

# 2024 Springboard Year in Review



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve as President of The Springboard Foundation Fund over this past year. My favorite part has always been the opportunity to meet our grantees and see the students in action. It is a reminder of not only the impact that Springboard has, but what has made it truly special.

Our founder, Doug Mabie, had a vision to create an organization that sought out organizations who were in the “start-up” phase with the idea that we would work together to help them grow. We would invest in them for multiple years, provide an opportunity to learn from peers at roundtables, and connect them with a Grantee Champion to help in any way they could to support their growth. Doug realized that it takes a village to help a new organization grow and thrive, and he wanted Springboard to be part of that village of support. He also realized that there is great joy in watching something grow and he wanted our Springboard community to have a courtside seat to that growth.

We see the impact of that village with our Springboard award winners this year who weathered their start up days amidst Covid and continued to grow and thrive – the Chicago Chess Foundation and Mobile Makers. And we all feel that joy as we see them grow, the Chicago Chess Foundation growing to serve 300 students a week and 2200 a year and Mobile Makers building a physical space to serve as a new design hub in Humbolt Park. (see picture below)



That joy continues to grow even after our grantees “springboard” to the next phase of growth – we get to watch them with pride as we see in them in the community and on the news. For example, BandWith a Springboard grantee from 2019 to 2023 raised over \$12.4 million to purchase their own building in East Garfield. We get to feel the joy and pride of having had some small part in their success. (To learn more scan QR code)

While we are all deeply saddened at the loss of our founder, Doug, these stories remind us of the impact of his vision and what we can do when we work together. I hope that in our sadness, we can work together to continue to lean into Doug’s legacy of impact and joy – let’s lean in to raise more money to fuel Springboard, lean in to find the next generation of “start up” organizations, and lean in to spend more time together on grantee site visits.

Sincerely,

*Susan Stetter*



Springboard Foundation Fund  
A FUND AT THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## MEET OUR GRANTEEES

A Step Ahead Chess \* ARK Entrepreneurial Center \* Box United \* Chicago Chess Foundation \* Collaborative Institute of Cultural Arts \* Downstage Arts \* Dream Big Mentoring \* Eye Love You \* GoSTEM \* Green Table Talks \* Holy Breath Conglomerates \* Intergenerational Computer Education \* Just Gettin’ Started \* Lifting Ourselves Through US (LOTUS) \* Lions Pride Mentoring \* Mobile Makers \* New Community Outreach \* Prismatic Movement \* Project Impact 180 \* QUED -UP, Inc. \* Serving People With a Mission \* SHE Chicago \* Street Soccer USA \* Successful Inspirations Afterschool Program \* Sunrise Community Empowerment \* The Alliance 98 \* The Evolved Network \* Voices of Youth Ensemble \* Young Doctors Club

(Continued)

## GRANTEE STATS

- \$339,500 in grants to 30 organizations
- 26 of 30 led by leaders of color
- 15 of 30 led by women

 6 Art

 1 Cooking

 2 Leadership

 2 Sports

 1 Civics

 5 Entrepreneurship

 6 Tutoring / Mentoring

 7 STEM

## MEET OUR SPRINGBOARD AWARDEES:



### About Chicago Chess Foundation:

The Chicago Chess Foundation's (CCF) mission is to give all children of Chicago—with a focus on lower-income communities—the opportunity to learn, play, and compete in Chess at no cost. Through 2024, they have served over 10,000 kids and teens, hosted 75 youth Chess tournaments and facilitated 15 summer camps — all at no cost to families. CCF believes that Chess is a catalyst for profound change in the lives of youth and their families, contributing to the betterment of the Chicago community. The initiatives utilize Chess as a vehicle to transmit intangible academic, social-emotional, and leadership development skills.

### Meet: Matthew Kearney

Matthew became CCF's 3rd Executive Director in April 2022. Before becoming ED, he served as the Programs Manager for 4 years. He has diverse experience in using enrichment activities as a vehicle for youth development in the U.S., Asia, and Africa. Matthew is also enthusiastic about sports, exploring new cities, and hip-hop culture.



### About Mobile Makers:

Mobile Makers, founded in 2017, is a nonprofit organization that makes design education accessible to all people. Through youth design and skill-building workshops, community engagement, public installations, and pop-ups hosted out of a retrofitted mail truck, Mobile Makers encourages conversations about positive change in the built environment.

### Meet: Maya Bird-Murphy

Maya Bird-Murphy is an architectural designer, educator, and the founder of Mobile Makers, an award-winning nonprofit organization bringing design and skill-building workshops to underrepresented communities. She believes the design field must expand to include more people and perspectives through teaching and community engagement, and she hopes to make her mark by helping make the world a more equitable place to live. She is a 2024 United States Artists Fellow, 2023 Harvard GSD Wheelwright Prize Finalist, was selected by Theaster Gates and the Prada Group as an Experimental Design Lab awardee, and was featured as one of 50 people who shape Chicago in Newcity Magazine.

## IN CELEBRATION OF DOUG MABIE

If at the end of our days we measure our life by the people we helped and the impact on their lives, we'd all try a little harder to be better and do better. The outpouring of gratitude and appreciation from grantees present and past has been beautiful. Below is a snapshot of Springboard's impact on the nonprofits that Springboard has supported.

"...his legacy will continue for future generations. The Springboard Foundation was one of our first funders and we thrived and grew because you all allowed us to dream. Gracias!" Chicago Youth Boxing Club, Class of 2013

"[H]e was such an inspiration to small nonprofits and he played a key role in helping Chicago Eco House/Southside Blooms get off the ground and helping it to become what it is today. Every child, family, community, and city we reach in the future will be an extension of Doug's legacy." Chicago Eco House Class, of 2018

"It wasn't just his generosity, but his belief in our mission and his design of Springboard to offer more than grants—it provided nourishment and support for the leaders behind these organizations. Twelve years later, we remain committed to building better futures, a journey that began with Springboard's first grant. Doug's legacy will continue to live on in the lives of the children he never met." Bella Kids Cooking Club, Class of 2013

"Springboard Foundation was our first REAL grant!! There are so many warm memories. My thoughts are with his family and the Springboard Foundation family during this time of loss." FOCUS Youth Services, Class of 2012



# A VERY PERSONAL LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



One of the reasons I love being involved in philanthropy is you are invited to share in people's joy. For more than 10 years Doug and I, in partnership with our Advisors, and Members, worked on Springboard Foundation Fund—and we had a lot of fun doing it. I miss his spirit and support deeply.

Over the past six weeks I've heard from so many past grantees all wanting to share their memories of Doug, and extend their gratitude for Springboard. As many people know, Springboard is often the first grant most of our organizations have received. Like many "firsts" in life like your first job or first apartment a first grant from Springboard is special. Springboard grants provide much needed funds but even more than that they telegraph powerful messages like "we believe in you," "keep going" and "yes, you CAN do it and we'll help!" That kind of wind-in-your-sails moment outlasts the years of funding. The combination of grants and encouragement, is like oxygen for people who live and breathe service, including me. Springboard's mission is as relevant and necessary today—maybe even more so—as it was 1998.

Even though the heart of Springboard is gone, the soul remains. If you are reading this, you meant something to Doug. You've either joined us on the journey of Springboard or heard about it. In this moment, Springboard needs you. If you have not yet done so, please make your gift today. Your gifts allow

the Grantee Class of 2025 to have their firsts. If you've already given, thank you. We've had 25 years of great success; some of those stories are shared in the Letter from the President. With your gifts and engagement, we have everything we need to be successful for the next 25, just as Doug would have wanted.

Doug's joyful and generous life provides so many lessons for all of us. For our grantees: you deserve a chance. For young people: start early because you're never too young to make a difference. For our Members: the secret to life is helping others succeed. Our purpose is clear as is the path forward: our grantees need us, so let's keep this going! We can and we will, do it for Doug!

With sincere gratitude,

*Sejal Shah-Myers*

**Doug's joyful and generous life provides so many lessons for all of us.**

## WAYS TO GIVE

When making a gift by wire or ACH please email [donorservices@cct.org](mailto:donorservices@cct.org) with your name, the amount, and number of shares if applicable.

### WIRE DONATIONS

#### JP Morgan Chase

ABA #021-000-021 or Swift ID: CHASUS33

Account Number: 20000011881343

Account Name: The Chicago Community Foundation

### CASH GIFTS

Make checks payable to The Chicago Community Foundation, include Springboard Foundation Fund in the memo line and mail to our Administrative Office:

The Chicago Community Trust

33 S. State Street, Suite 750

Chicago, Illinois 60603

### ACH DONATIONS

#### JP Morgan Chase

ABA #028-000-024

Account Number: 20000011881343

Account Name: The Chicago Community Foundation

### DONOR ADVISED FUND GIFTS

No matter the donor advised fund provider you'll need the following pieces of information:

**Nonprofit:** The Chicago Community Foundation

**EIN:** 36-3432023

**Special Instructions:** Springboard Foundation Fund

Scan the QR Code to make a Gift



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