

Together Empowering Youth Voice

Dear AES Friends and Family,

As the new school year starts it brings a renewed invigoration of what is possible when we come together to empower Sacramento youth to be catalysts of change. The tone was set as 200 people attended **Voices of Change (VOC)** on Saturday, September 3rd, and we are excited for the subsequent youth projects being developed by our inspiring VOC Interns. Thank you for taking a few moments to learn about what is happening with AES!



New Faces Joining the AES Board of Directors



AES has actively been recruiting and interviewing potential new board members to help steer the vision and direction of our organization! The board meets this month to finalize decisions. Stay tuned as we debut our newest members and share how they will help us move our strategic priorities forward. Need a refresher on our core mission and strategic priorities?! Click [HERE](#).

Voices of Change Brings the Community Together

This year's 3rd Annual **Voices of Change; My Voice. My Vote. My power.** highlighted 8 youth performers from Sacramento who spoke up about issues that were most important to them through the use of spoken word, dance, rap, and songs. Despite the heat, we had 25 community partners, youth interns, and a volunteer team of 20 community members totaling about 200 people in attendance at this year's Voices of Change! Every participant was encouraged to register to vote, learned about resources available in the community and took a spin on the 360



photo booth. We even had candidate Dave Jones, candidate for District 8, spoke briefly to encourage youth to be engaged in their communities. Ana Taukolo the primary organizer of the event said, "Voices of Change made a lasting impression on partners, performers, and community members so much so that every time I run into someone who was at VOC they bring it up and ask when the next one will be!" We are so thankful for the brave young people who signed up to speak their truth and for the community that came together to love and support them!



HEART FELT THANK YOU

To all our community partners who joined us on Saturday and for your continued work to empower today's youth!

REPRESENTING AT CAPITAL COLLEGE AND CAREER ACADEMY



On August 13 nearly two hundred community members came together at the new Capitol College and Career Academy for their grand opening event which provided the community with fun activities, live entertainment, and resources for families and youth. There was free food, cultural dances, and lots of non-profit vendors, trade companies, and local small businesses. AES was invited to table about Voices of Change and to make connections with members of this community. Voices of Change Youth interns, Thao, Talon, Trayzell, and Lavin worked tremendously hard in the heat and shared all about the work of AES with attendees!

Recruiting NOW! AES Advisory Board Members

AES is looking for volunteers who are willing to serve on an advisory board to the Board of Directors. There will be two separate advisory councils. One comprised of young people ages 13-23 and those who are ages 25+.

We are particularly interested in recruiting today's youth who have strong opinions, perspectives and ideas for addressing key issues impacting vulnerable youth today. Those who serve on the advisory council will meet quarterly via ZOOM. If you are interested in learning more please contact Jen Halford at jen@aesimpact.org.



Spread the Word - VOTE Yes on Measure L



The first step is done. As part of the [Sac Kids First](#) Coalition, AES has been advocating with 36 nonprofits and advocacy groups for the placement of the children's fund measure on the ballot for four years. This fall, Measure L will make its debut and we need your help to raise awareness of its importance. Check out [THIS](#) video to learn WHY the measure is important.

Visit the official measure website [HERE](#). Then learn *even* more [here on the Sac Kids First website](#) and help us mobilize voters! Our Sacramento youth need your support!

VOC Intern Spotlight: Talon Pham

Talon Pham is a rising senior at Del Oro High School. He is extremely passionate about mental health, continually working to advocate for vulnerable populations like the elderly through the Alzheimer's Association and teens facing mental health issues in the local community. In the future, Talon plans to educate more local youth on mental health problems, leveraging leadership skills gained by instructing at Nike's golf camp, and participating in the Voices of Change internship and Sacramento's Youth Leadership Academy.



VOC Intern Spotlight: Ariana Thaku

Ariana is proud to be able to help and serve their community through programs like Voices for Change. By working with AES they hope to share their voice, learn about other people's views on what needs to change, and simply work on their personal growth. Ariana emphasizes the importance for youth to speak up and share what they



think. They hope to live in a place where youth opinions are valued just as any others, and is working hard to make that happen.

With AES they hope to raise awareness of the acceptance of mental health issues. Knowing there is a negative stigma around these issues, with people either not understanding the impact they have on people's lives or with people choosing to joke around about other's important issues. Ariana's goal is to get others to support an increased awareness and acceptance of mental health related issues and challenges.

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