

1818 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT GRANTS

2023-2024 IMPACT REPORT



Saint Louis University





1818 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Speakers at the UnMasc (A Men's Storytelling of Masculinity Event) organized and supported by the organizations, The Village PATH, Undo Bias, and SLU's Department of Women's and Gender Studies.

Began in 2018 as part of the University's Bicentennial Celebration, The 1818 Community Engagement Grant Program honors the 200+ year history of SLU giving back to the St. Louis community. Eighteen grants of \$1,800 each are given to selected applicants to make a positive impact in the community in partnership with a local non-profit organization.

The 1818 Community Engagement Grant program received 55 applications in its fifth year. 18 were selected and provided with up to \$1,800 each to implement a project that would positively impact the community.



26

Campus groups and departments involved with the projects.



39

Non-profits in the St. Louis community that were partners.



~1555+

People in the community directly impacted by a grant.



11

Grants directly served underrepresented minorities (URM)

Project Focus Areas

Health & Wellness

Education & Skill Development

Community Support & Empowerment

Social Justice & Advocacy

Nutrition Services for the Mobile Van Transitions Clinic

- Community program intended to connect individuals coming out of incarceration in the Saint Louis area with healthcare services and nutrition education.
- The grant funds were able to help with building trust and community through food engagement.



Grantees outside of the mobile van clinic.

Moms Peer Support Group Therapy

- Interprofessional health services social work, nutrition, and counseling offered 9 free therapeutic support group sessions for 4 new mothers at the Maternal and Fetal Care Center.
- Participants shared contact information and expressed recommending the support group with others.

- The peer support group received a 4.6/5 net promoter score for recommending this group to a friend.



Let's P.L.A.Y.: Addressing Childhood Obesity

- Conducted 21 one-hour sessions at Peabody Elementary School focusing on active education and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- The program is being expanded to a weekly basis with hopes to integrate a field trip component to Healthworks!



Students engage in an interactive lesson about the digestive system.

La Salud es Sabrosa

- La Salud es Sabrosa and LifeWise STL partnered for weekly interactive cooking classes in the SLU Food Science Lab for low-income Hispanic families, emphasizing healthy cooking on a budget.
- Ingredients were bought for each class, allowing Nutrition & Dietetics and SPAN 4150 students to teach culturally fitting nutrition education in 10 classes.



LifeWise participant Matias blending his smoothie on the smoothie bike during session #4, Smoothie Time!

This program has been one of the most stunning programs that we've had during my 6 and 1/2 years. Collaborating with the various student groups at SLU has been rewarding for me and LifeWise. **-Eileen Wolfington, Coordinator of Physical Wellness at LifeWise STL**

Art & Mindfulness at Loyola Academy

- Partnership between the Museum of Contemporary Religious Art (MOCRA) and Loyola Academy of Saint Louis.
- Loyola Academy students made weekly visits to MOCRA, observing artwork and taking time to reflect in turn exposing the students to a college campus.
- "Bridging art and psychology, the class focused on how the development of empathy, meaning-making, and creativity can build stronger and healthier individuals or communities."



Loyola Academy students in their sessions.

Community Partners

- Loyola Academy
- LifeWise STL
- STL Integrated Health Network
- Peabody Elementary School
- Thomas Dunn Learning Center
- STL City Office of Violence Prevention
- Mission St. Louis
- Keyway Center
- Maternal and Fetal Care Center

EDUCATION & SKILL DEVELOPMENT

Aviation in the Ville: Promoting Aviation access and inclusion

- Partnership between the Department of Aviation Science, Claver House, and Hickey Elementary School to promote access for underrepresented populations.
- The project developed and implemented aviation outreach programming and general STEM education and outreach at Hickey Elementary School engaging with 25 4th-6th graders.



A student participating in the aviation discovery program.

Classroom Outreach Program of the Green House Venture

- Partnership between the School of Education and the Green House Venture.
- The project consisted of growing and sustaining of a Computer-Assisted Growing Chamber (CGC) in south St. Louis, to help educate local youth on ecology, nutrition, and environmental science.
- The Venture worked on the 1818 grant with Mullanphy Investigative Learning Center, St. Margaret of Scotland School, and Tower Grove Christian Academy.



TGCA class in front of the CGC.

Environmental Education

- Partnership between SLU's Sustainability Committee in SGA and the Gateway to the Great Outdoors to provide access to the outdoors for under-served youth.
- The project increased environmental awareness in youth at Nance Elementary. Students attended campus trips in addition to classroom appearances.



Children kayaking on a camping trip.

Functional Narrative & Conversational Discourse for Neurodiverse Students

- Partnership between the Academy of St. Louis, SLU Speech, and Language and Hearing Clinic to improve the quality of life, independence, and communication of K-12 students.
- All 15 students demonstrated significant progress with narrative and conversational discourse skills receiving language therapy with vocabulary, story development, and conversational skills.



Students at the Academy of St. Louis.

“The students absolutely love this program. They are being exposed to a variety of activities that are enhancing their knowledge about the outdoors.”
—Stated by a volunteer manager

Community Partners

- Academy of St. Louis
- Green House Venture
- Tower Grove Academy
- Hickey Elementary School
- Mullanphy Elementary
- Sumner High School
- Gateway to the Great Outdoors
- St. Margaret of Scotland
- Claver House

Wellness Inclusion for Youthful Warriors



- Partnership between Special Olympics of Missouri, Down syndrome Association, and SLU Special Olympics.
- The project aimed to empower intellectually disabled youth and adults through inclusive exercise and sports programs, fostering awareness of their abilities.



ID and Birth Certificate Assistance: Community Hub

- Partnership between St. Francis Xavier College Church ID and Birth Certificate (Outreach) Program and Anna Kappel, a SLU Social Work Practicum student.
- This project removed financial barriers for community members to access ID and Birth Certificates through assistance events, providing vouchers and checks to help guests obtain documents.



Volunteer helping with ID/BC assistance.

- Starting an ID/BC program in South City expanded the availability of clinics in the community.

Blaze STL Inaugural Showcase

- Partnership between Blaze STL, SLU Fine Arts Department, Spinning Into Control, CreateSLU and the Center for Social Action.
- The project promoted inclusivity by showcasing disabled artists' work alongside able-bodied artists. Accessibility was ensured through audio interpretation, physical accommodations, and meeting sensory needs at the event.



Audio interpretation services for the visually impaired.

- Over 100 people in the community were impacted by this project and over 40 artists were in attendance.

You've Got a Friend in Me

- Partnership between the World Pediatric Project, SLU StudentsCare, and the West County Ronald McDonald House.
- Buddy pairings and themed events were organized to provide emotional support for patients, helping them cope with illness and hospitalization through fun activities and familiar experiences.
- The project set up successful leadership transitions and protocols to link students with pediatric patients, aiming to secure funding and evolve into a CSO.



Buddy pairing at the Saint Louis Zoo.

Community Partners

- BlazeSTL
- College Church Outreach
- Community Living
- LifeBridge
- Down Syndrome Association
- Foundation Christian Academy
- YMCA
- Harbor Unlimited
- Mary Ryder Home
- Pathway to Independence
- Ronald McDonald House
- Special Olympics of Missouri
- Guardian Settlement Association

UnMasc: Stories of Masculinity



Speaker at UnMasc:
Stories of Masculinity event.

- UnMasc is a story-telling event, held during Violence Prevention Month, with cis and transgender men of varying racial, and cultural backgrounds sharing how masculinity has affected them.
- UnMasc has impacted its audience by promoting a dialogue centered on breaking down the stigma around men and vulnerability and has become the catalyst for conversations about masculinity in the St. Louis region.



Hygiene Products for Survivors

- Partnership between the School of Social Work and Healing Action STL to provide hygiene products to 60+ members.
- Students created a boutique to get clothing, diverse hygiene products, and other household items to support victims of human trafficking.



“The 1818 grant plays a vital role in granting our members access to life affirming products. We at Healing Action have been lucky to be the recipients of this grant twice and this year in particular with Brooke leading we have been able to specialize our product intake to best meet the needs of our clients. Programs like the 1818 grant offer our clients dignified access to hygiene products that help them feel empowered, valuable, and seen.”

– Healing Action Staff Member

Loving Our Neighbors: HIV/AIDS Awareness

- Partnership between Gateway to Health and Doorways, a non-profit organization that provides housing and social support services to marginalized individuals with HIV/AIDS.
- Residents at Cooper House received exercise equipment and taekwondo and guitar lessons to support their physical needs and social well-being.



DOORWAYS
HOPE LIVES HERE

- Improvements such as wall art, an outdoor fountain, and LED lights were purchased to improve the social environment at Cooper House and foster a welcoming and comfortable environment for the residents.



CourtWatchers in Court.

CourtWatch St. Louis

- SLU’s Social Work Program partnered with the Freedom Community Center (FCC), founded “to dismantle forms of oppression that inflict harm and trauma on Black communities in St. Louis City (STL).”
- Conducted social observation at the 22nd Judicial Circuit Court, to examine how defendants are processed and record particular cases of disparities in court decisions and judicial treatment.
- Created reports on bond discrepancies and improved the lives of individuals directly affected by the criminal justice system.

Community Partners

- American Cancer Society
- Doorways Housing
- Freedom Community Center
- Healing Action STL
- Mary Ryder Home
- St. Louis Children’s Hospital

Leadership Impact



Leaders highlighted multiples areas of growth and development gained through the grant process:

“I definitely grew as a leader as well as personally and professionally. I was able to utilize my collaboration and networking skills to build partnerships with community organizations. I strengthened my communication skills by spending time with the residents and hearing their stories, past experiences, and future ambitions, also fostering a supportive, respectful, and comfortable environment... Through this experience, I furthered my understanding surrounding communities...”

01. Initiative and Responsibility

Many project leads took on significant responsibility, often stepping outside their comfort zones. Leads indicated that this led to their growth as a leader.

02. Delegation and Teamwork

Working with large teams and learning to delegate effectively were crucial for successful project management.

03. Communication Skills

Enhanced ability to communicate with diverse groups, including community partners, team members, and project beneficiaries.

04. Adaptability and Problem-Solving

Navigating unexpected challenges and logistical issues improved adaptability and problem-solving skills.

Ensuring Long-Term Project Sustainability

ALL 18 of the grants have a plan in place to continue the project in the next year.

These include such plans as:

- Exploring various avenues to secure long-term funding
- Incorporating the project into department or student organizations
- Continuing partnerships and raising advocacy efforts



1818 GRANT TESTIMONIALS

Stories and testimonials showcasing the impact of the 1818 grant projects.

"[My visit to the museum] ...away from the school building, taught me to think outside of the box...helped my brain think more"

- DYLAN S., LOYOLA ACADEMY STUDENT

"I found that the students benefited greatly by participating in an authentic experiment....At the end, students were excited to "dissect" their plants..One girl turned over her paper and read her hypothesis, which was that the roots in the front would have to get stronger to hold the plant in place. "I did it!" she quietly boasted to herself."

- REBECCA FINNEGAN, GREEN HOUSE VENTURE

"We were extremely blessed and thankful for the dedicated contributions of SLU Project Gateway to Health. Their work to empower individuals with HIV/AIDS and promote active community support and engagement is commendable. Our residents enjoyed their time with the students during the volunteering events and we look forward to furthering our partnership in the future." - DOORWAYS

"The first couple of weeks we only talked for 15-20 minutesby the fourth week, we had talked for almost an hour. That was when I could tell my senior buddy had gotten comfortable talking to me It was an incredible feeling to realize that I was having such an impact on this person's life just by being there to listen."

- YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND IN ME, VOLUNTEER

"Guardian Angel prides itself on being able to reduce barriers.... This includes the right to obtain identification, which is generally used as an entry pass to many of the benefits needed to survive and thrive in St. Louis. With the support of the 1818 Grant, Guardian Angel has been able to expand access for South St. Louis neighbors to acquire identification at no-cost."

- ZENIQUE GARDNER PERRY, GUARDIAN ANGEL SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION

"We are so grateful that a grant was secured for our school to help students with functional narrative and conversational discourse. The grant secured materials for ASTL to keep and use in classes. Our students showed marked improvements and the SLU graduate students did an outstanding job! We are grateful to Angela and Julie for their commitment to our school!"

- ACADEMY OF ST. LOUIS

"I like the games we play with Let's P.L.A.Y.! We have fun with you."

"We learn about food and exercise!"

"Don't stop coming! I'm going to miss Let's P.L.A.Y. over the summer."

-PEABODY ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

"The BlazeSTL 2023 Showcase gave us the opportunity to connect with our clients on a closer, friendlier level. We were also able to set up our gallery for future events, a goal we have had for quite some time."

- ROB MILLER, DIRECTOR OF BLAZESTL



1818 Community Engagement Grant

Applications are due
by Monday, September
30, 2025.

Sponsored
by:



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR SOCIAL ACTION



Interested in applying for your own 1818 Community Engagement grant? Keep an eye out for the 2024-2025 academic year application! More details to come.

Requirements

- Groups must complete an application, as well as submit a project budget and timeline.
 - All groups must have at least one community partner as a co-applicant, and should include SLU students. Grants must either be used to start a new community engagement program, or significantly improve an existing one.
- All projects must be completed no later than May 31, 2025. All funds must be utilized by this date.
- All recipients will present a poster on their project at the 1818 Community Engagement Grant Showcase on Thursday., May 1, 2025 from 4-5:30 pm in the CGC.

Timeline

- September 1: Applications go live
- September 30: Last day to submit an application
- October 13: All applicants will be informed of the selection committee decision
- May 1: Showcase of grant winners
- May 31: Projects must be completed

Selection Process:

- A team of faculty, staff and students will review each application.
- Applicants will be informed of the decision no later Friday, October 11.

For information on the 1818 Community Engagement Grant Program, contact Aubra Ladd with the Center for Social Action at aubra.ladd@slu.edu.

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