

SOCIAL JUSTICE LEARNING INSTITUTE



Learn. Grow. Change.

We empower individuals to rise up, create change and help their communities thrive.

At the Social Justice Learning Institute, we are dedicated to improving the education, health, and well being of youth and communities of color by empowering them to enact social change through research, training, and community mobilization.



EMPOWERING THROUGH EDUCATION

We use education as a tool to empower communities of color to unlock their ability to change their lives and the world around them.



CREATING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

We work to improve the built environment and expand access to resources that enable residents to be healthy and thrive.



CHANGING SYSTEMS

We build power within our communities so that residents can identify and challenge injustice and advance policies that directly impact their lives.



Schools Not Prisons

Promoting students' academic success through classroom support and systems change



Healthy Food Access

Building healthier communities through gardening, nutrition education and food recovery



Secure Housing

Educating residents on their rights and fighting against displacement



An Initiative to Create Opportunity Pathways for Probation-Involved and High-Risk African American Males in Los Angeles County



BLOOM (Building a Lifetime of Options and Opportunities for Men) is an initiative launched by the California Community Foundation in 2012 to redirect the lives of young Black males in South Los Angeles who have already had contact with the juvenile justice system. Today the BLOOM initiative is a partnership between the Foundation, Brotherhood Crusade and the Social Justice Learning Institute to change the trajectory of in-school black males at risk of system-involvement as well as those who are already probation involved.

The BLOOM opportunity pathway includes:



Graduating from high school



Pursuing a college degree



Becoming gainfully employed

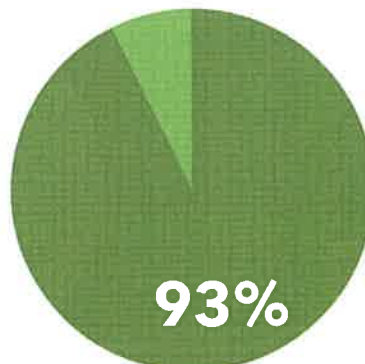
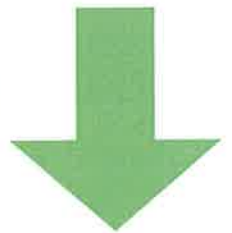
BLOOM aims to do more than prevent juvenile delinquency or recidivism. It seeks to create an opportunity pathway for young black males who are already probation-involved or at risk of becoming so in the future.

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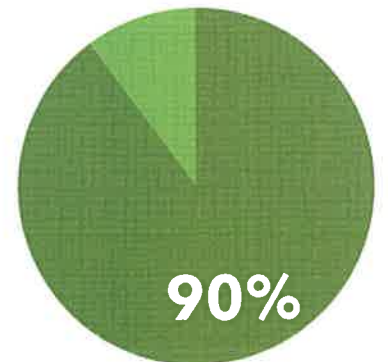
young men have participated since 2012

50%

decrease in suspension and expulsion



93%
Earned their high school diploma or GED



90%
Upheld their probation and did not reoffend

10 Years of Community Leaders & Social Change

Empowering Through Education

- **1,619** students served through Urban Scholars
- **250** Healthy Eating Active Living classes taught per year
- **32** college campuses where our Urban Scholars students are enrolled



Creating Thriving Communities

- **103** community, school, home gardens built
- **1,867** pounds of produce distributed per year
- **52,000** pounds of produce diverted from landfills per year

Changing Systems

- **Ending the school-to-prison pipeline**
 - Increased restorative justice funding in Los Angeles Unified School District
 - Helped pass Prop 47 to reduce nonviolent drug-related felonies to misdemeanors
 - Led a \$90M bond campaign to improve Inglewood schools
- **Promoting healthy food and beverage consumption**
 - Advocating for statewide sugar-sweetened beverage fee
 - Led Community Town Halls with Sen. Mitchell and Assm. Burke on diabetes prevention

“The Social Justice Learning Institute has given me the power to create the change that I want to see within my community by showing me that I have a voice, informing me that I matter, and giving me the confidence to speak out against the status quo.”

Join Us in Advancing Equity & Justice in Our Community

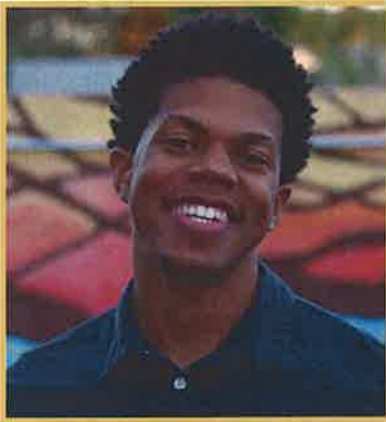
The Social Justice Learning Institute is an organization that privileges the voices and leadership of community members like you. Get involved in one of these opportunities today:

- **Volunteer** in our gardens, at events, or at our office
- **Donate** to our programs or student scholarships
- **Collaborate** with us on educational and health programs

For more information, visit our website at www.sjli.org or contact us at (323) 952-7363 or info@sjli.org.

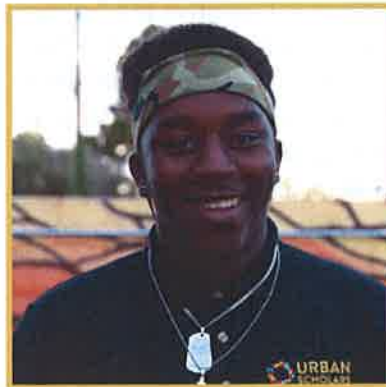


Marcus Pickens



While in high school in Watts, Marcus witnessed heavy policing and punitive action that more often set students up for expulsion rather than academic success. As an Urban Scholar, he and his classmates explored this concern by conducting research on the ways prejudice influences relationships between police and students of color in South LA. His leadership and desire to transform conditions in his community continued beyond high school. He went on to study Business Administration at California State University, East Bay, held multiple internships, and eventually founded his own tech startup, a mobile barber shop called QuestCutz – all while starting a family. He ultimately hopes to apply these skills to help his community by supporting other entrepreneurs of color through small business incubation. He also continues to give back to youth in SJLI's programs by serving on the Alumni Council and on the organization's Board of Directors. Years after first stepping into our class, Marcus continues to use education to enhance not only his life but also the lives of those around him.

Shequan Granger



Shequan has been part of the Social Justice Learning Institute since 2015, when he was a student at Augustus F. Hawkins High School in South Los Angeles and also part of the organization's Urban Scholars program. As an outgoing and thoughtful student, Shequan honed his passion for communication to actively utilize his voice to present research and speak with key decision makers about issues affecting his community. He was involved in a wide variety of programs offered by SJLI: he was a youth leader in the Brothers, Sons, Selves Coalition, where he advocated for the decriminalization of youth of color; he formed a music group after participating in the Creative Arts program; and he participated in and later interned for the Urban Health Fellowship. Today, he serves on the Alumni Council and is an administrative intern at SJLI. He is currently enrolled at Los Angeles Southwest College, where he is studying theater. Shequan hopes to eventually open a center for youth to engage in the arts and sports.

LeQuan Muhammad



LeQuan graduated from Animo Watts College Preparatory Academy in 2016. In high school, LeQuan was part of the Social Justice Learning Institute's Urban Scholars program, where he developed skills in community leadership. He conducted research on police and community relations and presented his cohort's findings at the Politics and Pedagogy Eastside Stories Conference. He also served as a youth leader in the Brothers, Sons, Selves Coalition, and worked on campaigns to establish the School Climate Bill of Rights within Los Angeles Unified School District, and advocate for Prop 47 and SB 607. Outside of SJLI, LeQuan has continued working on improving conditions in his community. He has volunteered at Dignity and Power Now, which fights for the rights of incarcerated people and their families. LeQuan currently works at Vision Zero and Community Coalition as an organizer. He also attends Los Angeles Southwest College where he majors in Marketing and Accounting.

Ahmir Bates



Ahmir was involved in the Urban Scholars program while he was a student at Augustus F. Hawkins High School in South Los Angeles. Throughout the program, Ahmir began to discover an unspoken confidence within himself that made him eager to not only excel in school but also find ways outside of the classroom to empower his community. He became a scholar, a youth leader (through the Brothers, Sons, Selves Coalition), an artist (through SJLI's Creative Arts program), and a critical researcher who put his research into action by advocating for policies that improve conditions for students and communities of color. When he graduated high school, he was awarded a full tuition Wings Scholarship, made possible through SJLI's partnership with the Jordan Brand Wings Program. Ahmir went on to attend Miles College, where he is pursuing a career in photojournalism and psychology in hopes of sharing his community's stories and providing a space for them to let go of trauma.

Dylan Gray



Dylan was part of an early cohort of the Urban Scholars Black Male Youth Academy at Morningside High School in Inglewood. Over the years, he has grown into a committed social justice youth leader and a diligent academic scholar. While at Morningside, Dylan and his Urban Scholars peers successfully advocated for infrastructure improvements to Inglewood schools; their efforts led to the passage of Measure GG, a \$90M bond campaign that funded district-wide health and safety construction and modernization projects. Dylan was also a youth leader in the Brothers, Sons, Selves Coalition; during this time, he was able to meet President Obama as part of the My Brother's Keeper Initiative launch. After high school, Dylan went onto attend California State University, Chico, where he became the Commissioner for Diversity Affairs and eventually the Associated Students President. Dylan is now in his final year in college, and plans to continue his work in civic engagement and community leadership.

Patricia Marroquin



Patricia was part of the Urban Scholars program's first co-educational cohort while she was a student at Cesar Chavez Continuation High School in Compton. She was an active participant in the program, who thoughtfully engaged in classroom dialogue and research and would attend tutoring hours offered by the program team. Patricia worked with the Social Justice Learning Institute on credit recovery and maintaining A-G eligibility for college enrollment. She graduated in 2018, and went onto attend El Camino College, majoring in Child Psychology. Patricia plans to transfer to California State Polytechnic University, Pomona to pursue a career in psychology. Her goal is to help children overcome past trauma and pursue successful futures. Patricia has shared that she is proud to be the first in her family to graduate from high school, so that she can set an example for her younger siblings and show them that education does matter.