

education 
reimagined



20
22

Year in Review



Our **Vision**

To enable all children to fulfill their full potential as empowered individuals, constructive members of their communities, productive participants in the economy, and engaged citizens of the United States and the world.

Our **Mission**

To make learner-centered education available to each and every child in the United States, inclusive of race, background, and circumstance.

Our **Role**

To be a catalyst for collective invention — fueling the confidence of those who want to invent a future where learning lives everywhere, and every child thrives.

Letter from THE PRESIDENT

In 2015, Education Reimagined launched with an audacious mission — to fundamentally transform the education system in the United States.

With a vision created by 25 ideologically diverse education stakeholders who came together across difference to reimagine education, we saw a future in which the public education system equitably and powerfully serves each child to discover who they are, their gifts, and how to meaningfully contribute them to the world.

We thought this vision was only years from being realized; we thought it was just a matter of accelerating the moment — giving fuel to the growing movement of leaders we were meeting and learning from — whose work was to create this learner-centered future.

Yet, even before COVID-19 unleashed its tragedy, forced change, and physical distancing on the world, we were beginning to doubt this hypothesis. The spread of learner-centered education did not seem to be inevitable. And, while the pandemic opened up new avenues for invention and increased parental demand for change, as 2020 became 2021, we saw the conventional education system pulling things back to a pre-pandemic normal.

As we entered 2022, we recognized that if learner-centered education was to reach every child and family in the country, it would take more than a school-by-school, district-by-district approach. We would need bold systems-wide transformation. With that, Education Reimagined has redoubled our commitment, expanded our vision of what's possible, and dramatically increased our level of ambition for the work ahead.

We have set our sights on catalyzing the invention of a transformed public education system that can enable and support the full vision of learner-centered education — thriving, learner-centered ecosystems grounded in community, equity, and real-world learning and inquiry.

With the receipt of a transformational gift of \$6 million, 2022 saw us expand our capacity, network, and breadth of work to truly rise to this next level of impact and ambition. We've continued finding learner-centered inventors both within and outside of the K-12 education system (**Build the Field**), lifting them up and connecting them with other cutting-edge learning providers to establish a credible, distinct professional field of learner-centered education. We've expanded the ways we are making the vision accessible to leaders, decision makers, and communities (**Spread the Vision**). And, we've dramatically expanded our capacity to ignite the invention and demonstration of alternative public education systems with and in service of on-the-ground inventors (**Catalyze Invention**). We've built partnerships, leveled up our programs, and illuminated new thought leadership in this space; evidence of our work and impact can be found in this inaugural Annual Report.

What we are undertaking is a moonshot. When most are asking “How can we create better schools?” we are asking: “How can we build a system in which learning lives everywhere; the resources, wisdom, and assets of our communities are leveraged; and every child is supported to create a secure, meaningful life of their choosing?”

We are so proud of what we have accomplished in 2022, and this is only the beginning.

Warmly,



Our Impact & Initiatives

We are on the path to inventing a new public education system that can enable learner-centered ecosystems. In 2022, we sharpened our focus on **Building the Field** of learner-centered education, continued to **Spread the Vision**, engaging more and more people, and took new ground in our efforts to **Catalyze Invention**.



Building **THE FIELD**

Education Reimagined finds and connects learner-centered leaders across background, sector, and geography. By providing the space to learn, collaborate, and work with those who share common cause, we embolden all to imagine further than before.

In 2022, we hosted virtual and in-person convenings, trainings, and immersive experiences — **expanding our learner-centered community to more than 1,200 leaders**. We also launched new partnerships to expand our reach and impact.

PROGRAM



The Learning Lab unites learner-centered practitioners committed to demonstrating that learner-centered education can address today’s most pressing education challenges. The community stands 550 leaders strong. In 2022, more than 120 education practitioners, researchers, learners, and professional development leaders from across 70 organizations and learning environments participated in our virtual training program. They left equipped with a shared practitioner language, new insights into their practice, and renewed commitment to advancing their work.

PARTNERSHIP



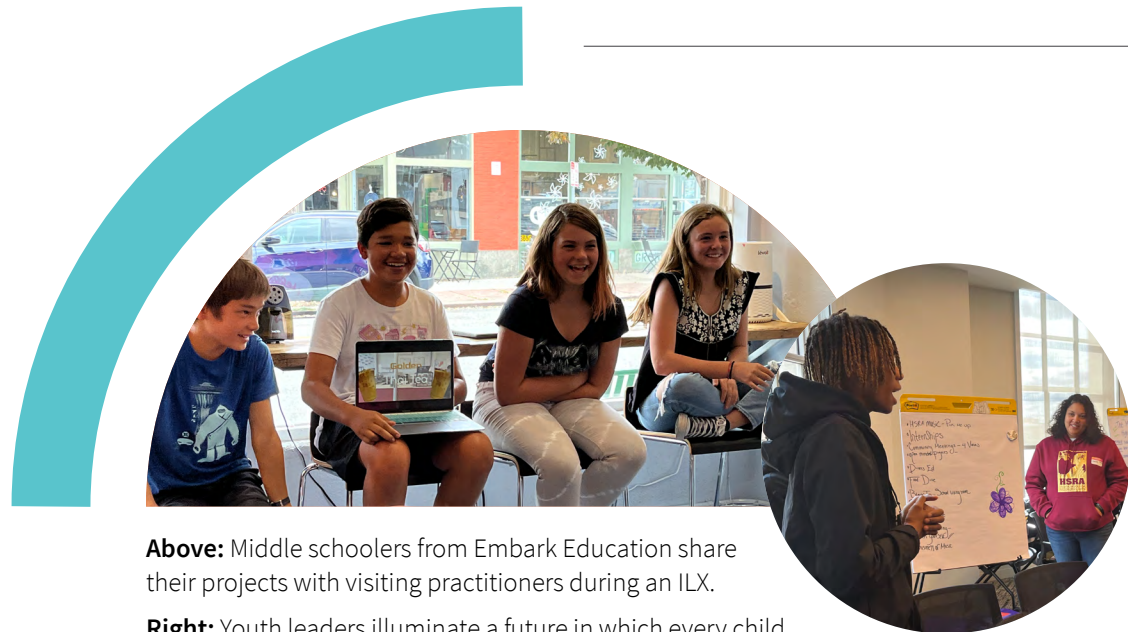
Education Reimagined and **Arizona State University’s Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College** signed a memorandum of understanding to initiate work together to discover how to expand the pipeline of prepared and qualified learner-centered professionals to serve in learner-centered programs, models, and ecosystems.



Left: Practitioners at Embark Education in Denver, CO, share their learnings and learner-centered practices during an Immersive Learning Exchange.

“I left the Learning Lab Orientation telling a different story about the work I do. I have begun using the nationally shared language, connecting with others in the Learning Lab to find opportunities to collaborate, and sharing my learning and insights with my colleagues.”

Anna Leonhard,
Director of Programs, WPS Institute (MA)



Above: Middle schoolers from Embark Education share their projects with visiting practitioners during an ILX.

Right: Youth leaders illuminate a future in which every child is thriving at a SparkHouse event in DC.

“The ILX is the very best learning experience in our industry. It is a learning experience, peer-driven, non-evaluative, and seeks new understandings and growth for the host and visiting colleagues. The real ‘aha’s’ are in witnessing learner-centered as doable. You can touch it. It’s no longer a proposal. It allows for honest and real conversations, and lets you peer into the resources needed for this kind of education.”

Peter McWalters, Former Rhode Island Commissioner of Elementary & Secondary Education; Board Member of Big Picture Learning

PROGRAM



SparkHouse is a national community of young leaders from learner-centered environments who advocate for all children to have access to the kind of education they’ve experienced. In 2022, Education Reimagined hosted two virtual convenings of young advocates, and welcomed 39 learners and 18 adults from 11 learner-centered environments across eight states to Washington, DC, for our first in-person SparkHouse in three years. Connected and emboldened, these leaders are speaking at national conferences, organizing within their communities, and illuminating the impact learner-centered education has had on their lives centered even further.

PROGRAM



Immersive Learning Exchanges (ILX) are two-day opportunities for learner-centered leaders to visit, explore, learn from, and push the thinking of a learner-centered model, school, or program. In 2022, we reinvigorated this offering, after pausing during the pandemic, with a visit to Embark Education in Denver, CO. Eighteen leaders from 13 diverse organizations witnessed how Embark’s middle schoolers are learning, growing, and building skills and competencies within the context of a bike shop, coffee shop, and to their local Denver community. Facilitated conversations supported the Embark team and visitors to, together, process what was seen, celebrate successes, provide feedback on challenges, and consider opportunities to advance the model’s expression of learner-centered even further.

PARTNERSHIP

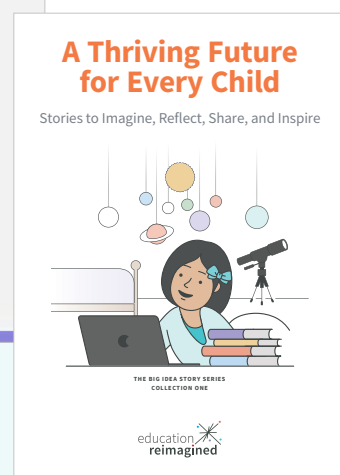
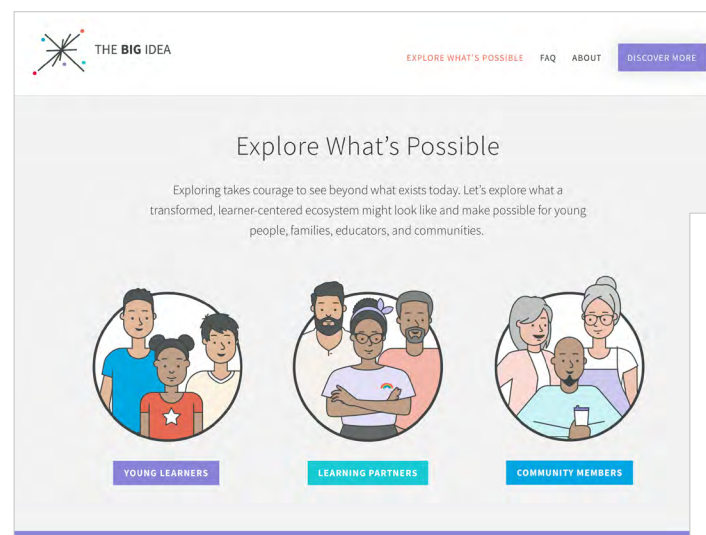
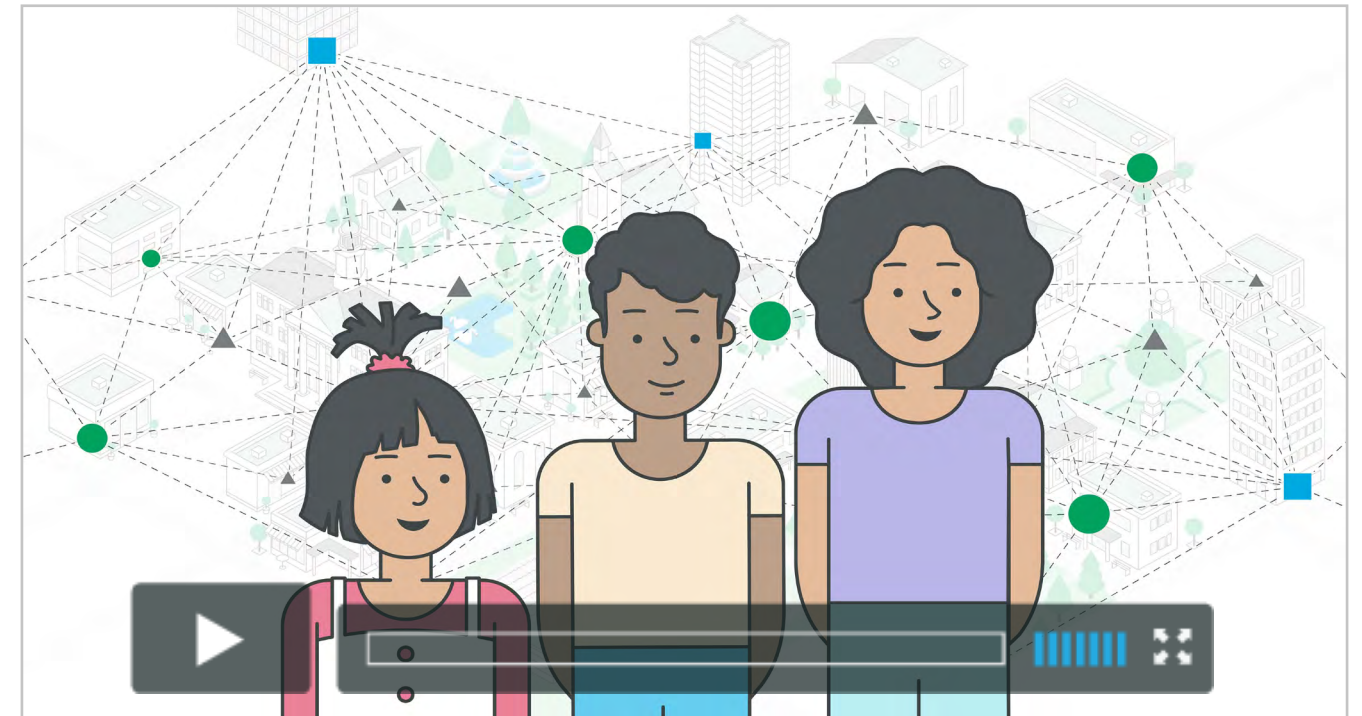


Karen Pittman, co-founder and former President & CEO of the **Forum for Youth Investment** and founding Partner with **KP Catalysts**, joined the Education Reimagined team as a Senior Advisor. This relationship has expanded Education Reimagined’s understanding of and connections with the youth development sector.

Spreading **THE VISION**

At Education Reimagined, we illuminate a bold, galvanizing vision of learner-centered ecosystems; amplify the work of trailblazing educators, families, and communities who are bringing pieces of this vision to life daily; and advocate for the conditions necessary to enable full-blown ecosystem invention.

In 2022, we produced new media, thought leadership, and forums for conversation to push the thinking of learner-centered leaders, and equip them to powerfully advocate for their work and vision.



In May 2022, Education Reimagined launched **The Big Idea** — a video and storytelling series to illuminate and illustrate what learner-centered ecosystems could look like and make possible across the diversity of our nation. In 2022, **seven videos** with supplemental content were released, featuring perspectives from young learners, educators, families, and community members. From South Africa to the UK to Vermont, The Big Idea sparked more than **7,800** engagements around the globe. Leaders are using it as a jumping off point to organize new conversations with their communities, colleagues, and friends to ask: *What do we want the future of learning to look like for our children and families?*



Education Reimagined's long-standing e-magazine, **Voyager**, explores new perspectives, stories, and people from the learner-centered field. With a growing audience of **5,000 learner-centered advocates**, it is read by a who's who list of trailblazing practitioners, thought leaders, and inventors. In 2022 alone, **57 articles** were published. Some of the top reads from 2022 include:

Systems and Structures: What Needs Must Be Addressed for a Learner-Centered Future — Karen Pittman of KP Catalysts

Karen Pittman reflects on why she is committed to the invention of learner-centered ecosystems and shares what she believes must be addressed if we are to get there.

On Community — Emily Liebttag of Education Reimagined

Emily Liebttag reflects on what we can learn from Exhibitions of Learning that are intentionally creating community on multiple levels.

As a Parent (and Educator), I Say We Need a System Driven by Purpose, Not Test Scores — Eunice Mitchell of Big Picture Learning

Like so many learner-centered leaders, Eunice Mitchell grapples with parenting a child in the conventional system while knowing the possibility for joyful, inclusive, emboldening learning is out there.

Building a Bright Learner-Centered Future — Jal Mehta of Harvard Graduate School of Education

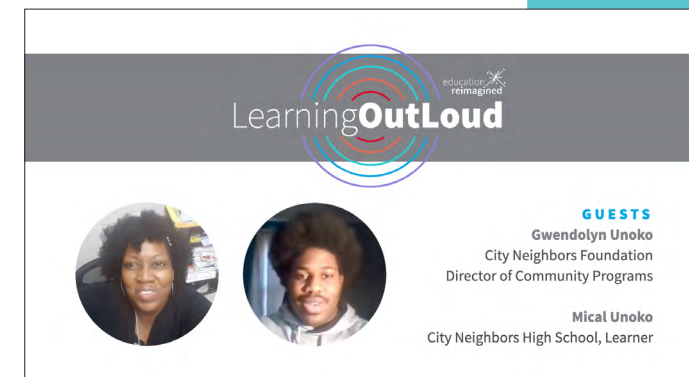
Jal Mehta speaks passionately about stewardship, equity, and why we can't simply move from point A to point B when it comes to education transformation.

Differences Between Teacher-Led vs Learner-Led Education — Practical Steps to Make Change Happen — Dr. Tyler S. Thigpen of The Forest School

Dr. Tyler Thigpen explores how we can create environments that cultivate learner agency and equip young people with the skills to drive and own their learning



Learning Out Loud, a conversational webinar series hosted by Education Reimagined's Bobbi Macdonald, invites participants to delve into what it will take to invent and bring to life learner-centered ecosystems. In 2022, we featured such guests as **Valerie Hannon, author of FutureSchool; Gwendolyn Unoko of City Neighbors Foundation; and Jennifer Davis Poon of Center for Innovation in Education**. These leaders unveiled new research reports, dug into the state of the international education space, and illuminated the possibility of fully engaging families in their children's learning.



“When people can pursue their passions — especially with youth — I can see them learning more and being more productive than just being told what to do and trying to follow what is being questioned of them. When they're pursuing their passions, they can use that as a stepping stone for something more.”

Mical Unoko,
Learner, City Neighbors High School, Baltimore, MD



Our Sunday publication, **In Addition**, challenges readers to discover new ways of seeing and thinking about learner-centered education informed by other fields and disciplines — the arts, architecture, science, business, and more.

“I just wanted to let you know how much I enjoy getting [In Addition]. I always learn something and the things you choose to highlight are always so fascinating — I love that it is not all about education.”

Siri Fiske, Head of School, Mysa Microschool, Washington D.C.

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

Education Reimagined shared insights with thousands of leaders throughout the year at in-person and virtual events. Audiences included educators, summer learning program leaders, charter schools advocates, workforce development professionals, and futurists from varied sectors. Presentation highlights included the **Aurora Symposium, SXSW EDU, National Summer Learning Association Summer Changes Everything Conference, the Center for Reinventing Public Education Roundtable**, and a virtual panel hosted by **The Economist**.

Watch the virtual panel with Kelly Young [here](#).



Catalyzing **INVENTION**

We partner with leaders and bold thinkers ready to imagine, invent, and demonstrate an alternative, learner-centered public education system.

In 2022, we built and leveraged strategic partnerships and expanded our capacity to elevate learnings from the field to broad audiences, illuminate pathways for action, and catalyze ecosystem invention on the ground.



Left: Leaders and learners in Newport, RI discover the difference a learner-centered ecosystem would make in their community and explore the assets and resources their locality already holds.

PARTNERSHIPS



The Christensen Institute and Education Reimagined set out to better understand what influences, and which influencers are, most conducive to learner-centered education. The resulting research paper, entitled, “**K-12 VALUE NETWORKS: The hidden forces that help or hinder learner-centered education,**” was published in November 2022. The report includes a close examination of the impact value networks have on education transformation, where those networks have been established, and what keeping them alive means for learner-centered leaders and ecosystems invention.



Center for Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) partnered with Education Reimagined to co-author a paper illuminating how statewide districts could be leveraged to advance learner-centered efforts. “**Statewide districts: A way to unleash creative new learning options—and study them as they grow**” is designed to share how statewide districts offer one solution for states looking to design policies that support their local efforts, ensure all young people have access to new options, and surface lessons in real time about what works and what doesn’t.



FabNewport, a makerspace and out-of-school network in Newport, Rhode Island, invited Education Reimagined to co-host a series of three community conversations to explore the possibility of learner-centered ecosystems. Attended by youth, parents, community leaders, educators, and district and school administrators, these events explored the community’s interest in, and appetite for, reimagining the way they organize, support, and credential learning in their own backyard.

Looking Forward

2023 promises to be a year of action, learning, and discovery for Education Reimagined. With bold goals, strong partners, an expanded staff, and growing investment in this work, we are committed that the learner-centered vision reach more communities, produce more results, and attract more advocates.

Our strategy of building the field, catalyzing invention, and spreading the vision will only grow and evolve. Throughout 2023, we will find new ways to work with and support community leaders to imagine, seed, and launch learner-centered ecosystems in their own backyards. And, we will leverage and expand the coalition of leaders committed to, and calling for the concerted investment, policy conditions, and supports that will be required for ecosystem invention.

All along the way, we will sustain our learning mindset, responding to what we discover is needed to launch and spread learner-centered ecosystems.

We're pursuing questions such as:

- *What are the essential conditions for ecosystem invention within communities?*
- *What kinds of policy freedoms, financial investments, and other supports will be needed for ecosystems to launch and grow?*
- *What is the evidence base for learner-centered education and how are we intentionally improving and expanding our understanding of what works in the field and where the gaps are?*

Pursuit of questions like these is the work. With each new insight, learning, and answer, a new question will emerge. Education Reimagined looks forward to being on this journey of discovery, curiosity, and invention with you.



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