

# 2020-21 REPORT



**youngzine**  
news + more for the young

2020 was certainly one for the books. In a year marked by so much loss and so much division, the pandemic showed us not only our frailties and strengths, but the power of the human spirit to rise above our differences and work for the common good.

Also in 2020, Youngzine celebrated its 10th anniversary. Youngzine was born out of a realization that we are raising children in an increasingly interdependent world -- and an invisible virus has shown us just that.

When schools began shutting down last April and teachers were looking for credible online resources that explained the developing news to their students, we stepped up to help. We opened our content to educators without requiring logins and created a Spanish version of our articles at the request of ESL teachers. Our work was recommended by several local and international publications, doubling our web traffic.

Earlier this year, we launched our first writing contest for children ages 10 to 14. We asked them to reflect on how the pandemic had shaped them and what they had learned from the experience. We received over 100 entries from around the world.

As we look forward to the future, we recognize that there is another invisible and growing threat that we will have to contend with in the future: climate change. Youth are speaking up, and we realize the role we need to play to meet the moment.

Youngzine's mission has always been about providing an objective and unbiased explanation of issues shaping our world so that children understand the context and develop their own opinions that are grounded in facts and science. And as we move forward, we will build on that mission by focusing our content on climate and environmental literacy.

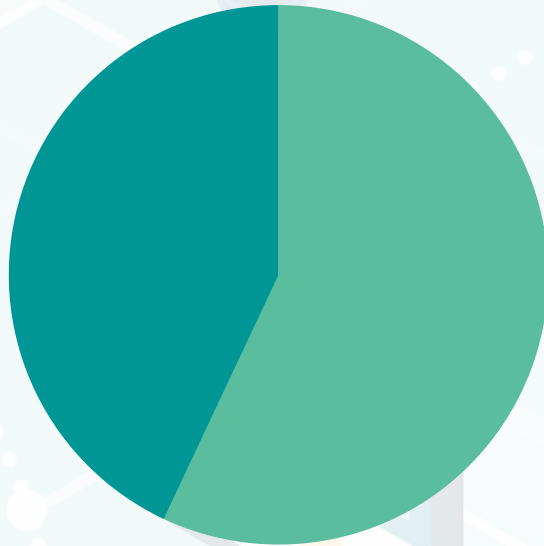
With this change in direction, we will continue to leverage our strength and skills, as we build out comprehensive, age-appropriate, and current content that helps teachers and parents build a climate-literate future generation.

We are excited about the new direction, and with your continued support, we are confident we will be able to expand and further our mission.

# FY2020

## REVENUE - \$16,911.44

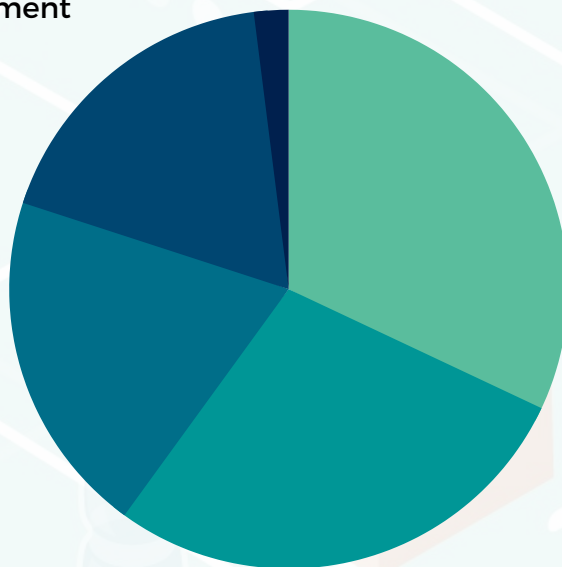
Donations  
43%



Content License  
57%

## EXPENSES - \$10,154.50

Content Development  
18%



Taxes/Misc.  
2%

Web Dev/Maintenance  
32%

Operations  
20%

Consulting Services  
28%

# YOUNGZINE IN NUMBERS

20

HIGH SCHOOL WRITERS MENTORED

5

EXPERT WRITERS

Physician Assistant, Biomaterial Scientist,  
Social Scientist, Climate Scientist,  
Children's Author

62,826

PARTNER SITE CITATIONS

368

ARTICLES IN ENGLISH

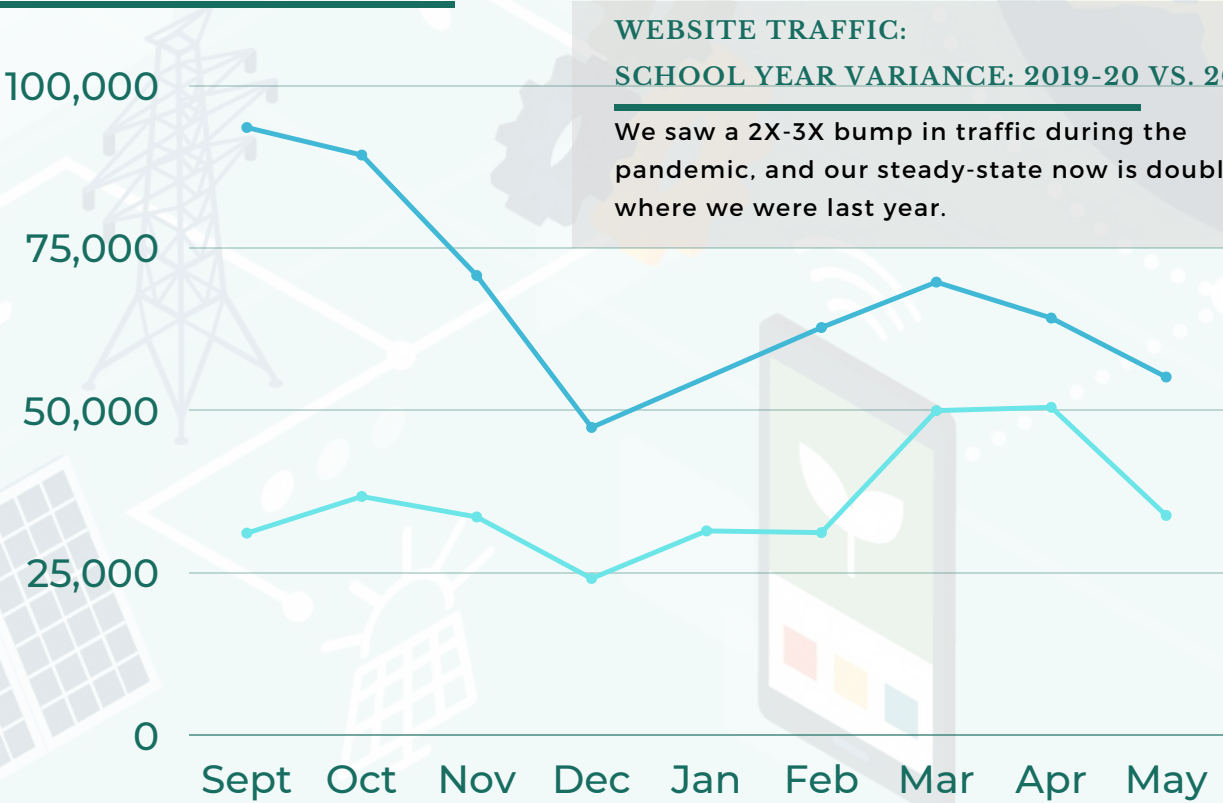
200

ARTICLES IN SPANISH

1.2M

SITE VISITS IN JANUARY 2021

Result of Youngzine Writing Contest



# 2021 WRITING CONTEST

*Our first-ever writing contest for children ages 10 to 14. They were asked to reflect on the pandemic's impact on them and their learnings.*

# 144

## CONTEST ENTRIES RECEIVED

Entries came from 7 countries, including the US, Singapore, China, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, and the Philippines.

An excerpt from the winning entry

### "Thirteen" by Julianna Williams, age 13

I am becoming  
The person I will be.  
But what kind of world am I coming of age in?  
Can my eleven year old hopes come true?

What can I do?  
And what does this mean?  
Will Gramma and Papa finally get the vaccine?

How will we make this world an improvement  
From the place where I turned eleven?

Will I be stuck alone  
like when I turned twelve?  
Can we make my thirteenth birthday

In a better place  
Than my twelfth?  
Will I come of age in a lonely world

With violence

Injustice

Sickness?

Or will I be a thirteen year old  
in a world where I can make my dreams come  
true?

## CONTEST WINNERS

First Place - Awarded \$200  
Julianna Williams, age 13, "Thirteen"

Second Place - Awarded \$100 each  
Danica Arrington, age 13, "Time"  
Leia Lin, age 11, "Lessons from Behind the Mask"

Third Place - Awarded \$50 each  
Elizabeth Liu, age 12, "Beautiful Life"  
Karuna Lohmann, age 13, "Father's Day in the Year of the Pandemic"

# A NEW DIRECTION

**Climate change impacts all of us. And there is no doubt that it will be the defining issue of the 21st century, and our children will not only be impacted, but will need to lead the way in finding sustainable solutions.**

In a recent NPR survey of 500 teachers nationally, 65% said climate change does not relate to the subjects they teach. 17% said they don't know enough about it. And in another survey of middle and high school teachers, 55-70% said they don't feel confidently about the issues themselves.

Over the past two years, we have worked with a scientist at Stanford University to develop comprehensive and age-appropriate climate change content. Our approach is designed to be interdisciplinary, and different aspects of the content can be used by ELA, STEM, or Humanities teachers.

We wrapped up a pilot in classrooms in Spring 2021, and based on teacher feedback, are in the process of designing lesson plans that spark critical thinking in students by asking them to reason based on data and evidence, and to formulate solutions by considering the different stakeholders.

*"I loved the comprehensive content and connection to news articles. Most of the sites like NOAA have some aspects of the content I can use. But the fact that Youngzine's climate content is broad and not focused on just the science makes it stand out in terms of something I would use in my classroom. I had my students take one greenhouse gas each and understand the sources as well as look ahead to how we can mitigate their use."*

**GENEVIEVE GREENE  
CLIMATE PILOT TEACHER**



*"I knew the content had made an impact when I had students telling me after their spring break how they saw oil rigs or windmills on a driving trip. Climate literacy is important. I would love to continue next year, starting in September."*

**NATASHA GARG  
CLIMATE PILOT TEACHER**

# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Climate Change is a shared destiny.  
We cannot do this without your support.

**Share with teachers.** If you know a teacher who is eager to introduce climate literacy in their classroom, please have them contact us at [deepa@youngzine.org](mailto:deepa@youngzine.org).

**Become a Youngzine Climate Literacy Champion.** If you are interested in supporting and championing this initiative, we would love to speak to you!

**Make a contribution.** If you or someone you know are passionate about climate education, please consider a monetary contribution at [youngzine.org/donate](https://youngzine.org/donate).

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# THANK YOU

## DONORS

We are extremely grateful for our donors. You continue to make it possible for us to bring content and programs that teach our children how to engage with news, think critically, and form opinions grounded in facts and data -- skills that are important for their future.

Kevin Acken  
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