



# Annual Impact Report

## Young Women's Alliance

2023-2024





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**Brittany Sharkey**  
President, 2023-2024

### A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Young Women's Alliance was established in 1993, when 20 young professional women gathered to network and trade business tactics and information. The organization started as "win2" for "Win/Win" situation. Members would meet to discuss business, politics, city relations, and future plans. 31 years later, YWA is a non-profit organization of over 450 members dedicated to supporting, empowering and connecting women to create the next generation of changemakers. I am so honored to have served as the 28th president of this incredible organization. Join me in learning about some of the achievements of our amazing all-volunteer organization from this past year below. Creating a positive impact in our community and having a great time while doing it? That sounds like the real win-win situation to me.

With gratitude,  
Brittany



### Board of Directors, 2023-2024

Brittany Sharkey  
**President**

Eunice Park  
**President Elect**

Leah Christensen  
**Past President**

Morgan Prince  
**Senior Vice President**

Nikki Drozdyk  
**Chief of Staff**

Lauren Cowen  
**Vice President, DEB**

Anwuli Chukwurah  
**Vice President, Finance**

Lillian Hartman  
**VP, Programs**

Carley Thomas  
**VP, Internal Events**

Samantha Nowak  
**VP, Communications**

Rachel McGrath  
**VP, Membership**

Sarah Markell Richardson  
**VP, Leadership Development**

Sara Santiago  
**VP, Community Impact**

Megan Logue  
**VP, Development**

Julie Fieldsteel  
**VP, Operations**

Peyton Porche  
**VP, Community Service**

Tillie Stiling  
**VP, External Events**

Isha Yadav  
**VP, Operations**

Meredith Norman  
**VP, External Events**

We reach our potential together.

LEAD | EDUCATE | NETWORK | SERVE

# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

10,000

hours spent by our all-volunteer leadership team to run the organization



\$60K

pledged in scholarships and community grants



50

mentorship pairings matched through YWA Connect



449

members in Austin across all industries



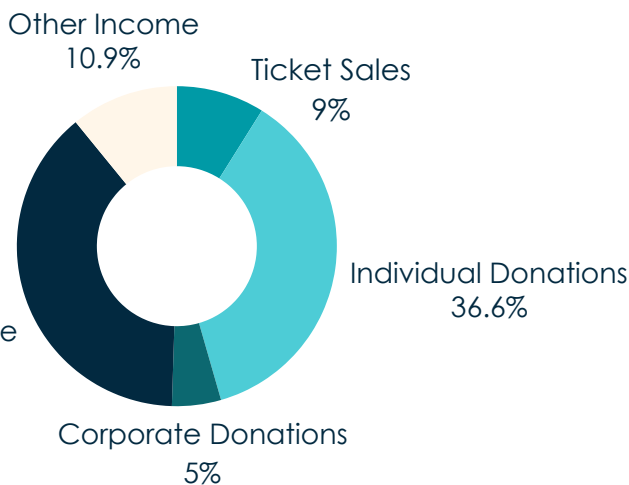
75

women+ in leadership roles

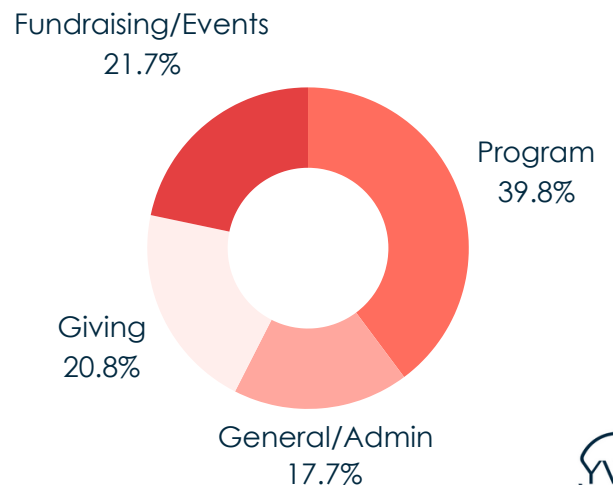


## Financial Summary

**REVENUE: \$218,890**



**EXPENSES: \$258,500**



# Building the Next Generation of Leaders

**19** Board Members **55+** Senior Chairs & Chairs

## New Role: VP of Leadership Development

This year, we implemented a VP of Leadership Development role, designed to capitalize on the promise to our team to provide them with tangible skills to go out into the community as changemakers. We hosted workshops and content centered around building your brand, making authentic introductions, and started a leadership book club to review and discuss pertinent topics today's leaders face.

## YWA SPEAKS

Introducing YWA Speaks: Our revamped programming offers Speaker Series, Development Workshops, and Miscellaneous Programs covering a wide range of topics from entrepreneurship to travel hacking. YWA Speaks is our monthly signature event where members can network & learn. Notable programs this year include insights from:

- Lauren Garcia on the Music Industry
- Robyn Rodriguez's guide to Assertive Self-Advocacy
- Gissela Santa Cruz's lessons from Austin FC's Community Impact



## Future Women Leaders Scholarship



YWA increased our commitment to our scholars, offering \$10,000 in support over four years, doubling our previous impact! Beginning in 2024, each scholar will receive \$2,500 annually for four years. The scholars also receive a 6-month free subscription to online therapy through Better Help, and can opt-in to be paired with a mentor from YWA to help guide them through their first semester. Thanks to YWA's partnership with Del Valle High School, \$125,000 in scholarships have been awarded to 20 graduating seniors since 2021.

### NEW in 2024:

#### The Promise Scholarship

Designed for Future Women Leaders Scholarship recipients continuing their education, YWA introduces the Promise Scholarship! This fund supports study abroad, internships, conferences, and extracurriculars, aiming to enhance leadership skills and expand networks through out-of-classroom experiences.

## Diversity, Equity, and Belonging A Focus on Continuous Improvement

YWA has a dedicated VP of Diversity, Equity, and Belonging to shepherd our strategy and track our progress, but each member of our leadership team is responsible for championing inclusion efforts across our organization. Key highlights from our work this year include:

- The rollout of women+ in our communications
- Creating a inclusion template for evaluating potential community partners
- Designing a strategic plan that includes our DEB goals into one overarching document

Check out our website for free DEB resources!

# Community Partners




The Young Women's Alliance is proud to support our community partners through scholarships, grants, and/or donating our time through on-site volunteering.

This year, we strengthened our partnership with the Girls Empowerment Network, doubling our financial contribution from previous years. We funded a \$10,000 grant that went toward supporting a Girl Connect program at a school in Del Valle. This programming supports young girls in building self-efficacy. We also sponsored the in-person return of the Austin Radiant G conference, both financially and through volunteerism!

Additionally, we invested our time, talent, and treasure into Del Valle High School, the home of our Future Women Leaders scholarship program. Meet our Class of 2024 Scholars below!



AUSTIN  
diaper bank



## YWA Scholars Class of 2024



### Anastasyia Hall

University of North Texas,  
Accounting

"With this degree I hope to become a certified public accountant and then slowly work my way up to be at the top of the accounting pyramid. I am so excited to start college in the fall!"

### Magaly Rodriguez

Texas State University,  
Political Science

"[My] ultimate goal is becoming a lawyer in hope of cultivating a better environment where people feel comfortable enough to reach for help."

### Jazmine Hill-Pounders

Prairie View A&M,  
Nursing

"With this degree I want to become a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner so that I can create a positive change within the healthcare field."

### Kaelyn Ruiz

University of Texas,  
Accounting or Finance

"With this major, I plan on teaching others the importance of financial literacy in order to better the lives of those people and the community."

# Connecting Women+ in ATX

## YWA Connect: Meaningful Mentorship

This signature program continues to thrive, resulting in 50 dynamic pairings of YWA members with established community members. This year's theme emphasized networking, community growth, and fostering a vibrant support system.

### Testimonials from Participants:

- "My experience has been so good!! I've done lots of mentorship programs in the past, but this has been by far the best one." -- Mentee 2023-24
- "[I appreciate] the opportunity to support, encourage and hopefully, empower younger women. I am also learning a lot from my mentee." -- Mentor, 2023-24



## YWA Toastmasters

The YWA Toastmasters chapter, in its second year, fosters a supportive community where women amplify their voices, develop leadership skills, and boost self-confidence and personal growth. This year, meeting frequency doubled due to high demand, a complete leadership team was established, attendance increased, and participant skills improved. The environment is a supportive space, where women excel in communication and leadership.

## 3rd Annual YWA on the Fairway

The 3rd Annual YWA on the Fairway took place this fall. This event was created to help women get more comfortable on the golf course, a place where many business decisions get made.

Highlights from the event at Falconhead Golf Course:

- 90 guests in attendance
- 8 corporate sponsors
- More than \$11,000 raised for the Future Women Leaders Fund

## Empower Austin

Introducing Empower Austin: The Young Women's Alliance podcast. Join us for insights on personal and professional growth, from MBAs to Self-Esteem. Let's amplify women+ voices in Austin and grow together.



Flourish

## Honoring Community Changemakers

Our inaugural spring fundraiser took place on a beautiful night in May at UMLAUF Sculpture Garden. Event highlights included a silent auction, immersive popups (Alvies Boot Party, a braid bar by Salon Wyld, Alter Native zero proof bar, to name a few), and honoring our LENS award winners:

**Lead:** Robyn Rodriguez, SPHR  
**Educate:** Lesley Robinson, PhD

**Network:** Angela Shaw  
**Serve :** Demetria George Caston, MS, CFRE

**Woman of the Year:** Fang Fang  
**Alumna of the Year:** Alyssa Rolfe

# Young Women's Alliance

*31 Years of Impact and  
Many More to Come!*

