



# IMPACT REPORT

2024

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*Life Coach Wil Quintero at Town Nights with his son.*



*DBB Fellow Joyous shares the shirt she created in their screen printing workshop.*

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## Dear Community,

As I reflect on this past year, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and pride for what we have accomplished together. This year has been over a decade in the making. Our success reflects both our growth and our deepening roots in our mission.

The opening of our Youth Power Zone (YPZ), a physical space that embodies our vision for a brighter future, is more than just bricks and mortar. It represents decades of dreaming and building a sanctuary for healing, organizing, and power. We further expanded our impact by acquiring a second building, the historic Bonanza store, which will be transformed into a climate resilience center for our community, and is supported by the community project fund from former Congresswoman Barbara Lee's office.

These spaces are a reclamation of land and identity. As an urban, Indigenous-led organization, we see this as our version of "land back"- a commitment to restoring what has been taken and reimagining it through the lens of community stewardship.

This year also reaffirmed our promise to decarcerate youth in Alameda County. Through a divest/invest strategy, we are working to shift resources away from systems that perpetuate trauma and into structures that cultivate healing, growth, and opportunity. What we are building here is a demonstration model, a blueprint for what it means to end youth incarceration in this country.

But we know the road ahead will not be easy. We are bracing ourselves for a challenging few years as political forces target the most vulnerable among us. At CURYJ, we are steadfast in our commitment to being a sanctuary. Our mutual aid networks will grow

stronger, and we are determined to create a network of freedom hubs that operate as connected spaces of love, protection, and resilience across the country.

This moment is a test of our humanity. It is easy to be bold when the stakes feel lower, but now is the time for audacious love. We have a responsibility to act through intentional and courageous action.

We must defend truth, defend love, and defend humanity.

At CURYJ, this has always been our way. Over a decade ago, we stood with local leaders in opposing gang injunctions, seeing the humanity, promise, and potential in the very people others sought to criminalize. Many of those individuals transformed their lives, becoming some of the most compelling peacemakers and mentors in Oakland. Today, we face a similar battle - not just for individuals but for entire communities under attack. From efforts to erase

history and ban truth to the targeting of diversity and inclusion, the stakes are higher than ever.

But we are not the resistance. We are the future. The white supremacist agenda resists us because it fears the power of our love, our humanity, and our collective strength. And so, we extend an invitation: join us in building a movement rooted in mutual aid, respect, and the audacity to love. Whether it's attending a monthly social mixer, sharing your skills, or becoming a monthly contributor, we invite you to be part of this journey.

The urgency has never been greater, but neither has our love or commitment. Together, we will build a future defined by love, community self-defense, and power.

With gratitude and hope,

George Galvis  
***Executive Director, CURYJ***



George Galvis

# OUR IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

*Unlocking the leadership of youth to dream beyond bars.*



**36**  
Community events.



**272**

Participants enrolled in **CURYJ** programs.





**\$60,318,440**

Taxpayer Dollars Saved.

**29**

Harmful Bills Defeated.

**2**

Priority Bills Enacted.



**350**

Families per Week Served Through Food Distribution.

**13,820**

Hot Meals Provided.

Over **15,000**  
bags of produce distributed.



**267**

Mediations Conducted.



**454**

Years of Time Behind Bars Saved.



**8,600**

Event attendees.



COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE  
CURYJ

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ZONE

COMMUNITIES UNITED FOR RESTORATIVE JUSTICE  
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

YOU' POV ZO'

# YOUTH NEVER GIVE UP

*CURYJ Co-Founders cut the ribbon at the Grand Opening of Building One of the Youth Power Zone at Fruitvale Station.*



...youth



*This first building of the Youth Power Zone is home to CURYJ's core programs and serves as a movement hub for community members and partner organizations.*

## ***After defeating the Fruitvale gang injunction, a neighborhood sanctuary for youth to heal, grow, and thrive.***

### **Grand Opening of CURYJ's Youth Power Zone at Fruitvale Station**

On September 7th, we celebrated the culmination of over five years of work and planning: the Grand Opening of the Youth Power Zone at Fruitvale Station. The vision for Youth Power Zones came to life in response to the Fruitvale gang injunction, which profiled youth and limited their ability to be at home in the neighborhood. After successfully organizing to defeat the injunction, our co-founders asked: Instead of creating zones in which young people are criminalized, kicked out, and disempowered, what if we could create zones of power, belonging, and healing that resource youth with the opportunities and programs they need to heal, grow, and thrive? CURYJ's Youth Power Zone is the physical embodiment

of our answer: a community-led, community-owned haven of direct-service programming, advocacy, and culturally-rooted healing that serves as a demonstration model for alternative approaches to policing and incarceration.

CURYJ occupies the 7,000 square-foot commercial space on the ground floor of the building, while The Unity Council and BRIDGE Housing partner to provide 181 units of fully affordable family housing in the development above. This first building of the Youth Power Zone is home to CURYJ's core programs and serves as a movement hub for community members and partner organizations.

# 2024 GALA CELEBRATION



*Honoring the family of Oscar Grant III.*

***Over 300 people came together to celebrate and invest in the completion of Building One!***

On June 7th, over 300 people gathered at the Oakland Scottish Rite Center to celebrate *13 years of CURYJ and the completion of Building One of the Youth Power Zone*. Featuring a Fishbowl Keynote Conversation between Ericka Huggins and Morning Star Galii, the evening included performances by El

Dueto, Rico Pabon with Destani Wolf, Tammi Brown, and Zoe Ellis, poetry by Jose Cordon, presentation of The CURYJ Awards, and a special recognition of the family of Oscar Grant III. All told the event raised \$204,495 to support the final construction of Building One.

## **BUILDING TWO: Bonanza, 3545 International Blvd, Oakland, CA**

This year CURYJ was privileged to be able to purchase the former Bonanza store on International Boulevard, a 10,000 square foot commercial space located across from the Youth Power Zone's first building. Currently used for art builds, local exhibitions, and storage, the space will go through two phases of development. Through the sponsorship of former Congresswoman Barbara Lee, CURYJ was awarded Community Project

Grant Funding. This will allow us to complete phase one: preliminary renovation and development of the Bonanza building into the second site of the Youth Power Zone, housing CURYJ's Community Peace and Healing programs. Reconstruction is tentatively slated to begin in early 2026.



**REUNIFICATION OF PARCELS** creates a strong connection between the Bonanza building and CURYJ Oscar Grant Youth Power Zone within the Casa Suenos affordable housing project.

**ADAPTIVE REUSE WITH SEISMIC UPGRADES AND ENERGY RETROFIT** of this existing structure reduces embodied carbon of new construction, while delivering a modern high performance space with an extended life-cycle.

**RESTORATION OF MARQUEE SIGNAGE** is highly visible and recognizable in the neighborhood for day-to-day programming and in emergency scenarios as a clear landmark.



*Architectural rendering of Youth Power Zone Building Two*

**WALKABLE, BIKEABLE, ACTIVE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER LOCATION** acts as a magnet on the corner of International Blvd. and 36th Ave in the heart of Oakland.

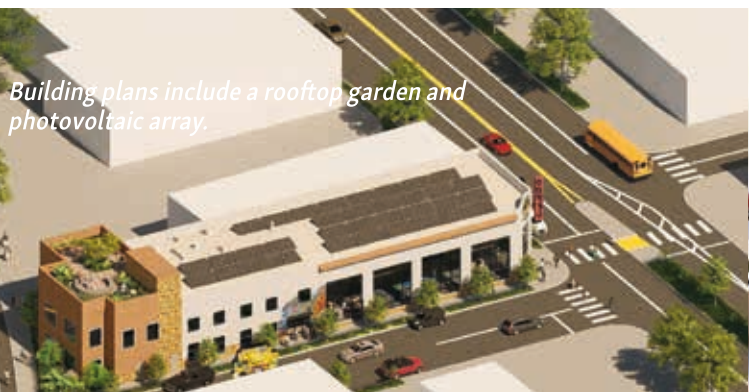
**ICONIC CORNER ENTRY** and adaptive reuse of an iconic urban building becomes a welcome gathering point within the Fruitvale neighborhood.

**REPURPOSED RETAIL FRONTAGE** acts as a billboard for climate and environmental justice movement art and educational materials display, highlighting activities and culture.

## At the Intersection of Systemic Injustice and Climate Change

CURYJ's phase two vision is bolder and more ambitious: retrofitting the building to serve not only as home to our Community Peace and Healing work, but as a Community Resilience Hub and emergency response shelter for the Fruitvale. Communities that have historically faced discrimination, disinvestment, and criminalization are also the most vulnerable to climate change impacts, with fewer resources to prepare for, respond to, and recover from environmental disasters. The proposed Resilience Hub will be used regularly as a place for safety and

belonging by community members - particularly by high-risk and at-risk youth and young adults for Community Healing programs and events, workshops, art exhibits, and performances. It will be designed and built as an exemplar of adaptive and resilient buildings that can be quickly activated for community shelter and support during climate events, natural disasters, or large-scale public emergencies. And, it will serve as a local community resource center, offering education, events, and reservable space for residents and community-based partner organizations.



*Building plans include a rooftop garden and photovoltaic array.*



*Flexible space for events, food distribution, and education.*

# CLIMATE & FOOD JUSTICE



*DBB Fellow Mireya visiting Yosemite as part of reclaiming outdoor access and integrating nature into youth leadership.*

## HEAL Food Distribution Program

2024 marked the first full year of CURYJ's new food distribution mutual aid program, HEAL (Healthy Eating, Active Living). Launched out of the former Bikes4Life space in West Oakland, our HEAL Program provides weekly food distribution to 300-350 families per week, as well as weekly food drop-offs to four unhoused encampments.

Our HEAL Program Manager also cooks and distributes monthly hot meals and provides hot, nourishing foods for CURYJ's Community Healing Events.

## OYACA (Oakland Youth Advancing Climate Action)

CURYJ is preparing youth and their families who stand to be hit first and worst by heat waves, wildfires and other extreme weather events to lead the charge on policy and systems changes that will truly keep our communities safe during climate emergencies. This past year, youth from our Homies 4 Justice and Dream Beyond Bars programs generated and shared their solutions for strengthening climate resiliency based on data that they gathered about conditions in their homes, schools, and communities as part of Oakland Youth Advancing Climate Action (OYACA). OYACA is a youth climate action research collaboration between CURYJ, Frontline Catalysts, East Bay Academy for Young Scientists and several local university partners, with support from the UC Office of the President and the Strategic Growth Council.

In the spring, CURYJ worked closely with OYACA partners to develop and pilot a youth climate justice leadership curriculum with 25 young people, which we then adapted and integrated into our existing youth programs this fall, centering the connections between youth justice and climate justice. At a Youth Visioning Summit in December at the Youth Power Zone, OYACA youth leaders shared results from their research on indoor environmental conditions, as well as their visions for a Fruitvale community climate resilience hub at the Bonanza building. In 2025, OYACA youth will conduct a survey of local park conditions and develop recommendations for improving access to quality green spaces for systems-impacted young people and families as part of a comprehensive climate justice and community safety strategy that affirms how "We Keep Us Safe."



*Distributing fresh produce in West Oakland.*



*Above and below: Serving hot meals for community events*



# MICHAEL LITTLE BEAR

HEAL PROGRAM MANAGER



## *Finding purpose through culture, food and community work.*

Michael Little Bear was born in the Mission District of San Francisco. Like many other Native American children at the time, he was stolen from his mother at just 10 days old by Catholic Social Services and went on to spend his youth in foster and group homes, eventually becoming incarcerated as a young adult. After a lifelong mission to find his people, Michael finally located his family in 2022 through 23andMe. In 2006, Michael established a local food pantry and

began attending PowWows and cooking for the Inter-Tribal Council of California and at the Annual Honoring of the Elders Gathering at Mt. Madonna. Through this work, he reconnected with his cultural traditions and healing practices, which he credits with giving him a new direction in life. He believes that food work is his way of reaching out with peace and love to the community.



*Youth and residents learn about the Fruitvale Community Garden.*



*Violence Interruptor Carlos Soto working on a Community Garden clean-up day.*

# CAMPAIGNS & ORGANIZING



*DBB Fellows Kevin and Nate protest Cop City in San Pablo.*

## Building our base through community events and local actions

Our Organizing team focused this year on strengthening a sustainable membership base in order to quickly mobilize for local campaigns. With this past election season's high stakes, CURYJ organized in support of Measure NN - ensuring that local funding continues for community-based violence prevention and intervention work - and attempted to push back against the recall of Alameda's progressive District Attorney. We hosted Monthly Mixers in every month of 2024, with anywhere between 15 and over 100 people coming out for each event. Each mixer

focused on building community, civic education, and deepening understanding of historical and political contexts for current events

We are part of 2 national alliances, 4 county wide coalitions, and 4 Oakland based coalitions, continuing to deepen collaborations, examine our organizing efforts, and ensure that our local base-building combines with broader coalition efforts to build power on larger political scales.



Day of Action protesting Cop City in San Pablo.



DBB Fellow Jadalyn at CURYJ's Summer Town Nights series.

# YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



*DBB learns Art Activism and poster-making at a screen printing workshop.*



## Dream Beyond Bars

An intensive, immersive fellowship program for formerly-incarcerated young adults, DBB provides political education, organizing, healing, and mentorship. This year, with 17 enrollees, we had the largest DBB cohort in CURYJ's history. Also, for the first time, our fellowship cohort included youth currently incarcerated at Camp Wilmont Sweeney. While not without challenges, the partnership allowed

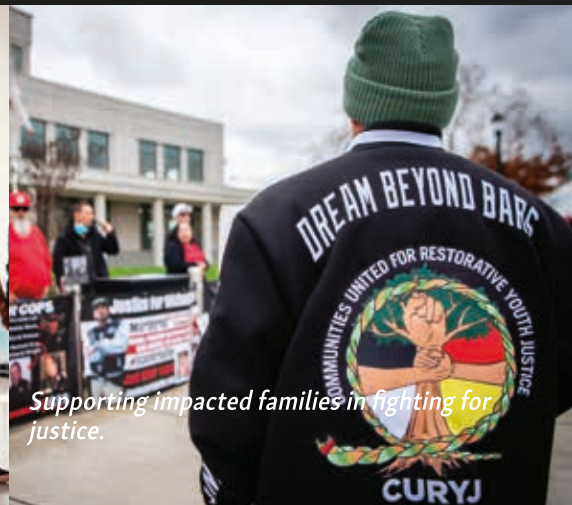
us to support young people as they transitioned out of incarceration. In addition, our fellows got a lot of hands-on experience with organizing and leadership: They created and distributed a know your rights zine, held down the CURYJ booth at many community events, and played vital roles in the Yes on Proposition 6 campaign during this year's election cycle.



*Xochtitl Larios attends Alianza training pilot at Sierra Health Foundation.*



*This year's H4J cohort in team building.*



*Supporting impacted families in fighting for justice.*

# AUSTIN OCAMPO

VIOLENCE INTERRUPTER

**“When I was in prison I never really thought college was an opportunity.”**

Recently hired full time as a CURYJ Violence Interrupter, Austin spent 2024 studying for law school while completing the DBB fellowship. He says, “CURYJ has instilled a good amount of confidence in me, I’d have to say, because when I was in prison I never really thought college was an opportunity. Then I got into San Jose City College ... and was kind of just there floating around, and I ended up getting into Berkeley. And I didn’t really think I belonged there.

“But lately, since CURYJ has been talking to me and ... I got really good grades in college, I’ve managed to maintain those really good grades while working two jobs or more the entire time, not living under the best circumstances. And, honestly, now I think I deserve to be in the top programs in the country, and so now I’m trying to come full bore. I want to come with work experience, with the scores, with the grades, with the knowledge, and I want to have my best foot forward.

I’m actually a member of the (CURYJ) community now, like a member of the family. I show up to people’s court days that are going through it, or, if they used to be going through it, I help them sign up for school and just show them ... encouraging them to just come and find community ... because that emotional intelligence has a lot to do with how we act within our communities. And if we don’t have that, it severely affects us in our daily life.

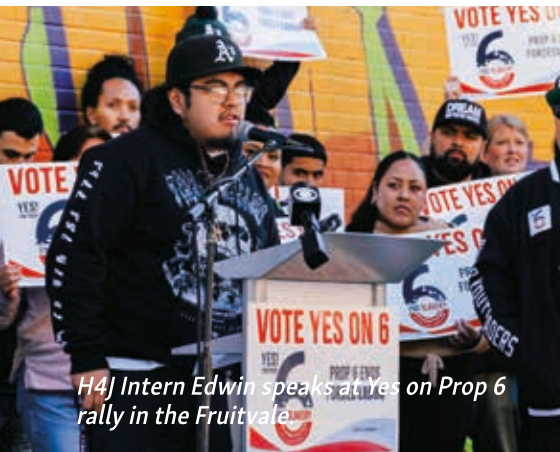
“The most refreshing part about CURYJ [is] everybody that’s in our fellowship is labeled ... we’re all called criminals; we’re all called bad people. But when we come together, that’s not who we are. We are the community. We’re handing out food. We’re handing out information. We’re handing out clothes. We’re handing out resources to help these people be successful. And that doesn’t just solidify their success; it solidifies ours.”

## Homies 4 Justice

An entry-level internship in organizing and political and cultural education for systems-impacted high school youth, H4J enrolled 28 participants for the 2024-2025 cohort: the largest cohort since the program began. 3 of the 28 youth interns were returning participants and 3 were H4J leadership fellows, stepping up to provide peer mentorship and program direction. This year the Homies participated

actively in the new OYACA curriculum and Youth Summit, bonded through outdoor activities and retreats, and built deeper knowledge through sessions on identity, belonging, culture and politics. As a nod to CURYJ’s commitment to ongoing education and growth, this year all of our H4J program staff and leadership fellows were enrolled in Bay Area colleges - three at Laney and one at CSU East Bay.





H4J Intern Edwin speaks at Yes on Prop 6 rally in the Fruitvale.



Life Coaching participant James works on his Life-MAP goals.



Participants in Allianza pilot training program get their certificates.

## Youth Leadership Institute

This fall, CURYJ piloted a month-long Leadership Institute for youth interested in learning the basics of political education, campaigns, and organizing. 40 young people applied for the inaugural session with 30 youth accepted and participating in twice weekly sessions throughout the month of October. Young people walked away with practical experience

in campaign strategy as well as fundamental skills in community organizing and coalition building. This pilot served as an experimental building block for us as we finalize a larger workforce development strategy that includes developing a pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship program to train young people for roles as Community Support Specialists.

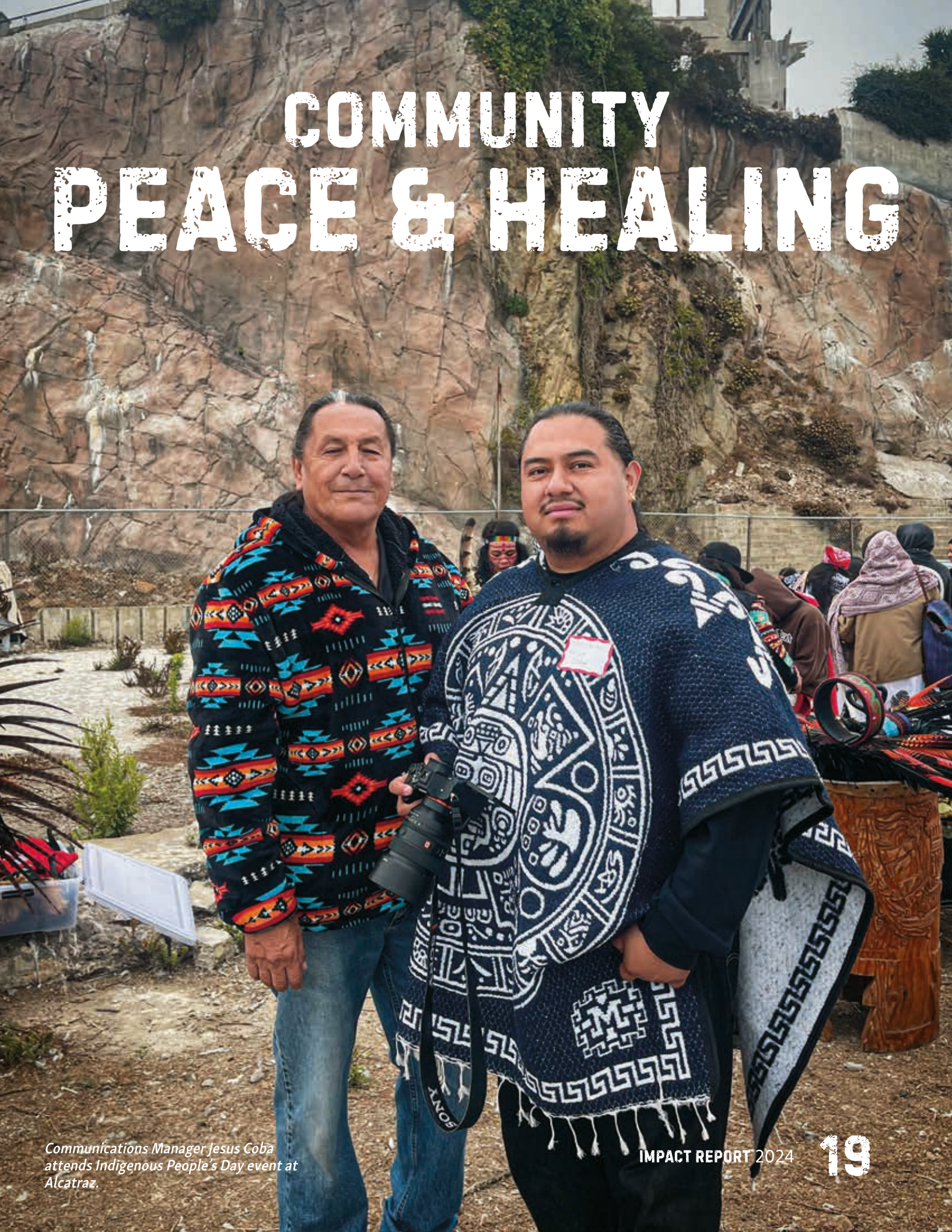
**FATIMA  
VALDEZ**  
H4J INTERN

**Every youth, no matter how different we are, our stories always link to one another.**

Fatima Valdes, born and raised in deep East Oakland, is a proud student at Oakland’s Laney College where she is beginning her second semester. Her connection to CURYJ began during high school when she attended a presentation in her senior seminar class. Drawn to the organization’s focus on youth power, she joined as an H4J Intern, an experience she describes as transformative: “My experience as an H4J Intern was the best to be honest. I was able to learn so much and

I decided to apply because I was interested in the fact that there are actual[ly] people that are youth-based, that care about the youth. Thanks to H4J, I was able to open up more and get out of my comfort zone. They helped me in bettering my public speaking, learning my rights, and [showed me] that every youth – no matter how different we are – our stories always link to one another”.

# COMMUNITY PEACE & HEALING



*Communications Manager Jesus Coba attends Indigenous People's Day event at Alcatraz.*



*Multi-Culti community celebration.*

## Life Coaching

We provide intensive individualized support to youth and adults with the highest levels of need. Through a relationship-based case management approach, Life Coaches work with participants to co-create a personalized Life Map for success and to provide whatever support is needed to meet those goals. Through one-on-one meetings (at minimum, weekly), coaches provide mentorship, guidance, and cognitive skill-building support, and help with access to concrete resources such as groceries, housing, employment, and opportunities for education. They also organize small group events and activities to promote healthy relationship building and opportunities for healing and growth. This past year, we served 45 participants with highlights including hiring 2 former participants as CURYJ staff members and finding housing placements for 8 homeless enrollees.

## School-Based Intervention Work

Through our partnership with the City of Oakland Department of Violence Prevention, we work directly in three schools in OUSD. We place a Life Coach and Violence Interrupter on site at each school who work closely with the School Leadership and staff to support students most at risk of violence, falling through the cracks, or being pushed out of school. After a successful first year at Fremont High School, in 2024 we expanded our work to Ralph Bunche High School and McClymonds High School in West Oakland. In addition to direct student support, our staff organized events at each school (like a winter Toy Giveaway), provided mediation and de-escalation, and acted as advocates for student success.



*Men's Warrior Circle*

## Violence Interruption

CURYJ's Violence Interrupters are on-call for response to violent incidents, provide de-escalation and conflict mediation, and work to prevent retaliation. Through their efforts, our communities and schools have options beyond just police involvement. This past year, we responded to 61 incidents and conducted 267 mediations. Two of our VIs serve the general Fruitvale neighborhood, while three are embedded in OUSD Schools. In 2024, we also engaged with a group of young people frequenting the Fruitvale area, often those identified as "trouble" by security and local



*Graffiti showcase at Summer Town Nights.*

**XOCHTIL  
LARIOS**  
YOUTH LEADERSHIP  
DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATE MANAGER

**VAMSEY  
PALAGUMMI**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR



*Lived experience on the frontlines of ending youth incarceration.*

Vamsey and Xochtil have both been instrumental in pushing for better standards throughout the closure of the Department of Juvenile Justice, serving on the Alameda County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission and the SB823 JJC Oversight Committee. They work unfailingly to ensure that conditions of confinement are as humane as possible and fight to protect the rights of youth incarcerated in Alameda County.

Vamsey was born and raised in the Bay Area. His deep commitment to supporting underserved populations comes from his own experience as a youth, spending time in juvenile hall and being placed on probation. During law school, Vamsey provided free legal services to indigent parents facing dependency proceedings and worked at the Northern California

Innocence Project for the wrongfully convicted. Vamsey has trained Bay Area lawyers in sealing juvenile criminal records, taught “knowledge of the law” to incarcerated young people, and supported over 100 participants to successfully complete probation.

Xochtil, born and raised in South Hayward, cut her teeth in community organizing, youth leadership, and activism as a program participant at CURYJ while incarcerated in juvenile hall then received her Associate in Social Science from Laney College, where she was honored as a Chicana graduate of Restoring Our Communities and Raíces student networks. She is also a 2018 recipient of the California Endowment Community Champion Youth Award.

small businesses. We connected them with CURYJ programs - including referring seven young individuals to Life Coaching - and trained them for employment as day-of-workers for CURYJ community events.

### **Juvenile Justice Center**

CURYJ facilitates a weekly Youth Transformation Course at the Juvenile Justice Center as part of the JJC’s post-secondary programming. This course engages incarcerated youth in deepening their understanding of their own identities, of cultural history, and of political education. 5 youth participated regularly in the course this year and 57

youth participated in cultural events and celebrations co-hosted by CURYJ and partners, including events for a Day of Gratitude, Harvest Festival, Latino Heritage Celebration, Juneteenth, and Winter Festival. CURYJ went to court for 7 youth in 2024: for 4 youth incarcerated at JJC (current participants of the Youth Transformation Course), as well as for 3 former course participants who were moved to Camp Sweeney and applied to and accepted to the Dream Beyond Bars fellowship at CURYJ (our first year with incarcerated DBB fellows!). One of our Youth Transformation Course students will begin working with Dream Beyond Bars in March 2025, and we are also working to enroll him in Life Coaching upon release.

## Community Events

CURYJ activates belonging and safety in the Fruitvale neighborhood by creating welcoming spaces for the community to gather, build, and celebrate culture together. These events serve as a bridge between different community groups and as an opportunity for building grassroots engagement. By training young people who hang out in the Transit Village (and are often considered “nuisances”) to work the events, we put them in a position to give back to their community and help shift the narrative around who is “bad” in our neighborhoods. This year we also piloted a series of Stop the Hate trainings, working with youth, staff, and the Fruitvale Merchants Association on restorative practices, shared understanding, and de-escalation techniques.

## Cultural Healing

We continue to create space for healing rooted in our cultural identities. We reinstated our monthly Men’s Warrior Group and Women’s Healing Circle, holding space for shared learning, growth, and care. This year we welcomed practitioners offering acupuncture, embodiment, and herbal medicine workshops for our youth. We also brought a large group of participants to Sunrise Ceremony on Alcatraz – honoring the legacy of the American Indian Movement and the ongoing struggle for decolonization – and supported our co-founder, Mike Muscadine, in creating a local Sweat Lodge in the heart of the Fruitvale.

## Fruitvale Community Garden

This year, we hosted multiple community events at our Garden, including two Monthly Mixers and several clean-up and planting days. The garden serves as a gathering space, a teaching space, and as a food source for our neighborhood. The majority of the produce we grow there goes to our HEAL program and becomes part of our grocery distribution and hot meal services. As part of our ongoing development and beautification efforts, we built multiple new raised beds, cleared out a space for events, and began to install an irrigation system.



*Porte Blindado performs at CURYJ’s Summer Town Nights series.*



## **Summer Town Nights helped improve safety in Fruitvale Plaza.**

CURYJ hosted a series of free Friday night events at the Fruitvale Transit Village, featuring local vendors and performers, music, kids' activities, tabling by partner CBOs and basic needs providers, and calls to organizing and action. Across Oakland, Town Nights

events have been shown to correlate to a reduction in crime during the same hours and throughout the rest of the weekend. At the Fruitvale Plaza in particular, we saw a drop in altercations following our Summer Town Nights series.

### **Access to Nature**

Taking trips to the outdoors is a key component of our healing and violence prevention strategies. Many of our young people are disconnected from nature, often not having spent any time outside of the city. We led local hikes in the Oakland hills, trips

to Yosemite, Tahoe, the Santa Cruz mountains, and the Pacific Coast. These outings are instrumental in strengthening relationships, building a sense of healing and belonging, and expanding our participants' knowledge of natural and cultural resources.

*DBB Fellows held their annual retreat at Yosemite National Park.*



# POLICY & LEGAL SERVICES



*CURYJ Staff at the Yes on Prop 6 Rally in Oakland.*



## **Reducing incarceration and fines through policy and participatory defense.**

### **Policy Advocacy**

In 2024, CURYJ championed five key legislative campaigns with significant success despite facing strong opposition from law enforcement groups. We supported an additional 24 bills in passing the legislature, on such issues as ending the school-to-prison pipeline, language and translation access, services for survivors of violence, incarcerated people's rights, and more. CURYJ also opposed 35 harmful bills, killing 29 of them.

Two of our five priority bills were enacted:

**AB 1186, which ends decades-old restitution collection and ends juvenile restitution fines**, passed overwhelmingly (76% Assembly, 75% Senate) and was signed into law by the Governor.

**ACA 8, a resolution to end involuntary servitude in California's prisons**, received robust bipartisan support (85% Assembly, 82.5% Senate), placing Proposition 6 on the ballot.

Three additional bills made impressive progress but didn't cross the finish line:

**SB 1057, which would have established a juvenile justice coordinating council**, passed the Senate with 65% support—its furthest advancement in four years despite being a "number one kill bill" for the Probation Association.

**AB 2709, which would protect minors from prison strip searches and strengthens visitors' rights**, cleared the Assembly with 59% support.

**AB 2833, which would have protected restorative justice communications as legally privileged**, passed the Assembly with strong 81% support.

CURYJ deliberately takes on challenging legislative campaigns that confront entrenched opposition. We plan to reintroduce these three promising bills in 2025, continuing our commitment to systemic reform.

### **Participatory Defense**

111 families were engaged in our Participatory Defense program in 2024, attending weekly group sessions to learn how to successfully advocate for their incarcerated loved ones and working with our Participatory Defense Coordinator to provide targeted court support. Through this work, 13 people had a reduction in their sentence, with 8 Life sentences removed, 1 Life Without Parole reduced to a Life sentence and 1 sentence of 46 to Life reduced to 15 to Life - allowing for board hearings in 2025. Overall our Participatory Defense work saved 454 years of time behind bars and reduced costs to taxpayers by \$60,318,440.

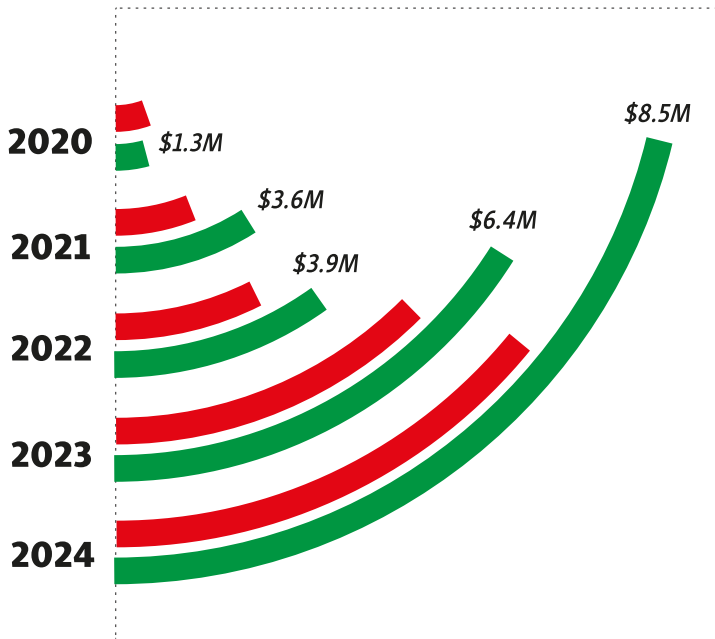
### **Legal Services**

Beyond Participatory Defense, CURYJ works with participant youth and families who are facing legal barriers.

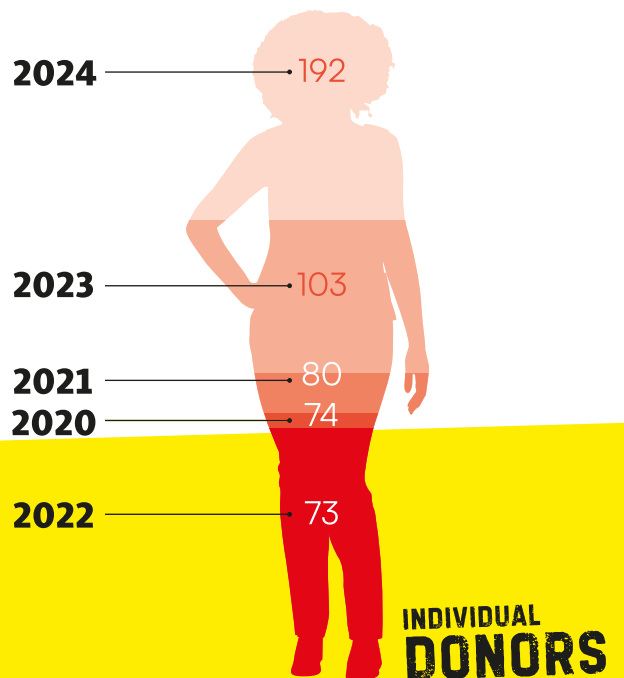
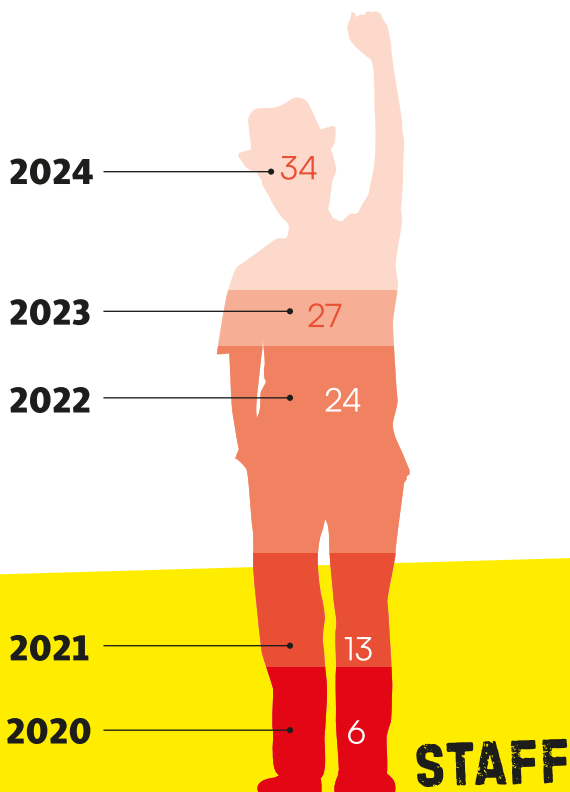
This past year we partnered with Prisma Legal Center to provide both legal services and Know Your Rights training for youth and impacted staff members. We also partnered with Alameda County on a Record Cleaning project, supporting participants and staff in clearing part of all of their legal records and thus eliminating barriers to housing and employment.

# OUR GROWTH

Expenses Revenue



George Galvis speaks at CURYJ's Grand Opening Gala.



# PRESS

**CURYJ was highlighted in more than 54 media pieces in 2024, including these four of our favorites:**

## **KTVU Giving Tuesday:**

*Communities United for Restorative Youth Justice (CURYJ) in Oakland discusses how community donations enable them to provide alternatives to youth incarceration, December 2024.*

<https://www.ktvu.com/video/1557190>

## **The Sacramento Bee:**

*Why did California voters reject a proposition to ban prison slavery? | Opinion, by George Galvis and Dorsey Nunn, December 2024.*

<https://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/article296202449.html>

## **ABC7 Coverage of the Grand Opening of the Youth Power Zone, September 2024**

<https://app.criticalmention.com/app/#/clip/public/4597c7ad-af81-43e4-a8f0-e5a4be068e0d>

## **CalMatters Profile of Austin O'Campo, December 2024**

<https://calmatters.org/commentary/2024/12/career-fellowship-prison-law-school/>



**Visit our press page to check out more instances of CURYJ in the news:**



# THANK YOU!

## Individual Donors

Aaron Friedman  
Adriana Rivera  
Adrienne Esguerra  
Ahmed Bob  
Aimee Allison  
Aisha Knowles  
Alberto Victorica  
Aleah Bacquie Vaughn  
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*Participants in CURYJ's Men's Warriors Circle.*

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*CURYJ H4J Interns and DBB Fellows table at multiple community events.*

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