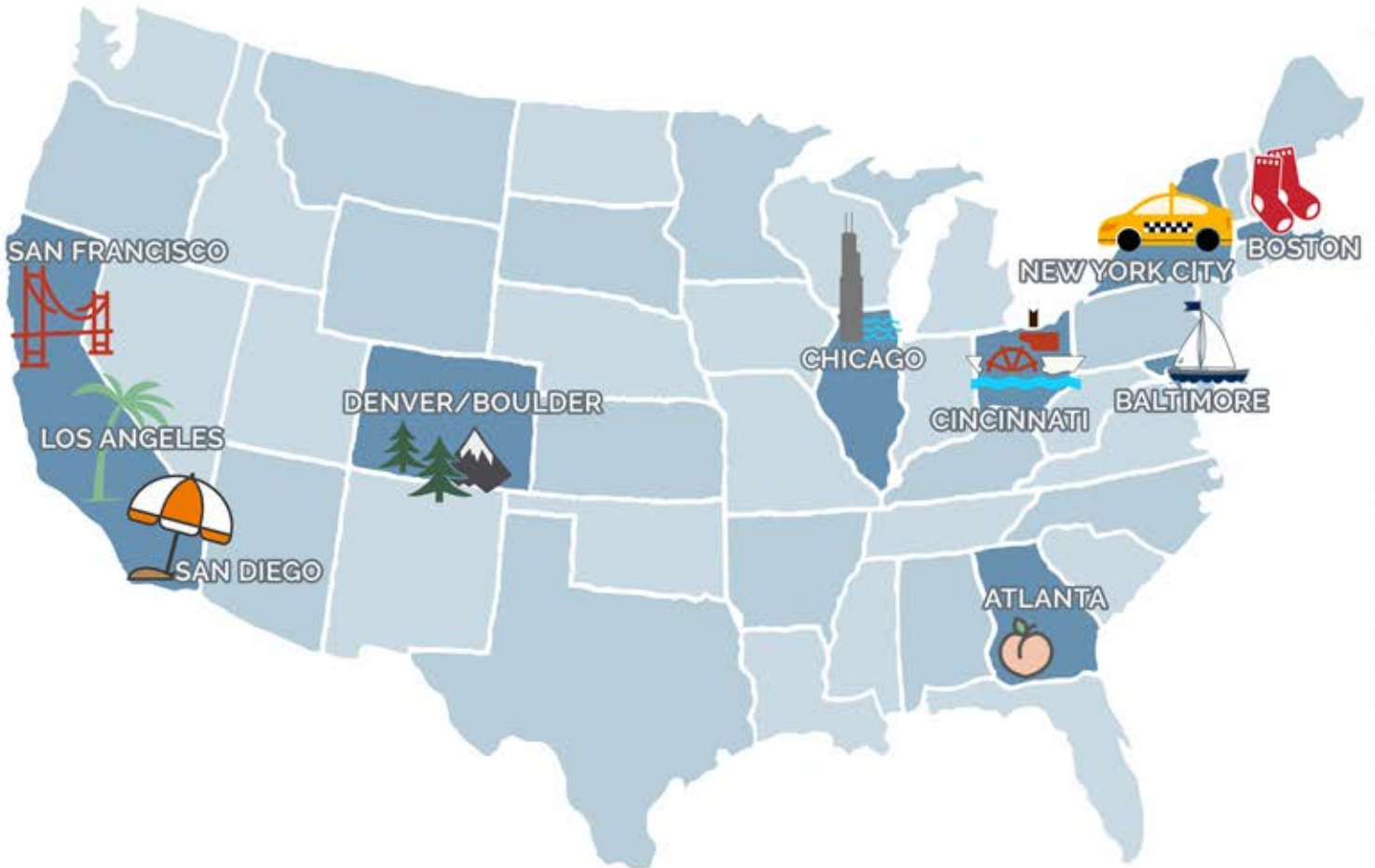




JEWISH TEEN

Education & Engagement
FUNDER COLLABORATIVE



A CROSS-COMMUNITY PHILANTHROPIC EXPERIMENT

The **Jewish Teen Education & Engagement Funder Collaborative** is an unprecedented collaboration of national and local funders working together to develop, nurture and scale new approaches to teen education and engagement.

Ten communities across the country are embarking on **multi-faceted teen initiatives**, co-funded by the **Jim Joseph Foundation**. By seeding innovative Jewish programs, enhancing skills of youth professionals and empowering teens to design their own experiences, diverse teens are encountering new and enduring ways Jewish learning and engagement enhances their lives with meaning, value, and purpose. Through these efforts, the Collaborative aims to reverse the increasing trend of teens opting out of Jewish life in their high school years.

These experiments draw on the collective strength of **local organizations** and **community stakeholders**. The varied initiatives incubate **new programs**, incentivize partners to expand or deepen their work, provide valuable professional development for teen educators, and integrate up-to-the-minute **research** and evaluation. Each are driving deep change in communities to catalyze broader, long-term impact.

It is core to our **mission** to share what we learn so that others may bring effective strategies to scale.

SHARED FRAMEWORKS

Our pioneering qualitative research identified a **new paradigm** for contemporary **teen learning and engagement**. The resulting **14 outcomes** are fundamental to the design of the community-based teen initiatives.

OUTCOMES THAT POSITIVELY AFFECT THE LIVES OF TEENS

1. Have a strong **sense of self**
2. Feel a sense of **pride** about being Jewish
3. Have **learning experiences** that are both challenging and valuable
4. Engage in learning that enables them to be more **active participants** in various Jewish communities
5. Learn about and positively experience **Jewish holidays and Shabbat**
6. Establish strong **friendships**
7. Develop strong and healthy **relationships** with their **families**
8. Develop significant **relationships** with **mentors, role models, and educators**
9. Able to express their **values and ethics** in relation to Jewish principles and wisdom
10. Develop the capacity that allows them to grapple with and express their **spiritual journeys**
11. Feel **connected** to various communities
12. Develop the desire and **commitment** to be part of the Jewish people now and in the future
13. Develop a positive **relationship** to the **land, people, and state of Israel**
14. Inspired and empowered to **make a positive difference** in the various communities and world in which they live

ATLANTA BALTIMORE BOSTON CHICAGO CINCINNATI DENVER/
BOULDER LOS ANGELES NEW YORK SAN DIEGO SAN FRANCISCO

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

The Funder Collaborative has articulated **six shared Measures of Success** against which we will gauge our progress, utilizing common measurement systems:

-  1. **Dramatically increase** the number of teens in targeted geographic areas engaged in Jewish learning during their high school years
-  2. Involve Jewish teens who come from **diverse Jewish backgrounds**
-  3. Provide Jewish teens with experiences that will contribute to their **Jewish learning and growth** during their high school years
-  4. Build models for Jewish teen education and engagement **that are sustainable**
-  5. Establish Jewish teen education and engagement as a **priority for local Jewish community leaders and parents**
-  6. Ensure **youth professionals feel well-prepared** with appropriate skills and knowledge, and feel valued as professionals

COMMUNITIES



ATLANTA

The Atlanta initiative offers teens immersive paths to ignite personal interests through a Jewish lens. Professional development builds a highly trained community of youth educators. It is a collaboration among The Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, The Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta and the Atlanta Rabbinical Association.



BALTIMORE

4Front: Advocate, Innovate, Educate, Collaborate! A Social Innovation Fellowship trains teens to tackle community issues with entrepreneurial solutions. Teens also connect with peers across the globe and convene in an international experience. 4Front offers workshops and coaching for youth professionals and educators, a hub to connect teen programs and inspire new ways to collaborate, and trains lay leaders to advocate for teens. Directed by the Jewish Community Center of Baltimore, 4Front is supported by The Associated: Jewish Community Federation of Baltimore. 4frontbaltimore.org



BOSTON

CJP works to strengthen partner organizations so that they can best provide meaningful and engaging opportunities for teens. We do that through strategic grantmaking, creating impactful connections, and providing high quality opportunities for professional growth and learning.



CHICAGO

Springboard incubates compelling immersive school break experiences and follow-up for Jewish teens of all backgrounds. Teen Engagement Specialists connect teens to relevant programs. Professional development, subsidies, and sharing data about local teens strengthens communal infrastructure. Springboard is a partnership among the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Chicago, The Crown Family and local funders. SpringboardChicago.org



CINCINNATI

Cincinnati is fostering an interconnected community landscape, prioritizing teen input and experiences. Venture Awards empower teens to design their own experiences. Two professional development opportunities, in partnership with HUC-JIR and the iCenter, will equip teen engagers with the knowledge and skills to address the needs of contemporary teens in a holistic manner while additionally facilitating an integrated approach to Israel engagement. Locally funded by The Jewish Foundation of Cincinnati, it is operated by the Mayerson JCC.



DENVER/BOULDER

Rose Community Foundation manages the initiative which fuels the growth of proven models and helps new innovative start-ups launch, with five local and national organizations including Moving Traditions and Presentense/UpStart. The initiative increases the capacity of partners, supports the entire Denver and Boulder communities' teen professionals and puts teens in the driver seat of their Jewish journeys.



LOS ANGELES

This multi-faceted effort provides meaningful experiences to support teens leading healthy and fulfilled lives. The Accelerator, powered by Upstart, helps partners design new and expanded opportunities; Teen Innovation Awards empower teens to bring creative ideas to life and a Community Internship Program offers teens a paid, skill-building experience. Youth professionals benefit from education, mentoring, networking and subsidized academic courses. Incentive grants, subsidies and a new website spur families' exploration of diverse programs. It is spearheaded by the Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles, in partnership with the BJE: Builders of Jewish Education.



NEW YORK

The initiative develops and grows new models of immersive summer experiences. A four-year Incubator supports new program leaders with personalized coaching and workshops. A new site, FindYourSummer.org, improves visibility of Jewish summer experiences. Significant scholarships and incentives also help teens find a perfect experience for them. Funded by UJA-Federation of New York, it is operated by The Jewish Education Project. FindYourSummer.org



SAN DIEGO

Motiv expands Jewish service learning. A curated website and dashboard connects teens to volunteering opportunities; and grants and coaching help organizations launch new service programs. Professional development strives to train, inspire and retain educators. It is operated by the Lawrence Family JCC in partnership with Jewish Federation of San Diego County. Motivesandiego.org



SAN FRANCISCO

The Jewish Community Foundation and Endowment Fund's initiative builds on the entrepreneurial spirit of the Bay Area and will spark innovation to expand the depth and breadth of innovative, compelling and sustainable opportunities via five synergistic components: Innovation Accelerator, Experimentation Micro-Grants, Scholarships, a centralized Information Hub and Professional Development. Key partners include Jewish LearningWorks and UpStart.

All community teen initiatives are co-funded by the Jim Joseph Foundation



SHARING WHAT WE LEARN

The Funder Collaborative is deeply committed to enhancing and contributing knowledge that **shape contemporary approaches** to Jewish teen education and personal growth.

We invest in **shared frameworks** and tools which can inform and be adapted by experiential programs or interested communities. Our early **insights** have led to a richer understanding of today's teens, spurring inspiring **new engagement methodologies** and ambitious offerings. **Local** and **cross-community evaluations** are currently underway to chart our progress, challenges and achievements.

We believe the learnings we generate, which we will share widely, can have broad and deep influence on the entire field of Jewish teen education and engagement.

CONNECT WITH US

We are excited to share what we learn, yet we recognize we don't hold all the answers to the complex issues around modern teen engagement. As we amplify the important work of those who been active in this space before us, we hope to simultaneously contribute our own discoveries to the field.

We welcome you to **join us on this journey** of learning and practice.

Please visit TeenFunderCollaborative.com for the latest updates and to subscribe to our newsletter.

Director Sara Allen
sara@teenfundercollaborative.com
(916) 382-9642

