

## We Act Grant Recipients

Since 2015, the Laspa Center for Leadership has distributed grant funding to support leadership in action. These grants and awards are fundamentally intended to promote leadership development through experiential learning.

The following is a list of recent grant recipients. You will find summaries of these and other projects on the Laspa Center blog.

### 2019

#### *Erin '20 | Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies*

Erin partnered with the Corporation for National and Community Service in Washington, DC to educate Millennials and Gen Zers, particularly in Spanish-speaking communities, about the benefits and experience of AmeriCorps programs.



#### *Kaela '19 | Linguistics and Cognitive Science*

Kaela partnered with the Endangered Language Alliance, a New York-based nonprofit dedicated to providing tools to communities to document and maintain their languages.

#### *Andrea '21 | Legal Studies and Chicano Latino Studies*

Andrea immersed herself into immigrant rights including DACA, TPS, family-based petitions, political advocacy, ESL classes, day-laborer centers, and citizenship workshops in her work with the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN) in Los Angeles.



#### *Jennifer '21 | Biology*

Jenny traveled to Botswana to support KGI Professor Larry Grill in researching cost-effective vaccines for lumpy skin disease (LSD), a cattle disease that significantly affects local farmers.

*Ally '20 | Environmental Analysis and Psychology*

Ally continued her work in Myanmar and Thailand on a project meant to empower, inspire, and challenge women and young girls to generate their own version of the ideal woman entitled “An Exploration of “The Ideal Woman”: A Contemporary Ethnography and Empowerment Project for Women in Thailand and Myanmar”.

*Ruby '21 | Classics*

Ruby explored the intersection of veterinary care and wildlife conservation by partnering with Veterinary Emergency Referral Group in Brooklyn and NY Best Friends animal shelter.



## 2018

*Alexandra '21 | Anthropology*

Alexandra partnered with Supportive Housing Works to examine the intersection of the coordinated access network and the juvenile justice system and research institutional barriers and protective factors for 18-24 year olds. veterinary care and wildlife conservation by partnering with Veterinary Emergency Referral Group in Brooklyn and NY Best Friends animal shelter.

*Susana '19 | History*

Susana partnered with a Palestinian-led community organization to expand her work on the intersections of marginalized groups throughout history, and to effectively use visual mediums to facilitate the process of mass-education within local organizations.

*Roxanne '19 | Sociology and Spanish, Latin American and Caribbean Literatures and Cultures*

Roxanne participated in the Mexico Solidarity Network through the Autonomous University of Social Movements in Chiapas, Mexico, supported their outreach efforts, and created a sustainable recruitment plan.

*Tanvi '20 | Neuroscience and Interdisciplinary Humanities in Culture*

Tanvi conducted lab research with the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, CA, dissecting the brains of mice and investigating the nature of institutional and systemic marginalization (in sociocultural and economic spheres) on vulnerability to alcohol and drug dependency.

*Hannah '19 | French and Environmental Analysis*

Hannah returned to Cameroon to partner with a Cameroonian-led NGO, the Web and Development Foundation on a social cartography project which involved making a map of sustainability initiatives in the rural agricultural villages of Batoufam and Bangoua.

*Madison '19 | French*

Madison paired her thesis research on the long-standing success of Tunisia's reproductive healthcare system with work at an NGO in Tunisia dedicated to empowering women in the government.

## 2017



*Sara '18 | Human Biology and Sociology*

Sara's partnered with Granada Siempre Nuestra (GSN) in Spain on three areas critical to the region's development: creating opportunities for international students to study and engage with issues of post-conflict peace building and sustainable agricultural practices; teaching English to community youth and adults; and researching public health and community building in preparation for her thesis to better understand how a community's model of health might be affected by global forces.

*Noor '18 | Politics and Middle East and North Africa Studies*

With a goal to help refugees living in Claremont and Upland have better access to institutional resources and more effective, organized avenues of support, Noor examined the needs and requirements of refugees living the U.S.



*Erin '18 | Biochemistry*

Working closely with Dr. Aviva Sopher, Erin spearheaded a clinical research project at Columbia University Medical Center's Department of Pediatrics regarding vitamin D deficiency in obese children. Her goal was to design a database interface to be intuitive and accessible to all working on the project.

*Naomi '18 | Neuroscience*

Naomi explored how human brains interact to reach the flow state ("in the zone") using a music and body movement gaming paradigm as an active member of the Shimojo Lab and the California Institute of Technology. Furthering this understanding has the potential to develop advanced therapy and treatment in alleviating psychological personal trauma.





*Elise '18 | Neuroscience*

The Global Women’s Water Initiative (GWWI) addresses water access by utilizing local resources and empowering local Ugandan women to become WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) technicians, teachers, social entrepreneurs, and leaders in local government and NGOs. Elise partnered with GWWI to analyze the impact of women WASH providers on the social dimensions of disease and illness.

## 2016

*Grace '18 | Public Policy Analysis and Biology*

Grace spent a month working with and learning about community organizing and health work from Centro Martin Luther King in Havana, Cuba before partnering with Koreatown Immigrant Workers Alliance (KIWA) in downtown Los Angeles to help develop their lead hazard outreach program for immigrants and low-wage workers and their families living near downtown Los Angeles.

*Yija '18 | Mathematical Economics and Politics*

Yija’s project aimed to share and promote Olympic spirit and altruism among young people in the Los Angeles area and her former high school in Chengdu, China through social media. She spent the summer with the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro where she reported volunteers’ experiences through Chengdu’s version of Facebook and LA84 Foundation’s social media platforms. She then established a mentorship program at Chengdu No. 7 High School and an alumni service award to help support youth in LA.



*Mikaela '19 | Undeclared (at time of grant)*

Path of Knowledge creates extensive and varied educational experiences for achieving students in Bluefields, Nicaragua. Mikaela worked near Bluefields to supplement students’ physical education with a more holistic approach that includes exercising both the mind and body to create a healthy lifestyle.

*Elizabeth '19 | Psychology*

Elizabeth helped create and implement an after-school writing center for Path of Knowledge. There, the benefited from help with their school assignments, learning different literary devices, grammar, and vocabulary and gained proficiency and confidence in their writing abilities.





*Kristen '19 | Undeclared (at time of grant)*

The Boys and Girls Club of the Peninsula (BGCP) provides opportunities to youth from low-income communities in the Silicon Valley to access the tools needed to succeed in high school, college, and the working world. While BGCP had a well-established volunteer force, Kristen used marketing and social media techniques to promote leadership awareness at the Menlo Park clubhouse. She also worked on an original video project about BDCP's goals.

## 2015

*Eden '17*

Driven to collect the oral histories of activists who are transforming the Disability Justice (DJ) movement, Eden interviewed queer and trans, disabled people of color through connections with Sins Invalid, a DJ cultural and performance organization to launch a space with resources, stories, and documents that encourage submissions from community organizers nationwide.



*Grace '16*

Grace partnered with CitiCorp's Women in Information Technology to create a teaching curriculum for middle schools in Northeast Florida. Her goal was to design educational programs, mentorships, and networks to empower women considering STEM fields.

*Maya '16*

Maya wanted to research the history behind US military tactics in Vietnam and the effects of herbicidal warfare, specifically Agent Orange on today's generations. She volunteered at the Go Vap Orphanage to teach English and art therapy to Agent Orange victims, and developed an archive accessible through her partnership with the Southeast Asian archive.



*Alexandra '17*

Alexandra interned with a pilot program Social Entrepreneurs Academy (SEA) that participates with Crossroads, a transitional home for formerly incarcerated women. She wanted to explore the outcomes of the program with Crossroads graduates, and design curriculum for social enterprising workshops.

*Edith '18*

Edith cultivated workshops that connected high school students with environmental sustainability organizations. She connected students who have taken the Sustainable Agriculture and Culinary Arts Regional Occupation Program (ROP) with an opportunity to learn about social entrepreneurship with Fallen Fruit from Rising Women and Plant Justice.



*Raquel '17*

Raquel realized health education wasn't accessible to every group in her local community, especially the growing Latino population. She returned home to train peer health educators and create a new organization in partnership with Planned Parenthood, which focused on bilingual materials and creative, theatrical outreach catered specifically to the Latino community.