators** expanded their reach to English Language Learners with bilingual Peer Educators providing presentations and one-on-one sessions. Through your support of the **Best Buddies club**, BHS students with intellectual and developmental disabilities attended the senior prom free of charge.

## ADVANCING EQUITY

Your support also helped to pave the way for student success beyond high school. The **College and Career Fair** welcomed 1,600 students and staff, with targeted outreach to underserved students. “This is an invaluable event for students who are unsure of their pathway post-high school,” said College and Career Counselor Joanne Dumbrigue. Thanks to your contributions, 44 students received needs-based support to cover **fees for college applications**, and **First Step Scholarships** provided critical support for 50 low-income BHS seniors to help defray expenses as they make the transition to college.







Clockwise from top left: Berkeley High Mock Trial, Multilingual Trip to the Exploratorium, BHSBG First Step Award Recipients, Peer Educators and Mentors

## TOP GRANTS

### LAST YEAR YOUR DONATIONS SUPPORTED

\$80,000	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	Free afterschool tutoring for all students
\$69,880	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	College and career support: First Step scholarships to pay initial expenses for 50 college-bound graduates; college application and test fees for students in need
\$52,000	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	Classroom supplies grants for all BHS, BIS, and B-tech teachers
\$51,689	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	Professional development retreat for all U9 teachers; curriculum updates including math, physics, Spanish, equity development
\$39,594	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	Supporting underserved communities: Intervention Field Trips, homeless student support, Black College Expo Tickets, Multilingual Program End-of-Year Celebration Field Trip
\$22,499	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	Community building: All-school carnival, financial support for prom and homecoming tickets, graduation yard signs and celebrations
\$21,073	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	Student clubs and activities: Drone Racing, Outer Space Weather Balloon, Sprouting STEMs, Radical Jewelry, Best Buddies clubs; Mock Trial competition, Sustainable Fashion Show and Student Film Festival
\$19,095	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	Enrichment: Shakespeare Festival field trip, BHS theater musical, Deborah Pittman film, speakers for BTA
\$14,164	\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	Mental health: Wellness Center, Mental Health Peer Educators, BHS Wellness Mural Project, CASC Counselor Conference, EMDR Therapy Training



# THANK YOU DONORS

A big thank you to the more than **1,600 PEOPLE** who donated to BHSDG last year.

Your support is crucial to all of the successes shared here, and we couldn't have done it without you.

A partial donor list is available online at [www.bhsgd.org/donors](http://www.bhsgd.org/donors) and is updated regularly throughout the year.

## SPRING COMMUNITY GATHERING

In April, BHSDG hosted its third annual community gathering and "fun-draiser" to nurture new connections. More than 80 people came together at Gather for a thought-provoking conversation on unlocking the secrets to teen happiness, resilience, and well-being through the science behind joy and fulfillment. The Berkeley High Jazz Band provided musical entertainment, while the BHS community enjoyed delicious food and got to know each other.

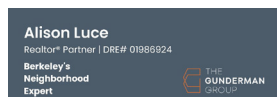
Our special guest was Dacher Keltner, host of the *Science of Happiness* podcast, founder of the Greater Good Science Center, leader of the Berkeley Social Interaction Lab, Distinguished Professor of Psychology at UC Berkeley, and author of *Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life*. He shared insights about how seeking out experiences that create awe, like being in nature or seeing live music, can help manage stress, increase happiness, and ultimately build resilience.

The event raised almost \$24,000 thanks to the support of sponsors North Berkeley Wealth Management, Alison Luce of the Gunderman Group, Gather, Olivero Plumbing, Gravitas Wine Marketing, Juliet, and attendees and donors like you.

The funds raised make it possible for BHSDG to support various initiatives for students, teachers, administrators and programs.



## THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SPONSORS





# 2023-24 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

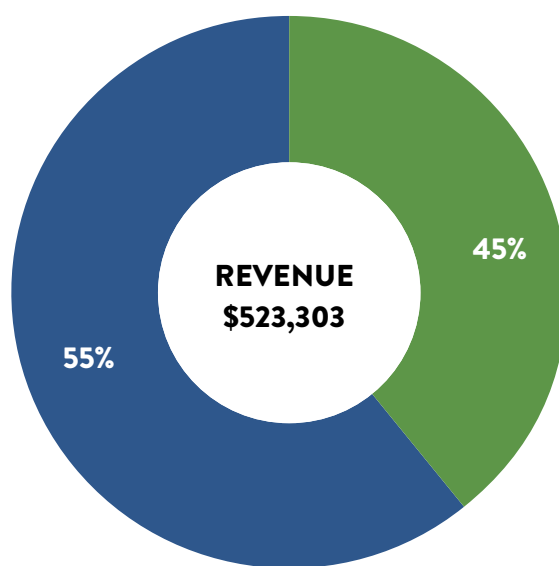
The Berkeley High School Development Group (BHSDG) was created in 1991 by a group of parents concerned about cuts to school arts programs. With the support of donors and community members like you, BHSDG has grown to become an essential source of funding for Berkeley High School, Berkeley Technology Academy (B-Tech), and Berkeley Independent Studies (BIS). Your giving fuels academic dreams and sustains programs that enrich the experience of every single student.

Your donations to BHSDG make initial funding available—even before the beginning of each school year—for key initiatives like after-school tutoring; classroom supplies for more than 160 teachers; computer hardware and software; professional development; and college application and testing fees. Your contributions also support grants for specific programs and projects awarded on a monthly basis throughout the year in response to requests from teachers, students, and staff.

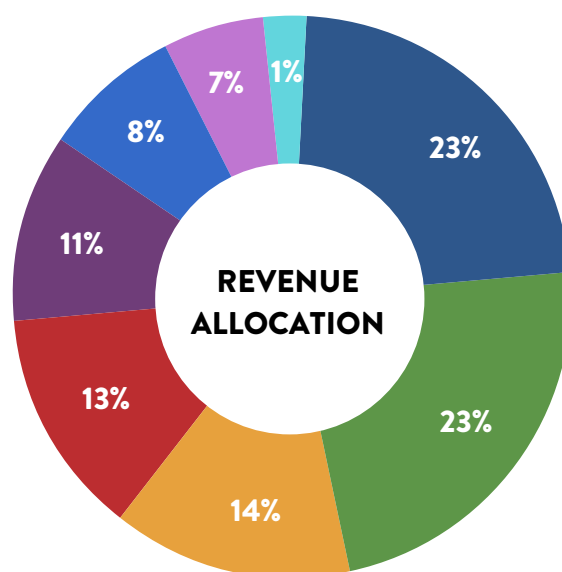
Donations to BHSDG's general fund in 2023-2024 totaled **\$287,735**—a 12% decrease from 2022-23. These direct donations made up 55% of revenue. BHSDG also acts as the fiscal agent for donations made to specific learning communities such as Arts and Humanities Academy (AHA), Communications Arts & Sciences (CAS), etc.; departments such as Science, Math, World Languages, etc.; and programs such as Multilingual Program, Special Education, etc. Each department or program determines how to spend donated funds. **\$235,567** of your donations were earmarked for these purposes. Operational expenses for the year were 7% of total expenditures. This means that 93 cents of every dollar you donate went directly to programs that strengthen the educational experience for all BHS students.

Because of the incredible generosity of donors like you, in 2023-24 BHSDG awarded 85 grants totaling \$378,429. We were able to strengthen mental health services and community building, support student-led initiatives, and advance equity through college and career programs. Our continuing partnership with the Berkeley Public Schools Fund funded the Universal 9th grade (U9) LEAP program, the Wellness Center, and a program to improve student attendance at B-Tech.

Since returning to in-person classes after COVID, BHSDG has seen a steady increase in requests for program funding and monthly grants. Thanks to a strong carryover from the COVID years and the ongoing generous support of the BHS community, we've maintained a healthy financial position while trying to meet the rising demand for funding.



- General: \$287,735
- Learning Communities & Departments: \$235,567



- Classroom Supplies: 23%
- Enrichment: 23%
- Academic Support: 14%
- College & Career: 13%
- Social Emotional & Community Building: 11%
- Professional Development: 8%
- Operations: 7%
- Technology: 1%

“ The Development Group is a champion of boosting the student experience including everything from supporting large school celebrations like the spring carnival to the seed-planting grant for a first-time student club. They have also adopted a model in the grant decision-making process to include student leaders who amplify the reach of their financial support. For the student groups, a grant approval is the motivational spark that will create outstanding benefits on and beyond the BHS campus.

— John Villavicencio - Director of Student Activities »



**DONATE TODAY** to make sure all students get the education and support they need to prepare for college, career, and beyond!

CLASS OF 2024

**TOGETHER, WE CAN DO SO MUCH MORE.**

You can touch the life of **EVERY STUDENT** and empower them to reach their potential and achieve their dreams.

**DONATE.** Your gift supports a broad range of vital school programs and activities. Donate online at [bhsdg.org](https://bhsdg.org) or via check payable to BHSDBG and mailed to the address below.

**VOLUNTEER.** Join the Berkeley High School Development Board! It's a dynamic group that has a big impact. Contact [info@bhsdevelopmentgroup.org](mailto:info@bhsdevelopmentgroup.org) for more information.

**PARTNER** with us. Join our team of business partners to make an impact like sponsoring an event.

**INQUIRE** if your employer has a matching gift.

THE MISSION of the Berkeley High School Development Group is to support and strengthen the educational experience of all students at Berkeley High School, Berkeley Technology Academy, and Berkeley Independent Study (9-12).

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