Dear Friends,

With the end of another year, we continue to stand in awe of everything our staff, partners and donors have accomplished this year with the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and social injustices. Our board, staff and network of schools and providers remained steadfast in their commitments to supporting Richmond youth with opportunities to set them on a path to success.

During the 2020–2021 school year, 330 youth accessed high-quality learning enrichments from our network of 68 organizations. The power of this collective effort continues to produce positive outcomes for students, including more than 70% of students who improved or maintained attendance during the unprecedented year of virtual school.

One thing the youth development field has always prioritized is the social and emotional well-being of students and its importance to school outcomes and overall health. We worked closely with Richmond Public Schools and our providers to support students with resources such as counseling, food and technology. This past year, 100% of students who completed our survey responded they had an adult through NextUp who they listened to and respected. Additionally, 83% of respondents noted their participation in classes helped them find out what they were good at and what they liked to do.

As we look toward the next year and continuing on our mission of ensuring access to quality learning opportunities beyond the classroom, we will continue to champion equitable access for Richmond’s youth in all that we do. We’d like to give our deep thanks for your support along the way. We could not have done this without you.

SINCERELY,

Thurston Moore
Chairman, Board of Directors

Barbara Couto Sipe
President & CEO

Visa

ANNUAL REPORT / 2020–2021
Continuing Virtually

2020–2021 SCHOOL YEAR
Last year’s pivot to online sessions became this year’s plan from the outset. We were determined not to allow the pandemic to further deepen opportunity gaps in learning. Our robust online portal was primed and ready to host interactive classes from quality organizations. Students grew from enriching live offerings in coding, anime, yoga, contemporary hip-hop, cooking and much more. And, when they wanted to enjoy activities on their own, we offered recordings in the areas of sports and health, STEM, arts and humanities, and leadership/work readiness.

This has been another difficult year that many may measure by the things they have lost. We cannot help but treasure what we have gained: an invaluable virtual tool that we can use to connect to students anytime, anywhere, whenever they need it most. We offered 422 hours of expanded learning time. We served 256 middle school, 63 elementary school and 11 high school students – all of whom now believe they have a supportive adult influence in their lives. And at the end, 91% of parents said they would love to have our virtual option open for the coming year.

As an organization, NextUp is continuing to make an impact on our students’ lives. Our offerings mean better behavior, better opportunities and better days for Richmond youth. And for that, we are grateful.

Our Goals
• Positive school attendance
• Positive school behavior
• Positive course performance
• Strong social/emotional well-being

Our Objectives
• Increase student and school access to quality learning experiences
• Improve student participation in quality programs
• Increase quality of programs and access to professional development

SCHOOL YEAR 2020–2021 at a glance

178 new students participated in virtual programming but had never taken a NextUp class before

330 students served by NextUp virtual programming

48 students attended at least one class each session of the academic year

I used to be bored and didn’t have anything to do after school. Now I can log on to NextUp classes.” – NEVAEH

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Performance Measures

**Provided** 442 hours of expanded learning time as well as wraparound health & human services for 256 RPS* middle schoolers, 63 elementary schoolers and 11 high schoolers through a coordinated after-school system of 68 local youth organizations.

*18 youths attended non-RPS schools

On average, students participated in 25.2 days of quality virtual programming during the school year. Also, 97% of students participated for 30 days or more. Research says students who participate in after-school programs for 30 days or more have better outcomes than non-participants.

330 students gained access to quality learning enrichments in 2020–2021

Student Participation

**PARTICIPATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arts and Humanities</th>
<th>53%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership/Work Readiness</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports and Health</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEM</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**QUALITY**

95% of instructors reported that NextUp supports their own quality improvement.

**ENJOY & FEEL ENGAGED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership/Work Readiness</th>
<th>89%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sports and Health</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOCIAL/PERSONAL SKILLS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership/Work Readiness</th>
<th>89%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>have fun when they’re at NextUp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>have an adult in NextUp who they will listen to and respect</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ACADEMIC SKILLS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership/Work Readiness</th>
<th>62%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>have found out what they’re good at doing and what they like to do</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SUPPORTIVE ADULT**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership/Work Readiness</th>
<th>100%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>have attended NextUp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TYPES OF PROGRAMS DELIVERED BY PROVIDERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arts and Humanities</th>
<th>40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leadership/Work Readiness</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports and Health</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEM</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Feedback

**I love NextUp because it’s fun and you get tons of different activities. And, we have a raffle for attendance and student of the week.” —DAMARE
Coordination Expands Effective Programs and Supports Provider Quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROVIDER FEEDBACK</th>
<th>97%</th>
<th>95%</th>
<th>76%</th>
<th>92%</th>
<th>74%</th>
<th>97%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>feel adequately supported by NextUp</td>
<td>feel that coordinators has made inconvenient to teach students virtually</td>
<td>feel adequately supported by coordinators when incidents arise with students</td>
<td>feel that NextUp supports the advancement of their program’s quality</td>
<td>feel that they have made an impact on students’ lives and relationships with others</td>
<td>feel that NextUp has made it easy to provide required materials to students</td>
<td>feel that NextUp supports the advancement of their program’s quality</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Demographics**

- **GRADE LEVEL**
  - 5th: 29%
  - 6th: 28%
  - 7th: 12%
  - 8th-10th: 12%

- **GENDER**
  - Girls: 53%
  - Boys: 34%
  - Unknown: 1%
  - Non-binary: 1%

- **RACE/ETHNICITY**
  - Black: 80%
  - Hispanic: 12%
  - White: 7%
  - Other: 1%

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**I love NextUp because it’s fun. I really like Kidz N Biz because I like business and I like to have fun.”**

—JOURNEY
Thank you to all sponsors, teachers, educators and students. This is a wonderful program for all children. Keep up the awesome work!!” – PARENT

Engaging Students with Academic Need

- MEDIUM-TO-HIGH-RISK STUDENTS
  - had medium- or high-risk factors during the 2020–2021 school year: 48%
  - had medium- or high-risk factors in attendance: 47%
  - had medium- or high-risk factors in course performance: 6%

Impacting Student Achievement

- PARTICIPATING STUDENTS’ ACADEMIC OUTCOMES
  - improved or maintained positive attendance: 72%
  - had positive school attendance (attended school for 95% of the time or more): 85%
  - improved by 1 letter grade or maintained the same grade of C or above in English: 62%
  - achieved a final grade of C or above in English: 86%
  - improved by 1 letter grade or maintained the same grade of C or above in math: 63%
  - achieved a final grade of C or above in math: 77%
Access to Quality Learning
Enrichment Matters to Families

FAMILY FEEDBACK

agree that NextUp helped with their child’s needs
88%

are satisfied with the selection of virtual programs
74%

are satisfied with the quality of virtual classes through Zoom
85%

believe NextUp provided a safe virtual environment
97%

want the virtual option for their children in an upcoming school year
91%

My child LOVED Ms. Dabney! She was engaging, enthusiastic and extremely knowledgeable about acting. My 9-year-old grew fond of her in a short period of time.” – PARENT
Helping Students Discover, Explore and Engage

THANK YOU TO OUR NETWORK OF PARTNERS THAT HAVE HELPED MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

PROGRAM PROVIDERS

AcuDial
Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Anime Club (Andrea Bryant)
ART 180
Avail Outpatient Counseling
Axiom Educators, LLC
Barbara Haas (Makerspace)
Blue Sky Fund
Bucks County Sports League
Bona Vita Inc., Founder Mark
Chess RVA, LLC
Downward Dog Dance and Yoga
Edible Education
Enrichmond: The Institute for the Advancement of Young People
Flawless Imperfections, LLC / R.E.A.L. Girz
Focus-Our Future, Inc
Gamer Events RVA
Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia
Girls For A Change
Girls on the Run of Greater Richmond
Greater Richmond FunkKids
Hand Thrown
Heart of VA Council Boy Scouts of America
Henderson Golf Club
IBY Yoga and Mindfulness (a division of Itty Bitty Yogis)
Inspire RVA, LLC
JumpStart LLC
Kidz R Cookin’, LLC
Latin Ballet of Virginia
Legacy Band Brand LLC
Legacy Band Brand LLC
Lily’s Interpation
Light The Music
Little Scholars
M. H. West & Co., Inc.
Podium RVA
Prisky Café
Project Yoga Richmond
Programming Foundation of VA
Richmond Performing Arts Alliance
Richmond Public Schools Education Foundation
Richmond Volleyball Club
Richmond Young Writers
RVA Performance Training
RVA Skate Club (A partner of EnRichmond Foundation)
Sacred Heart Center
Scholarship Chess Business Center
Sights and Sounds of Virginia
Silver Arrow
Team MAGIK, Inc
The Leadership and Achievement Academy
The Live Red Foundation
The Men of Barton Heights Youth Organization
The Metropolitan Business League
Trinity Village Center
VCU Dept of Forensic Science
VCU Mary and Frances Youth Center
Vedant Holdings, DBA Doodle Dymo
Vedant Holdings, LLC DBA Club SciKidz
Victoria’s Kitchen, LLC
Virginia Cooperative Extension RVA 4-H
Virginia Outside
Virginia Repertory Theatre
Virginia Squash Racquets Association, Inc (VA Squash)
Virginia Repertory Theatre
Virginia State Restaurant Association, Inc (VA Restaurant Association)
Virginia Visual Arts Center of Richmond
Visual Arts Center of Richmond
Work of Art
Your Visionary Designer
Youth Impact

Ellen Victoria, Owner, Victoria’s Kitchen

NEXTUP CLASS: CULINARY MASTERCHEF

Victoria’s Kitchen was launched out of a need to provide healthy and delicious home-cooked meals for the daughters of the co-owners who had dietary concerns. It has transformed into a community cooking school that helps kids and their parents learn the importance of incorporating more natural, organic and fresh ingredients into their meals.

Ellen started out by partnering with local schools to offer cooking classes to students, then discovered NextUp and thought it would be the perfect fit. A provider since 2013, Ellen teaches a class called Culinary Masterpiece that is full every session. She likes to think outside of the box and try new things to keep youth engaged. Students read recipes, learn math through measurements and fraction conversion, and enjoy culinary science experiments.

Popular recipes include healthy fried chicken, oven-fried chicken nuggets, doughnuts and 3-layer lasagna.

“NextUp [makes you feel so important and so comfortable. We’re more than just a cooking school... we’re a community.”

Ellen Victoria,
Owner,
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There’s more to do after school than just going home. At NextUp, you get to make stuff for yourself and to show your family. I love Culinary Masterpiece and making chocolate hazelnut cookies.” – SYNHAI
I have girls that are in the program. Since being in the program, they are more engaged in school and learning. They can’t wait until it’s time to log on and participate in their selected programs. Now they are talking about careers in robotics and community service.”

– PARENT