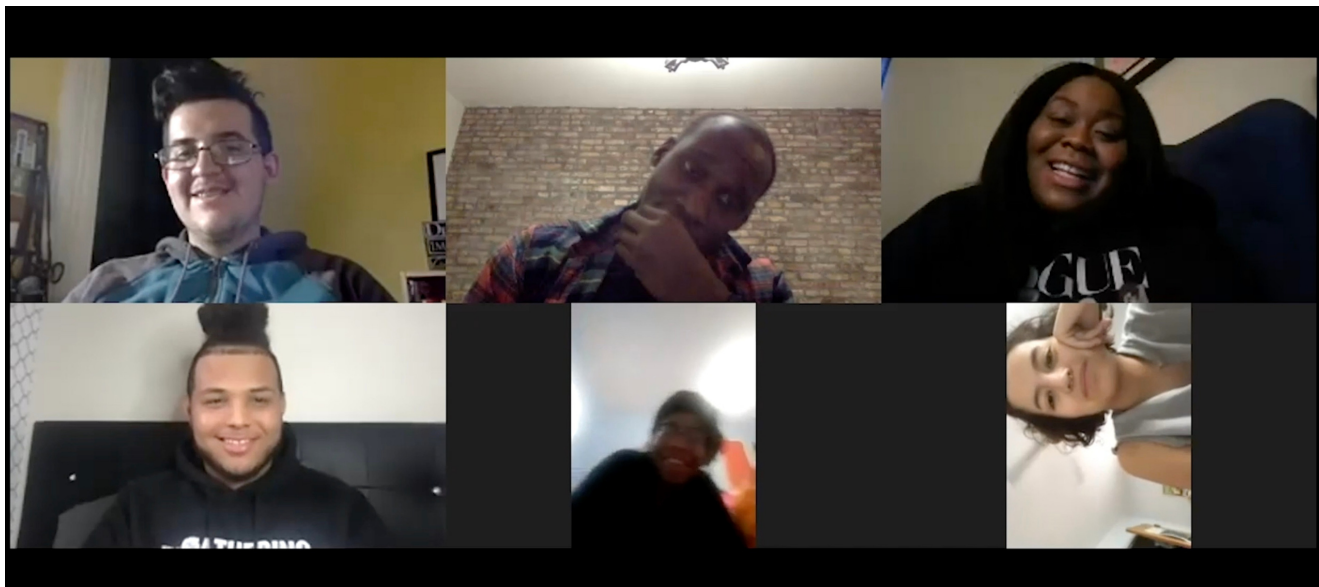


2020

ANNUAL REPORT



The young people served by New Yorkers Against Gun Violence Education Fund faced a dual epidemic in 2020: The COVID-19 pandemic and surging gun violence throughout New York state. But by quickly adapting our programs to a world of online education and remote advocacy, NYAGV Ed Fund provided a source of strength, stability and safety to our community - and advanced our mission to reduce gun violence.

In 2020, COVID-19 killed Black New Yorkers at twice the rate of white residents. Unemployment rates doubled to 8% statewide, soaring past 12% in New York City. And widespread school closures left thousands of students unable to access digital resources or real-time education. Combined with a continued influx of guns from states with weak gun laws, New York saw a large-scale spike in gun violence. Gun violence in NYC rose to its highest rate in 14 years, doubling since 2019. Shootings also doubled in Albany, jumped 78 percent in Buffalo, and almost quadrupled in Rochester.

#POWERINPLACE

As coronavirus began its devastating spread through New York, NYAGV Ed Fund found #PowerInPlace - re-envisioning our education and advocacy programs so that students and staff could participate from home.

(cont'd next page)

BY THE NUMBERS

1000+

youth reached by NYAGV Ed Fund programs in the 2019-20 school year

66%

of ReACTION students know someone who has been shot*

88%

percent of ReACTION students who, upon completion of the program, agreed that having a gun in the home will not protect them*

*Based on a survey of 355 ReACTION students

#POWERINPLACE

When schools shut down, we reconfigured our ReACTION in-school curriculum as a virtual program, providing what many students described as a lifeline. Students gathered online to discuss the effects of both COVID-19 and gun violence on their families and communities, and ReACTION instructors helped them understand the root causes exacerbating both crises.

Instead of our annual trip to Albany, students and volunteers participated in a Virtual Lobby Week in May, sharing their concerns about rising gun violence with lawmakers at the state, local and federal levels. And we redesigned our Train-the-Facilitator program for a web-based format, allowing us to increase the number of students receiving our ReACTION curriculum by preparing conflict mediators from community-based organizations to deliver the course. By the end of 2020, our staff instructors and new facilitators were providing ReACTION online to nine schools and after-school programs throughout the city - more than double the number of schools we have reached since 2017.

Our summer Miller Mentorship program also pivoted to a virtual format, with our class of nine teens meeting over seven weeks to take a deep dive into the intersections of race, gender, the pandemic, and gun violence. The mentorship program took place as the nation erupted in protest over the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and so many others at the hands of police, and our conversations explored the students' differing perspectives about law enforcement, the historic links between policing and race, and how the prevalence of firearms exacerbates the systemic inequities inherent in our criminal justice system.

Youth Over Guns, the youth-led arm of NYAGV and NYAGV Ed Fund, was instrumental in organizing efforts during the uprisings in defense of Black lives and against police violence. YOG partnered with organizations across NYC to host actions that were COVID-safe and informative. They celebrated Black youth on Juneteenth with a march from Tweed

Courthouse to Central Park that called for #PoliceFreeSchools, and mobilized young people to attend many other protests. From social media to the streets, YOG leveraged their influence and reach to drive campaigns, share tools for resistance and promote anti-racist educational resources.

Even our Annual Benefit went virtual, honoring PayPal Chief Risk Officer and Executive Vice President Aaron Karczmer for the tech giant's commitment to anti-trafficking work; U.S. Representative Hakeem Jeffries for his emphatic support of legislation to reduce gun violence, including police violence; actor Rob Morgan for his role in *Just Mercy*; and the Miller Mentorship Class of 2020 for their commitment to the cause of ending gun violence. We featured guest appearances by Broadway stars Lin-Manuel Miranda and Adrienne Warren - and an exclusive performance by Grammy winner, and gun violence survivor, Marc Cohn.

Despite the pandemic, we continued to grow our budget and diversify our revenue stream. With the support of forward-looking corporations like PayPal Inc., Levi Strauss & Co., and Citibank - and a 27% jump in the number of donations we received - our revenue grew 11% from 2019 to 2020, rising to nearly \$595,108.

In this year unlike any other, we remain extraordinarily grateful for the ongoing support of our donors and volunteers. Together, we continue to advance our shared goal of safety and justice for our communities.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Fischer
Executive Director



Denver Edwards
Board Chair

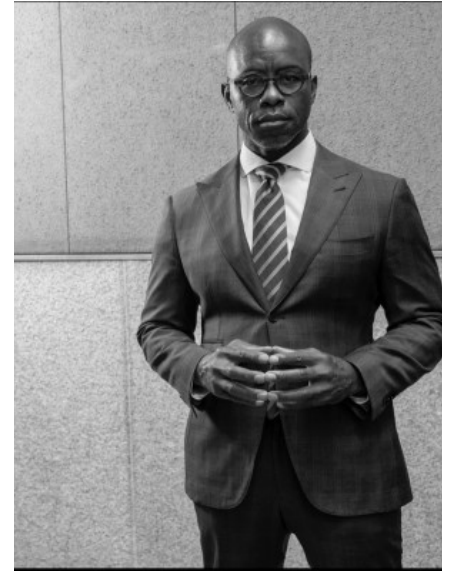
NEW BOARD CHAIR

Please welcome NYAGV Ed Fund's new board chair, Denver Edwards, a commercial litigation attorney who has served on the board since 2017. Motivated by the prevalence of everyday gun violence in communities of color, Edwards views his work with NYAGV Ed Fund as an opportunity to shed light on all aspects of the problem.

"We cannot have a situation where you have hundreds - if not thousands - of black bodies on the streets all day every day, and there's no outcry for that," he says. "My focus is to care about the entire universe of gun violence, both what happens in mass shootings, and what happens day to day in inner cities."

NYAGV Ed Fund's unique mix of policy and education work appeals to Edwards, the son of Jamaican immigrants.

"NYAGV is doing more than just marching and organizing rallies. I think that's a huge differentiator for the organization," says Edwards, who wants to see NYAGV Ed Fund grow our programming presence statewide. "We have the heady stuff, the intellectual capital, but we also have the grassroots capabilities, through ReACTION and our other programs, to prove out some of the policy issues."



Edwards lives in Harlem and has three sons. He also serves on the Board of Trustees for Middlebury College, his alma mater. He earned his law degree from Boston University.



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ANGER TO ADVOCACY

This year, NYAGV Ed Fund's youth arm, Youth Over Guns, launched an innovative program to train the next generation of leaders: The Anger to Advocacy Activist Incubator. Conceived during a session of our Miller Mentorship summer program, ATA is a peer-led leadership development course designed to help young people of color galvanize their communities to fight for holistic solutions to our nation's gun violence crisis.

In the fall of 2020, we welcomed our first cohort of ATA participants, a group of 20 youth of color from 8 states around the country who participated via Zoom. The curriculum, designed by YOG leaders, started by covering the history of gun violence and related laws in America, the effect of gun violence on different communities, and the ways in which gun violence intersects with other social issues, such as race, poverty and mass incarceration.

In early 2021, the students will continue their coursework in interactive sessions covering leadership development and community organizing training. The participants will find specific topics of interest related to gun violence, and they will work in teams to build campaigns to educate and galvanize their peers around these issues in virtual town halls and workshops throughout the spring. Our goal is to reach at least 1000 students through these peer-led educational sessions.



This unique peer-led approach - YOG leaders facilitate the courses, and the program participants will in turn educate their peers - has been shown to empower youth and lead to long-term activism.

"Being able to facilitate conversations at Anger to Advocacy has been a fruitful experience," says Alliyah Logan, YOG's director of youth engagement, who helped write ATA's curriculum and serves as a program facilitator and mentor. "It's inspiring to see young leaders around the country build community in a virtual space."



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