TSAI CENTER for INNOVATIVE THINKING at YALE

Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale

1420
STUDENTS ENGAGED

11%
OF ALL YALE STUDENTS ENGAGED

259
PROJECTS/VENTURES CATALYZED

1043
PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

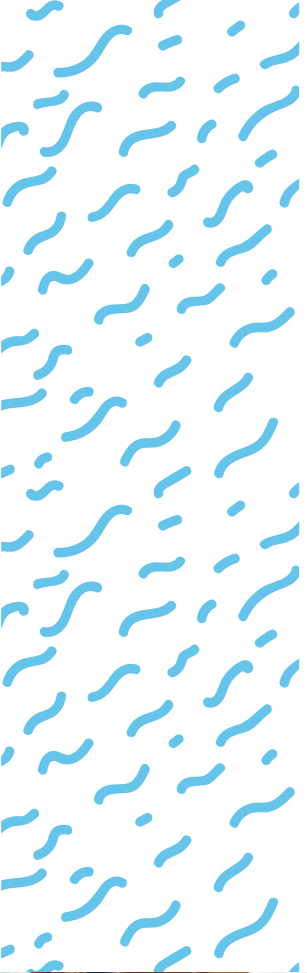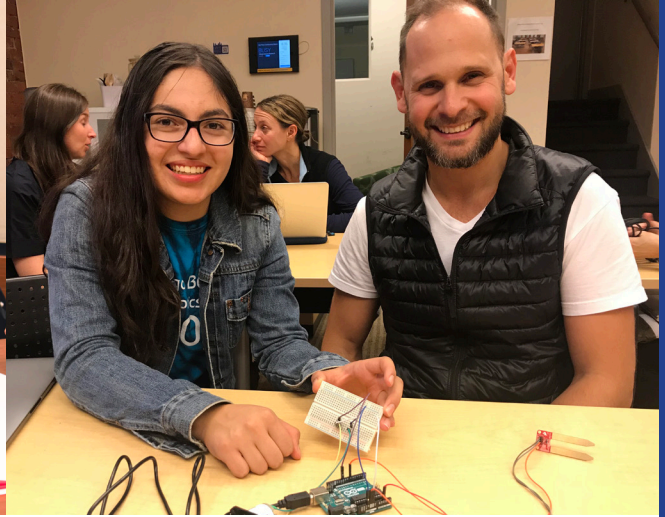## 1082
OFFICE HOURS SESSIONS HELD

239
MENTORS IN NETWORK

The **Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale** (Tsai CITY) aims to inspire students from diverse backgrounds and disciplines to seek innovative ways to solve real-world problems. Launched in 2017, Tsai CITY serves students from across Yale's campus through programs, funding, and mentorship. Across all of our offerings, we strive to foster four core outcomes for Yale and its students:

- interdisciplinary collaboration
- inclusivity across all dimensions of diversity
- skills and practices of effective action
- resilience

2018-2019 was a year of major growth for Tsai CITY. We continued to build our presence across Yale's campus, ultimately engaging over 10% of the student body — including students from all 14 of Yale's undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools. In the process, we opened

conversations on diverse meanings and applications of innovation, forging creative partnerships with schools, cultural centers, and other campus organizations.
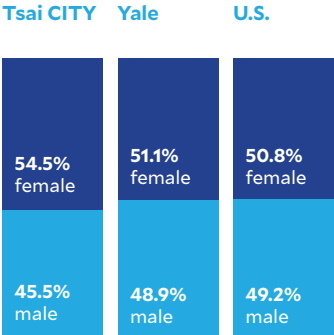
Through these partnerships and our core programs, we have developed a robust, and continuously growing, ecosystem for student innovators from all backgrounds and disciplines. This year, new programs from introductory workshops to community events offered a wide range of entry points to this ecosystem, inviting students to explore pathways for key innovation skills and competencies. Through these pathways, we helped students realize ideas that cut across disciplines and sectors, from boundary-breaking artistic performances to novel tech ventures.

Just as we encourage our students to do, we continued to iterate this year, piloting new programs and learning from our community. The result has been a year full of insight, growth, and cross-campus impact. **We invite you to explore the year at Tsai CITY.**
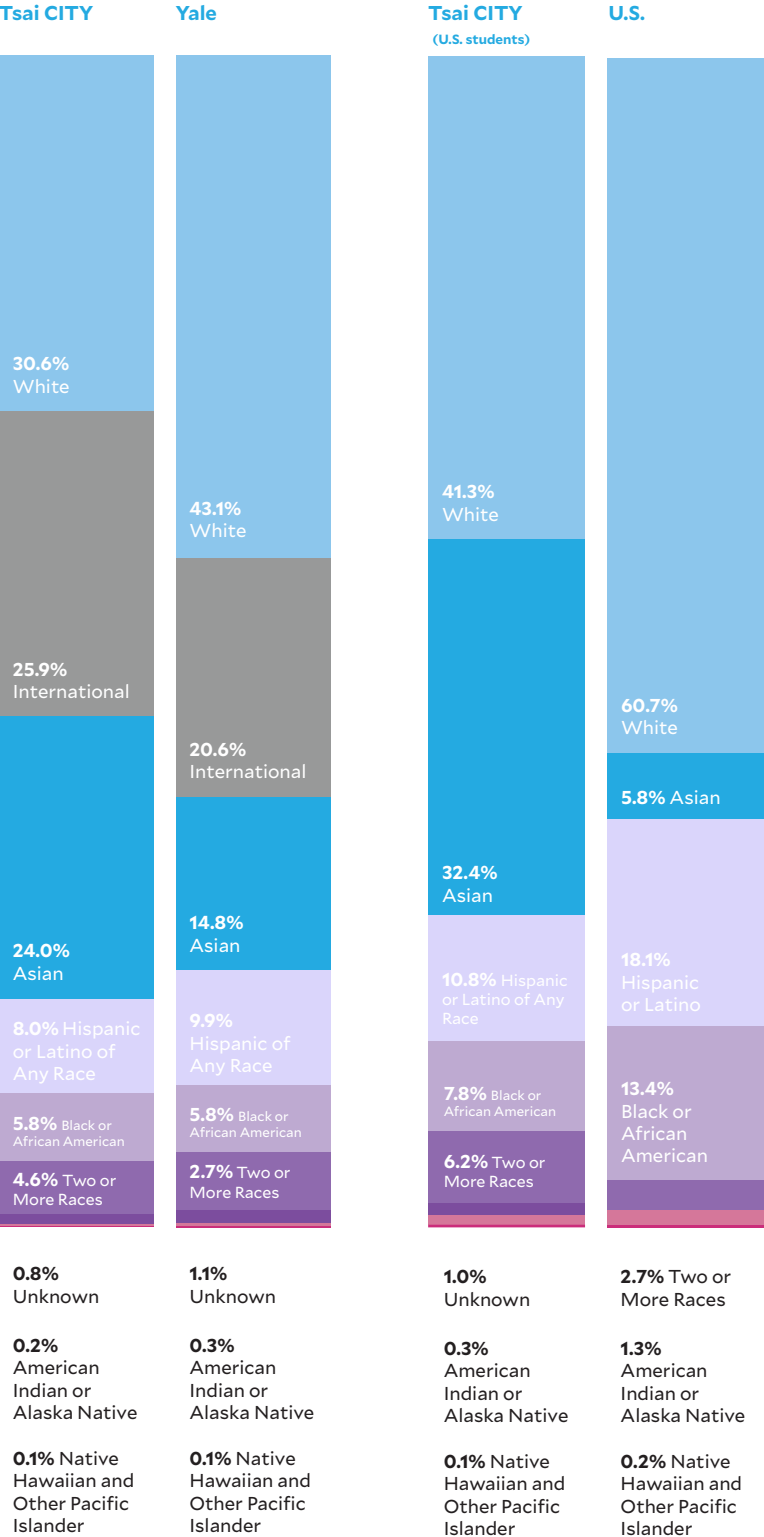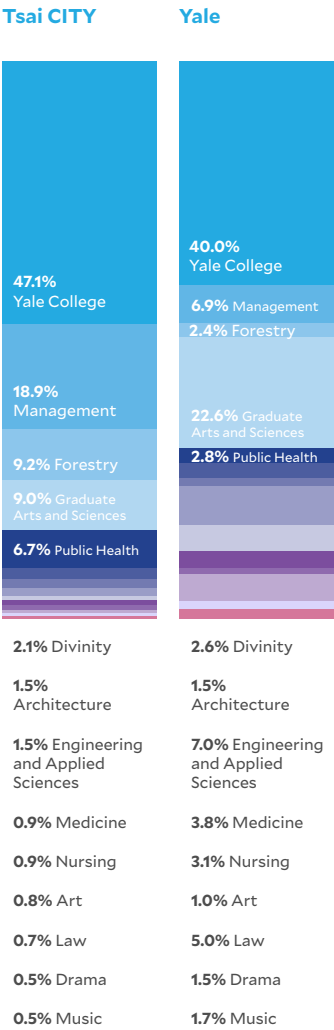
Tsai CITY's Student Body

Sex

Tsai CITY	Yale	U.S.
54.5% female	**51.1%** female	**50.8%** female
45.5% male	**48.9%** male	**49.2%** male

School

Tsai CITY

- **47.1%** Yale College
- **18.9%** Management
- **9.2%** Forestry
- **9.0%** Graduate Arts and Sciences
- **6.7%** Public Health
- **2.1%** Divinity
- **1.5%** Architecture
- **1.5%** Engineering and Applied Sciences
- **0.9%** Medicine
- **0.9%** Nursing
- **0.8%** Art
- **0.7%** Law
- **0.5%** Drama
- **0.5%** Music

Yale

- **40.0%** Yale College
- **6.9%** Management
- **2.4%** Forestry
- **22.6%** Graduate Arts and Sciences
- **2.8%** Public Health
- **2.6%** Divinity
- **1.5%** Architecture
- **7.0%** Engineering and Applied Sciences
- **3.8%** Medicine
- **3.1%** Nursing
- **1.0%** Art
- **5.0%** Law
- **1.5%** Drama
- **1.7%** Music

Race/Ethnicity

Tsai CITY

- **30.6%** White
- **25.9%** International
- **24.0%** Asian
- **8.0%** Hispanic or Latino of Any Race
- **5.8%** Black or African American
- **4.6%** Two or More Races
- **0.8%** Unknown
- **0.2%** American Indian or Alaska Native
- **0.1%** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Yale

- **43.1%** White
- **20.6%** International
- **14.8%** Asian
- **9.9%** Hispanic of Any Race
- **5.8%** Black or African American
- **2.7%** Two or More Races
- **1.1%** Unknown
- **0.3%** American Indian or Alaska Native
- **0.1%** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Tsai CITY
(U.S. students)

- **41.3%** White
- **32.4%** Asian
- **10.8%** Hispanic or Latino of Any Race
- **7.8%** Black or African American
- **6.2%** Two or More Races
- **1.0%** Unknown
- **0.3%** American Indian or Alaska Native
- **0.1%** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

U.S.

- **60.7%** White
- **5.8%** Asian
- **18.1%** Hispanic or Latino
- **13.4%** Black or African American
- **2.7%** Two or More Races
- **1.3%** American Indian or Alaska Native
- **0.2%** Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Summer Fellowship

Tsai CITY's highly selective Summer Fellowship is an eight-week, full-time accelerator for teams to launch and grow new ventures, nonprofits, and projects. The Fellowship provides $15,000 per team and a rigorous series of workshops, sprints, mentor meetings, coaching sessions, and pitch opportunities.

10
TEAMS

23
PARTICIPANTS

25
MENTORS

backpaqr connects young travelers with locals who offer authentic adventures, and offers fully planned alternative trips.

Brazen Eats helps meat eaters reduce their meat consumption by providing tasty, convenient, and affordable plant-based eats.

DreamKit engages an entire city in ending youth homelessness with financial compensation, professional connections, and mentorship.

EdSightful offers education technology that helps schools and districts manage instructional coaching, as well as teacher observation and evaluation.

Hand Me Up is a children's secondhand marketplace that scales informal exchange networks like hand-me-downs, encouraging a circular economic model.

NOIR FEST is a traveling film festival increasing access to visionary, world-class African Diaspora film and media for audiences around the world.

Pillnotes is a software application that has all the information a doctor needs to discuss medication choices visually side-by-side with patients in one place.

PREPARED is a one-touch mobile alert system that allows a school's emergency response to be instantaneous and decentralized, while also streamlining the process of contacting authorities.

Statera Therapeutics aims to modernize immunotherapy and vaccination with Spatiotemporally Tuned Particles to maximize drug delivery efficacy.

Typogram is a custom brand builder for entrepreneurs and small business owners.

This fellowship taught me how to think like an entrepreneur, and that's the most important tool I've gained. By association, my confidence is through the roof.

—*SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PARTICIPANT*

Accelerators

Tsai CITY's Accelerator runs every fall and spring semester. The program guides students with innovative ideas through the process of building effective organizations, projects, and ventures through workshops, mentorship, and funding.

3
ACCELERATORS

29
TEAMS

82
PARTICIPANTS

FOR PROFIT

Briomics is a simple DNA sequencing kit that provides tailored insights on the plant microbiome.

DropLet is a water faucet attachment that calculates how much water a user consumes and wastes, and makes that data accessible so that over time people are encouraged to use less water.

Floe is an environmentally-friendly, safe, and cost-effective solution to prevent extensive water damage caused by ice dams on roofs in the winter.

Greater Good Solar finances solar energy for low-income communities and sends a portion of the profits to local education and green jobs training.

Health Abroad helps patients find affordable healthcare alternatives in other countries.

HelpID is a distributed system to help hospitals identify patients without IDs and for relatives/ friends of these patients to find them.

LitKit will transform how high school students learn biology by giving them access to low-cost fluorescence microscope technology that real scientists use to bring the machines inside of our cells to life.

Istya Biotech proposes CRISPR coating stents using lipid nanoparticles to shut off bad genes involved in the deleterious remodeling process that leads to stent restenosis and stent failure.

NOIR FEST is a traveling film festival increasing access to visionary, world-class African Diaspora film and media for audiences around the world.

The **Orb** is a modular IOT device that enhances and personalizes a visitor's experience with a space without a smartphone app.

ReRent is an Airbnb management service enabling students (and, one day, all travelers) to monetize their apartment space while they're away.

Revert will manufacture an electric lawnmower with the dual function of cutting grass and serving as an intelligent energy storage device for off-grid and demand-response usage.

SciTeens is a free, online collaborative platform for teen scientists to connect with peers, mentors, and funding.

Soil Samplers has developed effective, portable, and affordable soil sample extraction and drying devices as a field-ready kit for soil carbon content analysis.

Thinkspaces is an online platform that makes collaboration easier by centralizing project recruiting, search-browsing, and exposure to connect creatives and skilled persons across disciplines and bring their ideas to life.

Typogram is creating a text-focused design tool for pro- and entry-level users who have visual communication needs.

UnBillable Technologies is creating a web-based, integrated, AI-powered legal research and drafting environment.

We Develop is a platform where people can invest in real estate development projects in medium-sized cities in Mexico.

Y-Circular is an e-commerce platform that enables people to share their things, creating virtual closets.

NONPROFIT

The **Brio Fund** is a nonprofit organization that funds, develops, and consults with mental health entrepreneurs in vulnerable communities who have a vision to respond to specific mental health needs in their country.

GreenGro Africa is deploying hydroponic technology to stabilize food production around Nairobi and reduce the impact of climate change on vulnerable agricultural communities.

iTEACH (International Team of Educators to Advance Cardiovascular Health) provides educational opportunities in cardiovascular medicine in developed and developing countries through clinical and research collaborations.

Representation 2.0 is a leadership incubator that develops diverse college students' passion, abilities, and connections to encourage them to run for representative office in the US government.

VolunToken is a crypto asset that rewards volunteers for their work at NGOs and can be exchanged for discounts at local businesses

as a way to incentivize community engagement, measure social priorities, and strengthen the local economy.

WeHarvest makes volunteering more accessible and more rewarding for individuals and organizations so that the right people can easily find volunteer opportunities that they are passionate about.

MEDTECH

This spring, a new **MedTech Accelerator,** created in partnership with the Center for Biomedical Innovation and Technology, brought together students in diverse fields – from business to biomedical engineering – to prototype solutions to medical challenges in the following fields:

- Emergency Medicine
- Contraception & Sexual Health
- Mental Health & Wellness
- Cardiology
- Orthopedic & Trauma Medicine

It made us accountable to be thinking about our startup every single week, reaching out for resources, and moving forward. Thank you for creating this space; it's been a highlight of my fall semester.

—ACCELERATOR PARTICIPANT

Students in the Fermentation Intensive learned from chefs, microbiologists, and more — and even tried their hand at making sourdough and sauerkraut.

Intensives

Intensives are cohort-based, hands-on learning experiences that go deep on specific themes and topics. Typically unfolding over multiple sessions, Intensives bring together students from across campus to explore new ideas and build skills for interdisciplinary innovation. This year saw major demand for Intensives: applications more than tripled from the 2017-2018 school year and represented all 14 of Yale's schools.

15
INTENSIVES

256
PARTICIPANTS

Alternative Protein 101: In a student-led collaboration with the Yale Center for Business and the Environment, students explored the impact of animal agriculture on health and the environment, and how new innovations are shaping the future of food.

Blended Reality: Earth & Energy: This Intensive, a partnership with the Center for Collaborative Arts and Media, focused on augmented and virtual reality as tools to create educational experiences around climate change and the energy transition.

Blockchain Bootcamp: Yale's first-ever Blockchain Bootcamp brought together 125 participants to hear from experts, learn the basics of blockchain development in hands-on workshops, and build their own applications.

Changemakers Retreat: Designed for leaders who want to make a positive impact on the world through sustainable action, this weekend-long getaway provided a deep dive into defining purpose and harnessing leadership power.

Climate Change Solutions Generator: This program, a collaboration with the Yale Center for Business and the Environment, offered students the opportunity to explore key challenges and opportunities for innovation on climate change and to hatch their own solutions.

Clinical Redesign: This collaboration with the Center for Biomedical Innovation and Technology and the Yale New Haven Health System invited students to provide new perspectives on challenges facing frontline clinicians and healthcare providers.

Data for Impact 101: In this Intensive, a partnership with the Yale Center for Business and the Environment, students learned tools of the data analytics trade and explored how data can be used for positive change.

Design to Empower: Reimagining Medical Decision Tools: In this partnership with the Center for Biomedical Innovation and Technology, students from diverse disciplines learned from clinicians, designers, and others as they prototyped tools to help patients make informed treatment choices that fit their values, preferences, and goals.

Ethnobotany and Traditional Foods: In this daylong program at the Yale Landscape Lab, produced in partnership with the Yale Sustainable Food Program and Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration, participants explored traditional plant-based products and the complexities surrounding their commercialization.

Fermentation: Bringing together chefs, microbiologists, and more, this collaboration with the Yale Landscape Lab took a hands-on approach to the industry, science, and cross-cultural craft of fermentation.

Internet of Things: Students from all corners of campus prototyped their own smart devices and systems, from technology-enhanced attire to a system for tracking movements on stage.

Knowledge Equity: Participants explored approaches to valuing all forms of human knowledge in social impact design, innovation, and systems practice. They reflected on personal drivers and aspirations for creating positive change in the world and defined opportunities for building equitable, creative, and impactful collaborations into the future. The program was co-created with the 2019 Neighbors in Residence fellows and included guest speakers from around the world.

Paper to Prototype: App Design Basics: This no-programming-necessary crash course in designing, prototyping, and testing apps guided students through key tools and concepts as they created interactive app mockups.

Product Development and Innovation with L'Oréal: Learning from leaders at L'Oréal, participants in this program, a partnership with the Center for Engineering, Innovation, and Design, got an inside look at innovating within large organizations as they prototyped original hair care products.

Resilient Leaders: A partnership with the Yale Center for Business and the Environment, this professional and personal development program trained a group of future leaders to find innovative solutions to social and environmental challenges, with a focus on building community and having tough conversations.

In a collaboration with L'Oréal and the Center for Engineering, Innovation, and Design, students got a chance to prototype original hair products and pitch their ideas to experts.

This was the best event I've attended while at Yale. It was a great mix of practical information, knowledge acquisition and application, learning from others in the field, and enjoying good treats and meals.

—ETHNOBOTANY INTENSIVE PARTICIPANT

The Innovator's Toolkit series, a collaboration between multiple centers at Yale, equips students with key innovation skills, from fundraising to visual branding.

Workshops

Tsai CITY holds a range of open workshops with expert practitioners, entrepreneurs, and Yale staff and faculty, creating low-stakes environments to develop innovative mindsets and practical skills. In addition to our core innovation skills series, tailored pop-up workshops and pilot series allowed students to pick up a wide range of skills.

52
WORKSHOPS

Founder Stories: Tools for Building Stronger Teams helps founders build interpersonal relationship skills—a key determinant of the success or failure of a startup. This series is a collaboration with the Good Life Center.

The **Inclusive Economic Development Speaker Series** aims to facilitate collaboration and investigation amongst the Yale and Greater New Haven community into innovative, inclusive, and democratic community economic development strategies. This event series is a collaboration with the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, Ludwig Center for Community & Economic Development, and the Yale School of Management.

The **Innovative Academic Series**, a partnership with the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, was catered to humanities and social sciences PhD students. The program built skills in creativity, entrepreneurship, and strategic partnership building.

The **Innovative Mindsets for Wellness Series** highlights the intersection of wellness, innovation, and changemaking. It is a collaboration with the Good Life Center and the Acorn.

Innovator's Toolkit is a series of workshops focused on key skills for innovation, including a new set of 101 workshops that offer friendly introductions to key concepts for innovation and entrepreneurship.

Spark Sessions are hands-on ideation and creativity sessions.

4

WORKING GROUPS

CITY supports groups doing focused work on a compelling topic or space for innovation, often in collaboration with campus partners. This year, these included:

Future Teachers of Color Working Group: A collaboration between CITY and the Yale Education Studies Program, this program opened conversations on topics like student relationships and effecting change in K-12 schools, with the goal of creating an innovative and diverse teacher pipeline.

Blockchain + Energy Working Group: Led by CITY Innovator in Residence Martin Wainstein, a small group of students worked on an open-source project for democratizing solar energy.

Movement Lawyering: With support from CITY, a group of Yale Law School students considered legal strategies for social movements.

Yale Helix Group: This student-run health technology group connects undergraduates and clinicians to develop ideas.

Community Events

Tsai CITY is building a rich ecosystem with multiple entry points for students, no matter where they're coming from. Through a diverse portfolio of events and convenings, we aim to build a sense of community among our students and to inspire emerging innovators. These events have included:

217
EVENTS

Fail Night *(pictured)*: Seeing a need for a space to meaningfully share and celebrate failures, CITY team members designed a small-group event that combined theater games, storytelling circles, and even a cake. Students connected over shared experiences of setbacks, missteps, and misjudgments, ultimately creating a powerful (and fun) ode to resilience.

Pitch Slam: This high-energy event invites students to pitch any idea — no matter how undeveloped, unfeasible, or just plain weird. At this fall's pitch slam, 13 teams pitched their ideas, from an ice cream sandwich business to an impact investing platform, before connecting with audience members at a reception.

Zucked: A Conversation with Roger McNamee: This event, a collaboration with the Information Society Project and the Yale SOM Program on Entrepreneurship, featured Yale alumnus Roger McNamee in conversation with faculty member Molly Crockett. A standing-room-only crowd joined for a thought-provoking discussion on technology companies' unforeseen impacts on society.

Student Advisory Board

Our Student Advisory Board (SAB), composed of students from across Yale, plays a key role in shaping Tsai CITY's programs and direction. This year, the SAB's impact included refining Tsai CITY's community norms, advising on program development and outreach, leading focus groups with students from diverse disciplines, and more. SAB members also helped advance Tsai CITY's focus on inclusive innovation, providing valuable perspectives on innovation and its applications in different contexts.

56
MEMBERS

5
SAB MEETINGS

What's cool about CITY that it's meant to foster these relationships between students, but it's also a part of the university. Being able to have a formal voice in something that is rooted within the university is definitely a unique experience.
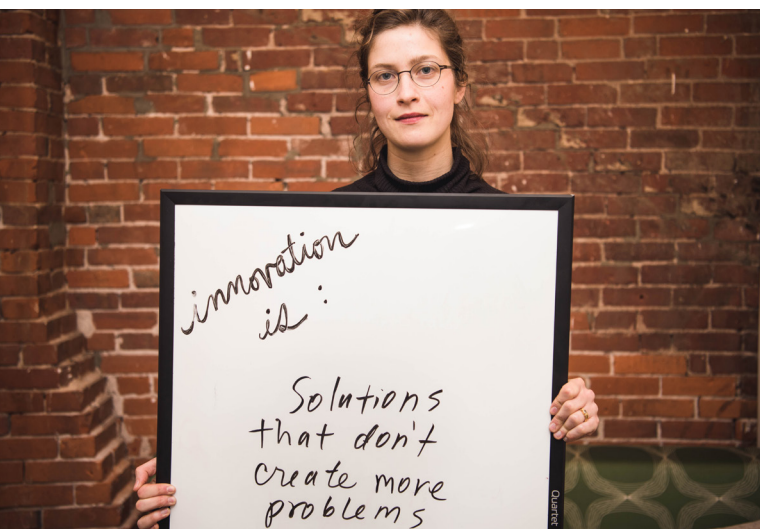
—*STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD CO-CHAIR*

Innovation is...

...a word that can be hard to make sense of. At Tsai CITY, we see innovative thinking as approaching problem-solving with curiosity, creativity, and commitment. That's more than just post-its and code: innovation is a mindset and skillset that can be applied in diverse fields and contexts, from music to microbiology.

With that in mind, we asked members of our Student Advisory Board to share how they view innovation. What do they think lies at the core of innovation? How do they innovate in their own fields or daily lives?

innovation is:
creativity mixed with collaboration

innovation is:
for non-stem majors too!

innovation is:
Solutions that don't create more problems

innovation is:
TESTING IDEAS THROUGH PROTOTYPES!

innovation is: Looking Past Conventions

innovation is:
Creativity + Community

In a new event, the Chun Challenge for Change, student teams pitched their ideas for improving life on campus to a panel that included Marvin Chun, dean of Yale College.

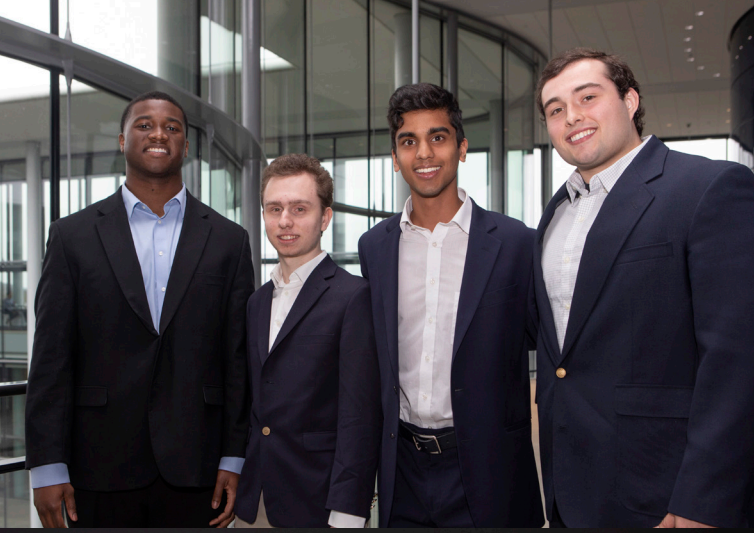

STARTUP YALE

12
EVENTS

871
ATTENDEES

For the fourth year, Startup Yale brought together our community to celebrate innovators and entrepreneurs who are reimagining the future. This year's total attendance was the highest to date, with participants joining us for inspiring student pitches, thoughtful panels, and conversations that cut across a broad swath of Yale's ecosystem for new ideas. From a fireside chat on reimagining development in Africa to a pitch-off for students tackling pressing medical challenges, Startup Yale's events lineup shined a spotlight on innovation in diverse contexts.

New events this year included "*I didn't get it, but I did it anyway*" — a panel in which Yale alumni entrepreneurs who didn't win Startup Yale prizes shared their experiences of resilience and building successful ventures — and the Chun Challenge for Change, a collaboration with Yale College's dean that invited students to pitch their ideas for fostering sustainability, wellness, and belonging on campus. Four Startup Yale prizes — Yale's biggest entrepreneurship awards — were awarded to student teams.

The **Miller Prize** ($25,000) is awarded by Tsai CITY to the best student-led venture with a tech or tech-enabled service startup.

WINNER: PREPARED

Michael Chime (YC), Dylan Gleicher (YC), Daniel James (YC), Neal Soni (YC)

PREPARED is a one-touch mobile alert system that allows a school's emergency response to be instantaneous and decentralized, while also streamlining the process of contacting authorities.
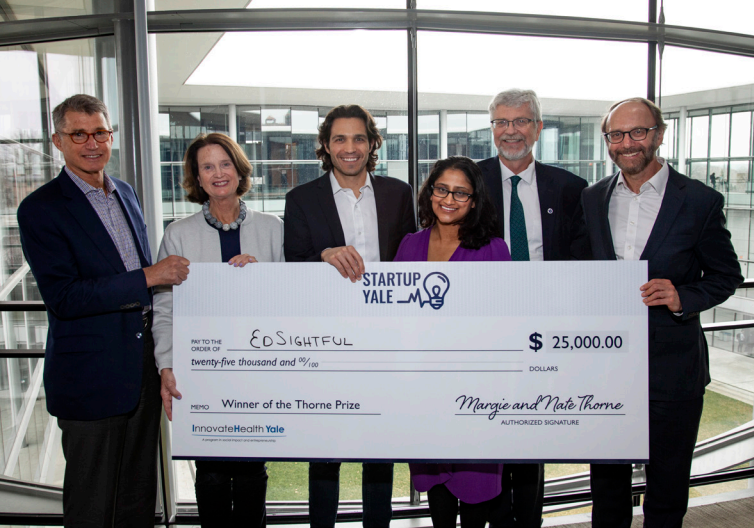

The **Rothberg Catalyzer Prize @ Yale** ($15,000) is awarded by the Yale Center for Biomedical Innovation and Technology and Tsai CITY to the best student-led venture focused on developing an innovative hardware solution to a medical challenge.

WINNER: OnTrack Rehab

Brian Beitler (Medicine), Mrinal Kumar (YC alum), Pong Trairatvorakul (YC alum), Holly Zhou (YC alum)

OnTrack will help doctors better diagnose and rehabilitate patients with concussions with a VR headset, a physical balance board, and a cloud data management platform.

The **Thorne Prize for Social Innovation in Health or Education** ($25,000) is awarded by InnovateHealth Yale to the best student-led venture focused on social innovation in health or education.

WINNER: EdSightful

Chris Cutrona (SOM)

EdSightful is an education technology solution that helps schools and districts more effectively manage their instructional coaching, teacher observation, and teacher evaluation programs.

The **Sabin Sustainable Venture Prize** ($25,000) is awarded by the Yale Center for Business and the Environment to students and/or faculty with the best ideas for products, services, projects, or programs that advance a more sustainable way of life.

WINNER: GreenGear Supply Company

Russell Heller (YC), Monika Dharia, Alan Yu

To fight plastic pollution and reduce carbon emissions, Green Gear Supply Company engineered a sugar-based poncho with a carbon-negative lifecycle to serve as an initial product in their effort to create a portfolio of bioplastic or plastic-alternative products.

Labs + Initiatives

Beyond our core programs and resources, CITY plays a catalytic role in launching longer-term, strategic innovation offerings at Yale. These efforts forge novel partnerships across and beyond campus, aiming to create a critical mass of opportunities around timely topics and to build lasting innovations.

The **Yale OpenLab** develops and incubates open-source projects that seek to address the planet's most pressing challenges. To date, the OpenLab has focused on climate change and the energy transition, driving forward a suite of programs and projects that link radically collaborative methods with key emerging technologies for climate impact. This year saw pioneering work with virtual and augmented reality, including a Blended Reality Intensive, a collaboration with the Center for Collaborative Arts and Media and Avangrid on new tools for energy management, and a key role (alongside cross-disciplinary campus partners) in a hackathon that prompted students to bring climate data to life through immersive virtual experiences. Blockchain was another key growth area for the OpenLab this year: an inaugural Blockchain Bootcamp, in partnership with the Center for Business and the Environment, equipped 125 participants with new skills, while the student-led Yale Blockchain Initiative built collaborations around campus. An anchor grant from the Social Alpha Foundation will support ambitious new blockchain and fintech projects in the coming year, including an initiative on global climate and carbon accounting.

WE@Yale (Women Entrepreneurs & Innovators at Yale), a partnership with the School of Management's Program on Social Enterprise, is a cross-campus community that supports women and non-binary femme innovators by providing skill-building, mentorship, and more. WE@Yale's popular Yale Women Innovators Breakfast Series continued this year, welcoming diverse female leaders to campus. WE@Yale also found new ways to engage female innovators, both on campus — through low-key study breaks that welcomed students for conversations on topics from self-care to coding — and beyond — bringing a lively panel discussion with female social impact leaders to a San Francisco audience. Looking at WE@Yale's pioneering work, a November *Forbes* article concluded, "It is clear that, once again, Yale is taking the lead."

KNOWLEDGE EQUITY

CITY's newest initiative, the **Knowledge Equity Initiative** (KEI) — founded by CITY Innovator in Residence Baljeet Sandhu in 2018 — focuses on how we can meaningfully and equitably value the knowledge gathered through lived and learned experiences to drive innovation, entrepreneurship, and social impact work. The KEI is a groundbreaking research, education, and practice hub building cross-disciplinary knowledge exchanges and connecting local, national, and global changemaking strategies to center knowledge equity into design, innovation, and systems practice.

In its first year, the initiative established the Global Innovation Series, a new partnership with Yale's Maurice R. Greenberg World Fellows Program. In collaborations with organizations across campus, the series explored the work of global changemakers pioneering innovative approaches to social and environmental problems across industries, geographies, and cultures. This year the series was comprised of 14 events, with over 400 people in attendance, attracting an average satisfaction rating of 9.1/10.

Over the course of the year, KEI also developed numerous partnerships across the Yale ecosystem and presented at a range of conferences and events, from the Yale Food Systems Symposium to the International Recovery and Citizenship Collective Symposium. The initiative has been invited to share its work at a number of educational institutions, most recently at the Gordon Institute and the Tisch College at Tufts University. The initiative's work has also inspired global debate,informed the work of social impact educators and funders including Ashoka U and The UK National Lottery Community Fund, and was recently cited in a Stanford Social Innovation Review article on systems change in social innovation education.

The KEI team also created the Knowledge Equity Intensive, a program exploring approaches to valuing lived and learned experience in social impact design, innovation, and systems practice, taught by CITY Innovator in Residence Baljeet Sandhu and KEI Associate Cortney Ahern. The program was co-created with the 2019 Neighbors in Residence (participants in a semester-long fellowship for New Haven community leaders with lived experience) in partnership with Dwight Hall, the Center for Public Service and Social Justice.

In addition to programming, the nine members of the KEI student team engaged in interdisciplinary research to investigate how lived experience has (and has not) been valued in a range of fields and industries, and how insights from diverse disciplines can support new approaches to center knowledge equity in transforming design and innovation practices to tackle local, national, and global challenges in the modern world.

> **This entire program made me rethink my personal statement and my 'why' around my law school pursuits.
> I began to conceptualize my future work as less of benevolent helper and more as an empowering partner.**
>
> *—KNOWLEDGE EQUITY INTENSIVE PARTICIPANT*

Funding

Tsai CITY helps catalyze student innovations through a portfolio of signature funding opportunities: the student innovation and event funds (up to $500), Accelerator ($1,000 per team), Summer Fellowship ($15,000 per team), and Startup Yale prizes ($15,000–25,000 per team).

This year, we also partnered with campus organizations to offer funding for timely innovations in areas of key importance to their communities. The **Critical Innovation Fund**, a partnership with La Casa Cultural and the Council on Latin American and Iberian Studies, awarded grants to five teams with innovative proposals for addressing pressing immigration challenges in America. The winning projects ranged from a database of interpreters who speak indigenous languages to a platform to connect New Haveners to resources like housing and legal assistance. Tsai CITY partnered with the Asian American Cultural Center to launch the **Arts & Media Innovation Awards**, supporting five projects that creatively explored Asian American identity. The resulting projects, which were publicly presented in spring 2019, included an original play, an experimental documentary, a music recording, and art exhibits highlighting new perspectives.

$2,500	Arts & Media Innovation Awards
$6,054	Student Innovation Fund
$7,500	Critical Innovation Fund
$8,550	Student Event Fund
$30,000	Accelerator Funding
$44,000	Startup Yale Prizes
$150,000	Summer Fellowship Funding
$248,604	**Total Funding Awarded**

Our Student Innovation Fund helps students realize ideas of all kinds. This year's funded projects included Counting Pebbles (pictured), a play created by public health student Taiga Christie that focused on first responders' mental health.

I realized that [the reason] I had never believed I could pursue music in America was because I was scared and I never had a role model who looked like me. This award was a really big deal because we were paired with professional musicians who told us about their experiences and gave us a lot of direction.

—EMILY LI, ARTS & MEDIA INNOVATION AWARD RECIPIENT, IN A YDN ARTICLE

Collaborations

In our role as a hub for a vibrant, cross-campus innovation ecosystem, we collaborate with a wide range of centers and programs at Yale. Below is a look at the partners with whom we've co-created programs, run events, and offered other resources this year.

47 **School of Management**: 32 Program on Entrepreneurship; 14 Program on Social Enterprise; 1 Office of Communications

20 **Dwight Hall**

19 **School of Forestry and Environmental Studies**: 18 Center for Business and the Environment; 1 Yale Program on Climate Change Communication

14 **Jackson Institute**: 14 World Fellows Program

14 **Center for Collaborative Arts and Media**

14 **Landscape Lab**

13 **School of Medicine**: 12 Center for Biomedical Innovation and Technology; 1 School of Medicine

11 **School of Law**: 8 School of Law; 3 Information Society Project

10 **School of Engineering and Applied Science**: 9 Center for Engineering Innovation and Design; 1 Department of Electrical Engineering

8 **Graduate School of Arts and Sciences**

8 **School of Public Health**: 8 InnovateHealth Yale

7 **Office of Cooperative Research**

7 **Asian American Cultural Center**

6 **Good Life Center**

4 **Asian Network @ Yale**

3 **School of Architecture**: 2 School of Architecture; 1 Center for Ecosystems in Architecture at Yale

2 **Yale College**: 1 Office of Career Services; 1 Yale College Dean

2 **La Casa Cultural, the Latino Cultural Center at Yale**

2 **Yale Alumni Association**

13 **Other** (single collaborations): Nursing; Divinity; Macmillan Center; CLAIS; Data-Driven Yale; Poynter Fellowship in Journalism; Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration; Yale Sustainable Food Program; Yale Office of the President; Afro-American Cultural Center; Slifka Center; Yale Chaplain's Office; Yale ITS