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"While they may be someone else's child, it is the responsibility of a community to ensure the wellbeing & success of every child."

Kids Helping Kids!

We often say that when Diane Christian founded [Someone Else's Child](#) over 26 years ago, she was struck by the notion that we are all responsible for the children in our communities. Another pillar in SEC's evolving approach is encouraging those same children and teens to be engaged in their own communities. We call it [Kids Helping Kids](#); empowering youth to engage in community-led, charitable efforts.

We collaborated with Ana Contreras and the [Rafael Hernandez School](#) community, marking SEC's first international Kids Helping Kids project. Through the generous contributions of the school's families and staff, the students successfully packed two large boxes of supplies for a school in Guatemala.

In December of 2023, we had the privilege to work with the innovative youth at [Young Man With A Plan](#) (YMWAP) in Boston. They coordinated a winter clothing drive benefiting students and families at the Shaw Elementary School in Mattapan, addressing crucial issues around economic insecurity in their community. Additionally, we proudly teamed up with [Girls Inc. of Boston and Lynn](#) to provide essential food support to families in their respective communities.

A special thank you to Vanessa Plant of The [Alku Foundation](#), the Beker Foundation, and Daniel Sherman for their collaborative and generous support.



Preparing for the Summer with Boston Explorers

2023 marked SEC's first summer with [Boston Explorers](#) (BE). You may recall, we brought BE under the umbrella of SEC as our first direct program. Under the direction of [Natasha Wright](#), the campers can explore the City of Boston as their very own campground. The goal of BE is to inspire a sense of civic engagement, adventure and curiosity that will last a lifetime.

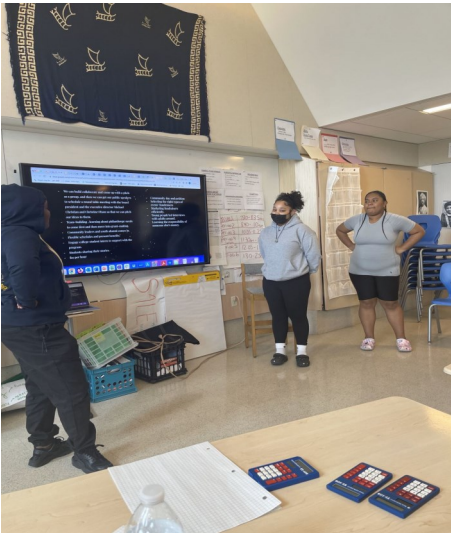
Natasha and the team are enthusiastically preparing for another consequential summer. This year, we're expanding our Leaders-in-Training program to not only include working with the Explorers in the summer but also encompassing year round leadership and internship opportunities. Click [here](#) to learn more about BE opportunities.



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Youth Engagement



In addition to our Kids Helping Kids endeavors, SEC is focusing on three additional areas of youth engagement: [Boston Explorers Internships](#), and [Youth Philanthropy](#). As the SEC journey progresses, it has become very clear that the voice of youth matters more than ever. Take just a couple of minutes to watch our new video on [Youth Engagement](#).

Founded in 2011 and recently relaunched with SEC, Boston Explorers provides children and teens with a dynamic summer experience utilizing the City of Boston as its campground.

Our recently established Youth Philanthropy Program, imagined and designed by young people using the [District C Teamship Model](#), offers hands-on experience in grantmaking. This puts the power to identify critical issues and allocation of funds at the discretion of young people.

Inspired by [Cristo Rey's Corporate Work Study Program](#) and the University of California at Santa Barbara's [Impact Media Program](#), SEC supports the creation of new internship programs that bring opportunities to engage youth in mission-driven work.

Understanding the Disability Community and the issue of Ableism



What is Ableism? [Ableism](#) is the discrimination of and social prejudice against people with disabilities based on the belief that typical abilities are superior. At its heart, ableism is rooted in the assumption that people with disabilities require "fixing" and defines these people only by their disability.

At SEC, we believe in fostering inclusive communi-

ties that leave no one behind; training is an important step towards achieving that vision.

On March 29, 2024, SEC is hosting an Ableism Awareness Training. This training, facilitated by our esteemed partner [EPIC](#), promises to equip participants with a deeper understanding of the Disability Community and the issue of Ableism.

[Click](#) here to register.

Peronia Adolescente in Guatemala



[Peronia Adolescente](#) is a youth-led community organization founded in 2004 by young local artists and activists from Ciudad Peronia, an urban barrio on the outskirts of Guatemala City. Peronia Adolescente works to promote opportunities for comprehensive education, leadership and civic participation to teenagers and young people from the

community through sports and the arts. The organization focuses on local arts and culture, comprehensive educational opportunities, child and adolescent rights and protection and the renewal of public community spaces. [Travis Ning](#) of the [Ward Foundation](#) introduced SEC to them.

View this moving [trailer](#) from Peronia Adolescente's soon to be released film, *Comparsa*.

"The highest form of wisdom is kindness." Talmud

kʷu cnxi? (We Join In)



SEC was introduced to [Cree Whelshula](#), Executive Director of [kʷu cnxi?](#), through [MIT Solve](#). The organization and Cree were one of the top innovators in the 2022 Solver class, recognizing the potential of kʷu cnxi?'s solution to address urgent global problems.

The challenge is that Native students in Washington State, and nationally, have the poorest educational outcomes by race since the boarding school era. Poor educational outcomes create barriers to socioeconomic stability. kʷu cnxi? aims to improve the mental health of its communities through implementing rigorous language and cultural programs under the guidance of its Elders and support from mental health professionals resulting in increased educational outcomes and socioeconomic success.

Hyde Square Task Force

[Hyde Square Task Force](#) (HSTF) has a mission to “amplify the power, creativity, and voices of youth, connecting them to Afro-Latin culture and heritage so they can create a diverse, vibrant Latin Quarter and build a just, equitable Boston.”

SEC has partnered with HSTF on the [Jóvenes en Acción/Youth in Action](#) (JEA) program, a year-round program for youth in grades 8–12 that combines three components: Afro-Latin arts, education support and mentoring, and civic engagement and youth organizing.

A growing aspect of the JEA program is the opportunity for a small number of youth to travel to Puerto Rico alongside HSTF staff. The purpose of the trip is to deepen the young people’s connection to Afro-Latin arts and culture, empowering them to achieve their personal goals and to become leaders within Boston’s Latin Quarter community. The 2023 trip (pictured right) was termed a “life changing” experience for the participants with the ripple effects being felt by the youth, staff, and the organization.



What’s@Risk?

[What@Risk?](#) is a weekly radio show/podcast on WBZ NewsRadio in Boston. The show provides a platform for informed guests to discuss an array of current social, economic, environmental, cultural, and business topics. Our guests explore solutions to challenges in this sometimes fractured and uncertain time. The broadcast has featured several SEC partners. Check out their thoughtful discussions on these iHeart podcasts.

[Ben Gilbarg - Steam the Streets](#)

[Hala Hanna - MIT Solve](#)

[Connor Schoen - Breaktime](#)

[Daina Ramey Berry - UCSB](#)

[Will Austin - Boston Schools Fund](#)

[Rusty Sullivan - Sports Museum & Boston vs. Bullies](#)

[Chris Hope - The Loop Lab](#)



“Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children” Sitting Bull

More Moments from 2023's Kids Helping Kids Events



Inuka Cultural Center

[Inuka Cultural Center](#), formerly Kibera Rising, has been a long time partner to SEC and was one of our first entrees into Africa. Established by [Salim Rollins](#) and [Victor Odhiambo](#), Inuka is a youth empowerment program that uses movement arts, interactive knowledge-based workshops, entrepreneurship, and professional development training to create expanded life choices for youth and communities.

Inuka means "rising" in Kiswahili which reflects their vision of uplifting youth in marginalized communities. The word Inuka holds the ideals of aspiration, upward mobility, and self-empowerment. These are the core qualities that Inuka wants its participants to embody.

Inuka serves the youth of [Kibera](#), Kenya through three dynamic programs: [Slum Dance Africa](#), [Capoeira](#), and [The Empowerment Program for Girls](#).



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Newsletter

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ELSE'S
CHILD**

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If you're inspired by SEC's partners, you can support them [here](#).

"There is a crack in everything. That's how the light comes in." Leonard Cohen



[Smart From the Start](#) Summer Pilgrimage visits the site of the lunch counter sit-in Greensboro



The Brazilian Ambassador to Kenya Visits the [Inuka](#) studio in Kibera



A new addition to the SEC family Board member Vetto Casado's son, Adrian



The 2024 [MIT/Solve Indigenous Innovators Summit](#) in Tucson



Financial Literacy Session at [African Community Education \(ACE\)](#) in MA

"Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel." Socrates