

# 2023 Impact Report

Bay Area Urban Debate League



## MISSION:

The Bay Area Urban Debate League provides competitive debate education to Bay Area public schools so that all students can have the opportunity to reach their full potential as engaged learners, critical thinkers, and capable civic advocates.

### Urban debate students:

- Have, on average, a **0.66 point higher GPA**<sup>1</sup>
- Are **3.1 times less likely to drop out of high school** than non-debate students, with 95% graduating<sup>2</sup>
- Are **89% more likely to attend a four-year college** and 80% more likely to graduate from college<sup>3</sup>

## Our Impact:

### STUDENT PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

Students participating at the Julia Burke Debate Institute summer intensive	<b>100</b>	<b>5</b>	BAUDL-hosted student debate tournaments
BAUDL debate education students in 2023	<b>300</b>	<b>7</b>	Students receiving debate scholarships to the National Debate Camp at UC Berkeley
Graduation rate for BAUDL seniors 2021-2023	<b>100%</b>	<b>8</b>	National tournaments attended by BAUDL students

In alignment with BAUDL's value of civic participation, students hosted a **Round Table** addressing issues of Bay Area homelessness with Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao at Oakland City Hall. In celebration of MLK Day, students compiled and distributed hygiene care packages to local youth homeless shelters and group homes.

### ALUMNI & COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

BAUDL creates **direct pathways** for students to come into leadership, both at BAUDL and within the larger community. In 2022, BAUDL welcomed local alumna Mya Whitaker as BAUDL's Executive Director. She is the first debate student alumnus to lead a national urban debate league. In 2023, BAUDL welcomed Sekayi—a five-year BAUDL alumna, national competitor, and 2023 graduate from UC Berkeley—as Program Director.

Staff who are debate student alumni (with 80% direct BAUDL alumni)	<b>100%</b>	<b>50</b>	New community volunteers
BAUDL alumni teaching summer debate intensive	<b>100%</b>	<b>3</b>	New teacher coaches at local schools

### STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



**Ashley Q.** is a four-year all-star debater from Oakland Tech High School. A committed competitive debater, Ashley has been a big supporter of the next generation of debate students. They've provided mentorship to other students to ensure that the Oakland Tech team remains a powerhouse of debate. They will be attending Yale in the fall and are BAUDL's first Julia Burke Award Scholarship recipients, receiving \$2,000 for school support and \$2,000 to donate to a nonprofit of choice.

# Who We Serve:

In 2023, BAUDL served:

**300** middle and high school students · **11** middle and high schools\* · **4** school districts

\*All schools serve a majority students of color and low-income students (on average, 70% of students are on free and reduced lunch and 89% of students are students of color at participating schools). Schools include: Anna Yates Middle, Davidson Middle, Edna Brewer Middle, Emery High, Frick United Academy of Language, June Jordan School for Equity, KIPP King, McClymonds High, Oakland Tech High, Richmond High, Skyline High.

BAUDL is invested in all Bay Area youth being able to participate in debate teams, particularly Black and brown students who are traditionally underrepresented in the national debate community. BAUDL ensures equitable access to debate for students from all Bay Area schools despite variability in district funding. The composition of our debate league reflects the racial diversity of the Bay Area.

**80%** of BAUDL debate league students are **students of color**

- **27%** Latinx, Hispanic and Mexican
- **22%** Black / African American
- **20%** White
- **18%** Mixed Ethnicity
- **13%** Asian

## 2023 FEATURED BAUDL GRADUATES



**DESTINY S.**  
Fisk University

Destiny dreams of becoming Mayor of Oakland where she can apply her advocacy and research skills to contribute to the betterment of her home community.



**HESTEN P.**  
AIMS College Prep High

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Hesten pioneered bringing BAUDL to his middle school. He ensured debate was an all-family experience, and his mom, Mrs. Latalya has since volunteered with BAUDL to coach her son's former team.



**XANTHIA L.**  
U.C. Berkeley

Xanthia participated in BAUDL all four years of high school and has continued coaching other BAUDL students throughout her college years. Her next steps include pursuing a Masters's degree.



**ELLA M.**  
Parkside Middle School

Ella joined BAUDL in 2020 in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. With exemplary performance, Ella rose to the top of her debating pool and in 7<sup>th</sup> grade began competing with the high school policy debate division. She'll be attending Emery High.

## LINGERING IMPACTS OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC

After two years of virtual support, BAUDL returned to in-person programming in 2022. Many of our youth experienced acute impact during pandemic shutdowns and BAUDL continues to support youth in recovering from this challenging time. Not only does BAUDL programming create a space of academic rigor; it provides students a safe space to get a fulfilling meal, connect with peers and mentors, and challenge themselves intellectually.

We are still working to rescale and strengthen our programming following disrupted school years and are grateful for our generous donors who continue to make this work possible. If you are interested in contributing to BAUDL, visit [www.baudl.org/donate](http://www.baudl.org/donate).

1. Tomohiro M. Ko, MPH, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, & Briana Mezuk, PhD, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Michigan.  
2. Mezuk, Briana, PhD. Urban debate and high school educational outcomes for African American males: The case of the Chicago Debate League.  
3. National Association of Urban Debate Leagues.