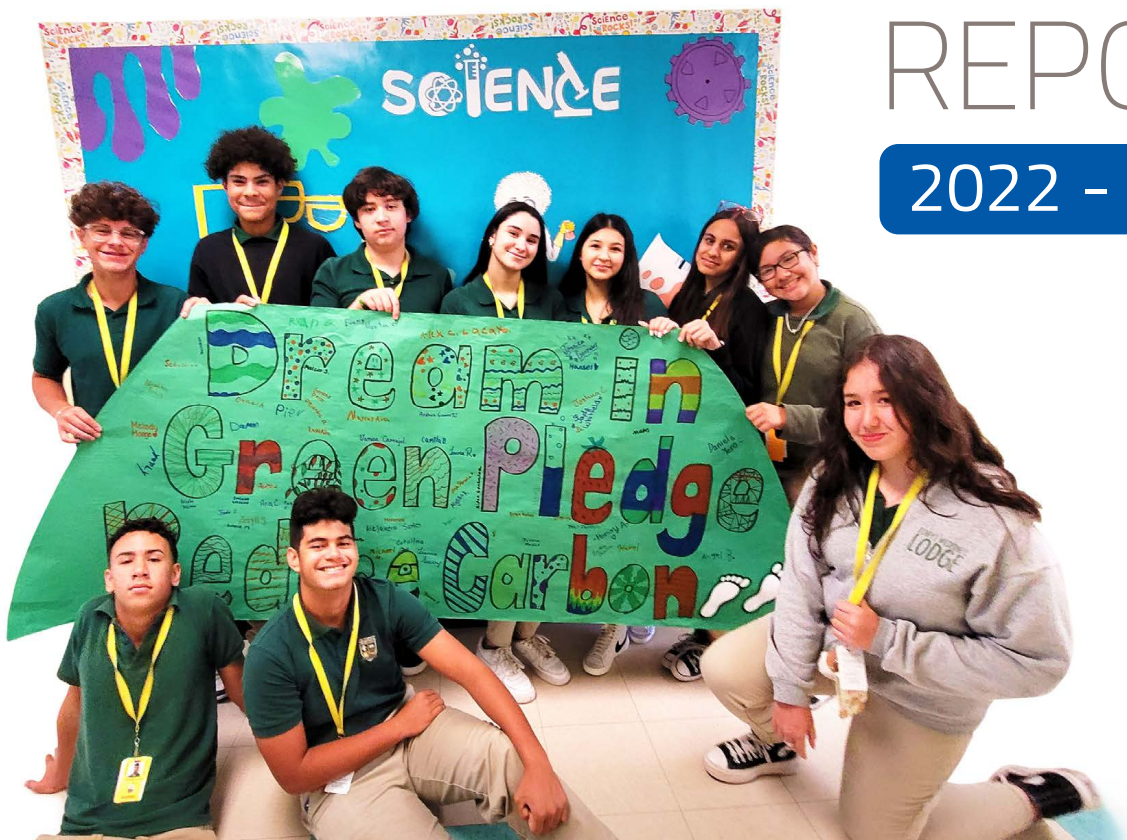


# IMPACT REPORT

2022 - 2023



Empowerment  
+ Education

=

Environmental  
Protection

Platinum  
Transparency  
2023

Candid.

## Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I reflect back on our programs this year, it is clear the critical importance of environmental education in today's world. Environmental education is crucial for addressing the pressing challenges we now face. Rising sea levels and increased storms threaten Florida's coastal areas, while the Everglades suffer from mismanagement and habitat loss.

By empowering individuals with knowledge and fostering a sense of stewardship, environmental education builds a more sustainable future.

It goes beyond individual empowerment, shaping policies, driving innovation, and fostering productive collaborations.

Environmental education inspires communities, businesses, and governments to prioritize conservation and work towards a resilient coexistence with nature.

At Dream in Green, we're dedicated to advancing environmental education through transformative programs and partnerships. By nurturing a generation of environmental stewards, we aim to champion conservation and sustainability.

Let's invest in quality environmental education programs and equip future generations to safeguard our planet. Thank you for your unwavering support on this vital journey.

*Warm regards,*

**Barbara Martinez-Guerrero,**  
**Executive Director**



## ABOUT

### MISSION

To empower individuals, especially youth, to lead in the response to climate change and other environmental challenges facing South Florida.

### VISION

To ensure a sustainable community through environmental stewardship.

### HISTORY

Founded in 2006, Dream in Green (DIG) aims to tackle South Florida's environmental challenges and empower individuals to respond to climate change.

Recognizing the potential of schools to foster environmental stewardship, DIG's flagship platform, the Green Schools Challenge, delivers sustainability education to K-12 students in various types of schools across South Florida.

Starting with three schools, the program has expanded to over 110 schools annually and continues to grow.

## STRATEGIC PLAN

Dream in Green completed its Strategic Plan for 2020-2023. With the help of the DIG Board, Staff, and various stakeholders we have identified our 3 main pillars to reach our goal:

## GOAL

### Increase Environmental Stewardship

#### PILLAR 1

Building Core Knowledge & Skills on Environmental Issues

#### PILLAR 2

Developing & Strengthening Stakeholder Groups

#### PILLAR 3

Effective & Sustainable Business Practices

# PROGRAMS



The GSC provides a curriculum that builds upon required STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) materials to address sustainability topics related to climate change and environmental sustainability.

The platform utilizes schools as a living laboratory for sustainability learning, engaging students, teachers, facilities staff, and administrators in low-to-no-cost activities to 'green' their school while laying the groundwork for long-term behavior changes that are often missing in environmental literacy programs.

Hands-on activities foster critical thinking, leadership skills, self-sufficiency, community involvement, and long-term stewardship behaviors. Our curriculum focuses on the following core sustainability concepts:

- ✓ Energy efficiency and conservation
- ✓ Waste management and reduction
- ✓ Water quality and conservation
- ✓ Alternative transportation
- ✓ Food security
- ✓ Green living (buildings and careers)



Through this program, DIG provides monthly grants to schools participating in the Green Schools Challenge throughout the academic year. Students work together as a team to develop initiatives that bring their ideas and classroom learning to life by:

- ✓ Conceptualizing a project
- ✓ Developing a proposal and budget
- ✓ Executing a project
- ✓ Evaluating the effectiveness of their idea

Since 2013, the grants have helped schools to implement initiatives such as a solar charging station, energy efficient hand dryers, and school gardens.

The grants have also helped to build students' critical thinking and problem solving capabilities by empowering them to come up with solutions that directly affect them.



Through the WE-LAB program, residents learn how to secure and sustain our water supply for future generations and are equipped with the proper knowledge and tools to become environmental stewards in their communities.

This Android App and easy to use **Recyclepedia** website provides Miami-Dade County residents information to improve recycling practices at home.

The workshops educate participants on:

- ✓ How the water/energy nexus affects their home utility usage
- ✓ Behaviors that decrease greenhouse air pollution
- ✓ Sustainable actions/practices to protect the health of our water supply
- ✓ Conservation and money saving strategies



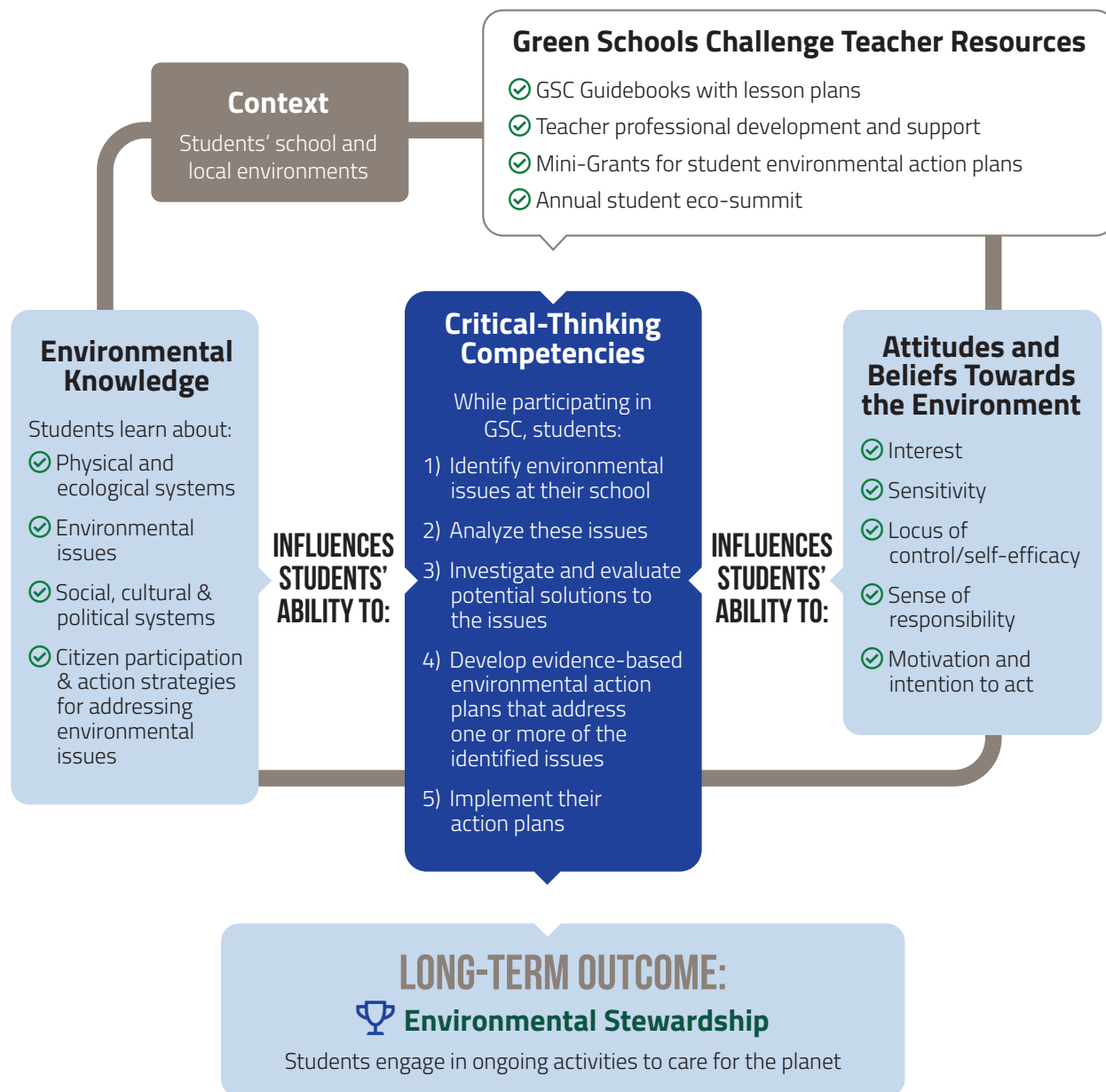
Dream in Green is proud to support the United Nations in its pursuit of a more equitable society.

The Sustainable Development Goals are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich, and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. Below is a quick guide to how our programs address the SDGs.



# THEORY OF CHANGE



## GSC Logic Model

Adapted from: Hollweg, K. S., Taylor, J. R., Bybee, R. W., Marcinkowski, T. J., McBeth, W. C., & Zoido, P. (2011). Developing a framework for assessing environmental literacy. Washington, DC: North American Association for Environmental Education. Available at <http://www.naaee.net>



# 2022-2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## Miami-Dade County (3rd largest school district) + Broward County (6th largest school district)

- ✓ 144 Total schools participated.
- ✓ Engaged over 12,000 students and 900 teachers in Green Team activities.
- ✓ 83 Title 1 schools – 58% of total enrollment (receiving federal funds for low income students).
- ✓ 5 Professional Development meetings (including workshops focused on energy efficiency, climate resilient gardens, and citizen science integration in schools).

## Palm Beach County – Launched pilot program with help of the Division of Facilities Management, Environmental & Conservation Services Department

- ✓ 17 Total schools participated.

## Surveys revealed



98% of teachers would participate again.



94% of teachers say that post GSC they have confidence in integrating environmental education into their curriculum.

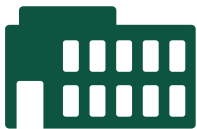


93% of students are more aware of environmental issues at school and feel environmental responsibility.



93% of students can identify environmental issues thanks to participating in the GSC.

## Since its 2006 inception GSC has saved



**\$4.1**

Million dollars saved in energy costs across Miami-Dade public schools.



**> 44.9**

Million kilowatt hours of electricity saved.



**> 68.3**

Million pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reduced or offset.



**= 6,098**

Homes off the grid for one year.

## Green Leadership Grants program '22-'23

### 29 Grants Awarded

- ✓ 12 Elementary Schools.
- ✓ 7 Middle Schools.
- ✓ 10 High Schools.
- ✓ 58% were Title 1 Schools.

*Since 2013, DIG has awarded over \$86,500 to schools for green initiatives!*

### Examples of Funded Projects

- ✓ Purchase of native seeds/ plants and supplies for school garden.
- ✓ Building both battery-powered and solar-powered cars.
- ✓ Purchase reusable water bottles and natural sunscreens for students in PE classes.
- ✓ Reduce single-use plastic in cafeterias by providing reusable utensils to students.

*80% of schools that submitted grants expressed that projects developed would not have been started without the support of the Green Leadership Grants.*

# 2022-2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

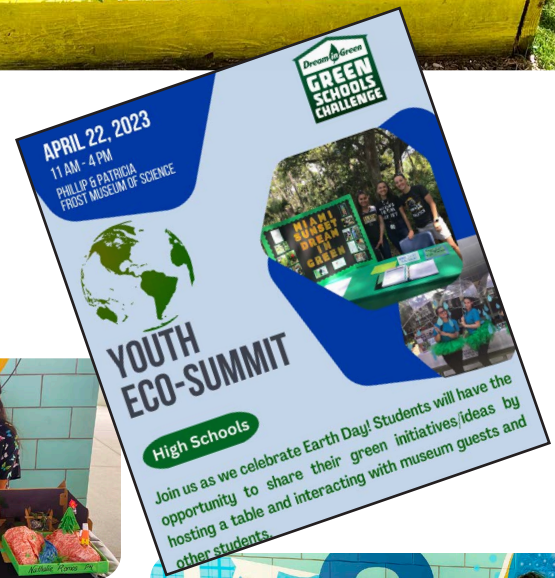
## Green School Pledges

Student-led teams commit to becoming environmental stewards and as one of the pillars of the program, by developing their pledge for the year.

“ The changes in the entire school community have been a breath of fresh air and have been so fulfilling to witness. Our students and their families have committed to being more conscious about our environment and our decisions that could impact our environment.

Our parental involvement has increased due to our participation in the program. They love to see the values being instilled in their children.”

*Asia Fernandez, Ludlam Elementary*



## Eco-Summit

The Eco-Summit is an optional activity that gives students the opportunity to share the green initiatives they implemented during the year at a school-wide level.

This year, DIG partnered with the Phillip & Patricia Frost Museum of Science for Earth Day and the event was held at the museum.

Participation in the Eco-Summit helps students:

- ✔ Actively engage in their role as young community leaders, capable of articulating and building consensus around their vision for the future.
- ✔ Improve communication skills and gain self-confidence through public speaking.





# 2022-2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Professional Development Workshops 🎓



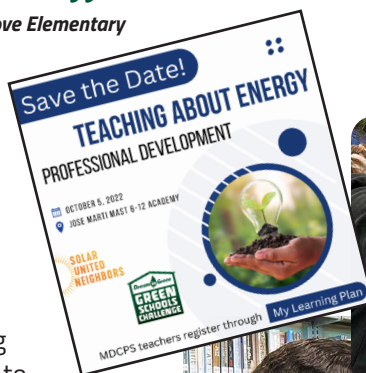
“ I enjoyed this workshop very much, it was well planned and the information was very useful. ”

*Maria Licona, South Miami Senior High*



“ Loved the PD! It was great to gather with like-minded individuals and re-establish HOPE for our environmental goals and purpose. ”

*Maydivi Kihm, Coconut Grove Elementary*



“ I will be exploring the resources; I am planning to incorporate them in my Environmental Science Classes. ”

All the presentation was interesting and this is one of the best workshops that I have participated so far. Thank you for the work that you do. ”

*Carmen Vieitez, Miami Southridge Senior High*





# 2022-2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Design & Build Competition

Through a continued partnership with Florida International University, high school students explored how neighborhoods in Miami-Dade County are being affected by environmental issues like pollution, flooding and extreme heat. In teams, students proposed a redesign

of an empty lot to support community needs and incorporate "Green Infrastructure" to help reduce environmental effects.

Student teams created 3D models of their designs and presented their ideas to a panel of expert judges:

### Winners

<b>1st</b>	Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart
<b>2nd</b>	Palmetto Senior High School
<b>3rd</b>	International Studies Preparatory Academy
<b>Special Merit</b>	Robert Morgan Educational Center & Saint Brendan High School



## Recycling Contest Lady Green

This year, in partnership with Lady Green Recycling, we launched the Earth Day Plastic Jug Recycling Contest asking schools to collect plastic jugs during the month of April. These jugs will be converted into a bench to be donated to the winning school.

Through the collective efforts of all schools that participated, a total of 326 pounds of plastic was collected and diverted from landfills!



DIG Executive Director checks in with Michelle Salas – Founder & President.



# PARTNERS

Thank you! 🍷



## LIVE ARTS MIAMI PARTNERSHIP

### 3 Multisensory Performances:

- ✓ Ocean Filibuster 170 students, 10 teachers.
- ✓ We Call This Home 100 students, 13 teachers.
- ✓ Terra Firma 424 students, 31 teachers

### Workshops:

This year we partnered with two local artists to bring music and dance workshops into schools. Michael Gil and Darius Daughtry from Art Prevails traveled to five schools to teach K-8 students.

- ✓ 123 students across Miami-Dade County.
- ✓ 8 school visits conducted by local artists.







On Wednesday, May 24, 2023, Dream in Green hosted its Annual Awards Ceremony at the Overtown Performing Arts Center.

DIG staff and Board of Director members spent the evening highlighting all of the amazing teachers, students, administrators, and schools that participated in the Green Schools Challenge.

We also express our gratitude to all the generous prizes donated by passionate environmental companies and organizations.

### 2022/2023



#### Winners



#### Finalists

### Elementary

### Middle

### High

<b>1st</b>	The Growing Place	Richmond Heights	Dorothy M. Wallace C.O.P.E.
<b>2nd</b>	Ludlam	Rockway	Robert Morgan Educational
<b>3rd</b>	Pinecrest	Riviera	Saint Brendan
<b>4th</b>	Air Base K-8 Center	Miami Beach Nautilus	BioTECH @ Richmond Heights 9-12
<b>5th</b>	Claude Pepper	West Miami	Cutler Bay Sr.
<b>6th</b>	Oliver Hoover	Aventura Waterways K-8 (6-8)	Palmer Trinity
<b>7th</b>	Dante B. Fascell	Jane S. Roberts K-8	Miami Palmetto
<b>8th</b>	Hialeah Gardens	G.W. Carver	International Studies Preparatory Academy



## Prize Donations + Event Sponsors



Books & Books



# WE-LAB WORKSHOPS Free community program run by Dream in Green since 2013.



## 2022-2023 Accomplishments

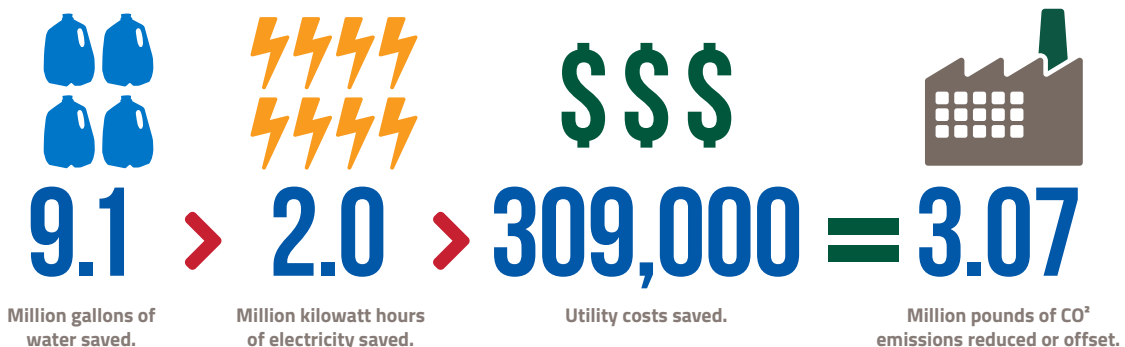
- ✓ Conducted 6 workshops, 2 in Broward County.
- ✓ Over 100 residents reached.
- ✓ 80 conservation toolkits distributed.

## Participant Surveys Reveals

- ✓ **100%**  
Participants found the workshop very useful.
- ✓ **99%**  
Would recommend workshop to others.
- ✓ **94%**  
Participants agree that changes made by individuals can have positive impact on local community.



## Since Inception WE-LAB Saved



## Thanking our Partners + Sponsors





# OUTREACH



**COP27**  
SHARM EL-SHEIKH  
EGYPT 2022



## DIG @ COP27

Dream in Green's Executive Director was selected as an official member of Climate Generation's Window into COP27 delegation.

Composed of 12 climate leaders from around the U.S., the delegation was on the ground in Egypt to bring the international climate negotiations to life for audiences following along in their home communities and digital networks.

As a delegate, Barbara collected climate stories, shared summaries of negotiations, facilitated interviews, hosted live streams, and represented her unique areas of expertise, with an aim to make international climate policy accessible to everyone.

Climate Generation has led delegations of educators, youth, and community leaders to the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties since COP15 in 2009.

Climate Generation's Window into COP program elevates the critical role that an engaged, educated, and activated society holds in pushing the just and equitable action that is needed to mitigate and adapt to climate change on a global scale.

The delegation is also a member of the official U.S. ACE Coalition, a group of organizations, institutions, and experts working to accelerate just, efficient, all-of-society action toward a climate-safe future.



Above DIG's ED far right, presented at the America Is ALL IN Action Center Pavilion "Utilizing Action for Climate Empowerment to Ignite & Sustain Climate Action". The panel was moderated by Susan Phillips, Executive Director of Climate Generation and included Diamond Spratling (founder Girl Plus Environment, Detroit, MI) and Javan Santos (Climate Initiative, Indigenous Hawaiian).





# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

DIG organizes and participates in various outreach events throughout the year to support the strategic plans.

- ✔ Pillar 2: Developing & Strengthening Stakeholder Groups.
- ✔ Priority #1: Enhance public engagement and outreach.

DIG Staff:

- ✔ Participated in 51 Events/Networking (in-person & virtually).
- ✔ Made 27 Presentations (including WE-LAB Workshops).
- ✔ Attended 18 professional development workshops (in-person & virtually)
- ✔ Adults Educated: 2,123.
- ✔ Children Educated: 1,051.
- ✔ Total: 3,174 individuals reached.

### Events Include:

- ✔ Global Education Conference in Estonia with MONDO.
- ✔ IREX Climate Solutions Summit.
- ✔ USGBC Green Schools Conference.
- ✔ Broward Youth Climate Summit.
- ✔ Sunrise Earth Day Celebration.
- ✔ Aspen Ideas Climate Summit.
- ✔ Water Conservation Day for Broward County.
- ✔ Together for Children Youth Summit & Resource Fair.
- ✔ Consortium for a Healthier Miami Dade: Health Summit.
- ✔ Fountainhead Arts Intimate Gathering with Your Women's Fund & Friends.



DIG's Program Manager presenting at the Broward Youth Climate Summit on how to become a citizen scientist.



# FELLOWS - INTERNS - VOLUNTEERS

## Summer Youth Internship Program

This 5-week work-based learning experience between M-DCPS high school students and businesses and organizations throughout Miami-Dade County develops the skills that are required to be successful in the 21st century workplace.

DIG had the pleasure of working with Liliana Brown, from MAST Academy. She helped create content for the GSC and shared her knowledge and skills as a Girl Scout to develop lessons for students.



Thanking Rachael Ricasak (Cornell University) and Liliana Brown (MAST Academy).

## Community Solutions Program & CEE program



DIG has again partnered with the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX), an international, non-profit organization that specializes in global education and development.

IREX programs are supported by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and work in more than 100 countries. For the past 4 years, DIG has served as a host organization for 2 of its exchange programs.



The Community Solutions Program (CSP) and the Community Engagement Exchange (CEE) Program are both sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) and implemented by IREX.

DIG was among nearly 100 U.S.-based organizations selected to participate in the programs as a host organization.

CSP recruits individuals that are the best and brightest global community leaders working in:

- ✓ Environmental Issues.
- ✓ Tolerance.
- ✓ Conflict Resolution.
- ✓ Transparency & Accountability.
- ✓ Women and Gender Issues.



Community Engagement  
EXCHANGE PROGRAM

The CEE Program is a dynamic global network of innovators working with communities to address critical 21st Century issues.

It's a transformational leadership development experience designed to enable civil society leaders, ages 21-28, to harness the power of networks, relationships, and information for the public good, specifically on issues related to:

- ✓ Civic dialogue and peacebuilding.
- ✓ Open and participatory government.
- ✓ Women and gender.
- ✓ Resilience and sustainable development.
- ✓ Youth engagement.

DIG worked with Joseph Djedly Francois from Haiti during the Fall of 2022, who helped enhance the WE-LAB program and enhanced our ability to reach the local Haitian community.

DIG also worked with Kelli Eek from Estonia during the Fall of 2022. As part of the program, she will use the skills and expertise she learned to develop an impactful program that will assist young children and teachers in understanding and preserving the environmental issues faced.



DIG's ED & Program Manager in gratitude to Kelli Eek.

## University of Miami – Internship

DIG worked with the University of Miami to provide an internship position through the Off-Campus Community Service Federal Work-Study program through the U.S. Department of Education.

Elise Chough served as our Digital Marketing, Outreach, and Communications intern during Spring 2023.





# CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHT



## DIG continues partnership with Sealand's SEA GREEN project.

Through volunteer activities, the partnership raised awareness on local environmental issues and showed how to positively impact the environment by nurturing environmental stewardship in the community. Staff from Sealand and DIG planned together on how to

enact changes that promote sustainability in the office. The overall objective was to make an effective positive environmental impact in South Florida through education, planning, management and direct action.



**SEALAND**  
A MAERSK COMPANY

“ Our experiences and volunteer activities with Dream in Green like our beach cleanup, the school garden, and the dune restoration had been really fulfilling and special as we work as a team and put our little grain of sand on a very important issue that humanity is facing with climate change.

At the same time, we set an example for our community to do the same and pass it on to future generations. ”

**Nataly Guisao Perez,**  
Client Manager Sealand Maersk





# SPONSORS

Thanking our Annual Sponsors 🍷



## Thanking our Individual Supporter 🌸

### \$1 - \$99

Claudia Akel, Hernan Applewhite, Dilia Applewhite, Mark Barlow, Lisa Bergwin, Jay Bray, Jennifer Buttrick, Diego Cancel, Alexa Caravia, Andrew Chabassol, Angela Colbert, Oliva Collins, Michelle Drucker, Margarita Fernandez, Gwendolyn Foote, Thad Foote, Donna Fries, Stuart Grant, Vandana Gudi, Ava Habib, The Haywood Family, Jordyn Hergott, Maria Hernandez, Esther Hoffman, Sarah Klee, Katherine Kunhardt-Rozner, Teddy Lhoutellier, Ana Lima, Lindsey & Ross Linzer, Gloria Mederos, Sean McCrackine, Kimberly McGrath Moreira, Maysarah Mikail, Alison Miller, Kiki Mutis, MaryLou Nadeau, Mirna Nava-Antoni, The Okcular Family, Sabra Olivieri, Angel Palacios, Jenni Person, Susan Phillips, Catherine Raymond, Jesse Rittenhouse, Simona Rosenthal, Sophia Salver, Tyrone Sandaal, Elizabeth & Giorgio Schepis, Pamela Shlachtmann, Holly Woodbury, Lily Zhang.  
Special Thanks: Regen Miami – RECURRING DONOR!

### \$100 - \$499

Christopher Block, Sam Bonderoff, Dave Doeblar, Dara Schoenwald, The Ender Family, Matthew Flax, Doug Heller & Jane Gilbert, Greg & Leisha Hamra, Maureen Lawless, Angel & Teresa Martinez, Lisa Martinez, Barbara McAdam, Dave McDowell, Todd & Maureen Mestepey, Darrell Payne, Mark Pienkowski: Gamut Legal Services, Gloria Romero Roses, Amy Rosenberg, Michelle Salas, Gustavo Saliva: E=Scrap Recycling, Meital Stavinsky, The Troner-Ricisak Family, The Wenke Family, Andre Widmer, Christina Wilson, Special Thanks: Tappas – RECURRING DONOR!

### \$500 - \$2499

Mariana Espinoza, Nick Gunia, Mark Peck, Carolina Rivera.

### \$2500+

Odette Smalley, The Seamlev Foundation, Inc.  
Special Thanks PricewaterhouseCooper (PwC) for in-kind support.



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