Mission

The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate is dedicated to educating the public about the important role of the Senate in our government, encouraging participatory democracy, invigorating civil discourse, and inspiring the next generation of citizens and leaders to engage in the civic life of their communities.
The Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate is the leading destination for hands-on civic education for students and families across the region. We provide day-long educational programs on civic engagement to over 20,000 students each year. We continue to teach the essential skills of compromise and healthy debate as we convene bipartisan conversations with thought leaders from across the country, and as we leverage art and technology to inspire civic engagement and reach learners where they are.

This Annual Report shares some of the highlights of the important work accomplished in 2017, a year of continued growth, development, and expansion.

• The Institute’s signature program, the Senate Immersion Model (SIM), received a prestigious THEA Award for Outstanding Achievement in Connected Immersion in Education category. The THEA Awards were created by the Themed Entertainment Association to bring recognition to achievement, talent and personal excellence within the themed entertainment industry.

• We hosted important political leaders like United States Senator Bernie Sanders and Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy. We facilitated public dialogues on topics ranging from the history and future planning of Boston to the nation’s opioid epidemic.

• The Institute recognized Secretary John Kerry with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Public Service at the institute’s Annual Dinner.

When we opened our doors in 2015, we did so with the steady guidance of the Institute’s president, Jean MacCormack, Ed.D. It is fitting that in 2017, Jean was recognized by the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Leduc Center for Civic Engagement with the Community Member Civic Leadership Award. The Award honors community members who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to civic engagement. The Institute is grateful for Jean’s wise leadership and for all that she did to build a foundation for our future success. We also want to thank the team at the Institute for their inspired and passionate work.

Our government of the people, by the people, and for the people can function as our founders intended only if we are engaged and informed citizens. The Kennedy Institute is committed now more than ever to meet that mission.

“The Constitution does not just protect those whose views we share; it also protects those with whose views we disagree.”

– Senator Edward M. Kennedy

Victoria Reggie Kennedy
President of the Board

James J. Karam
Chair of the Board
The senators file into the Senate Chamber with its grand domed ceiling and take their seats at the wooden desks arranged in a semi-circle of rows around a podium. After being called to order, they take turns delivering impassioned speeches, debating the merits of the bill under consideration. Each senator has carefully studied the legislation with his or her personal, state, and national interests in mind. Finally, the roll is called and each senator casts a vote.

In this case, the “senators” are 8th through 12th grade students participating in the Edward M. Kennedy Institute’s Senate Immersion Module (SIM), an experiential education program in which students take on the role of Senators to study issues, debate, negotiate, and vote on legislation. The SIM, a 2.5-hour immersive experience, takes place in a full-scale replica of the U.S. Senate Chamber and employs live actors, gaming principles, and mobile technology to help students fully engage in the role-play.

The Kennedy Institute has a library of available SIM programs that focus on a range of historic and current-day issues, including: the Compromise of 1850, Reconstruction, World War I Domestic Policy, the 2011 renewal of the USA PATRIOT Act, the Affordable Care Act, U.S. Food Policy, and Immigration Reform.

By playing an active role in a simulated Senate session, participants develop an understanding of the structures and processes of government, gain knowledge of historic or current issues of national importance, and practice civic skills needed by responsible citizens.

The Senate Immersion Module showcases the Institute’s commitment to immersive learning experiences where participants take on active roles in a simulated environment. National experts have identified experiential learning elements – where students practice the arts and habits of civic life – to be essential in preparing students for college, career, and civic life. However, according to the 2014 National Assessment of Educational Progress, while 65% of 8th grade students reported reading material from a textbook, only 49% of students reported discussing current events. Even fewer students reported taking part in debates or panel discussions, or taking part in role-playing (17% and 7%, respectively).

The immersive learning experiences at the Kennedy Institute also reflect the latest research in game-based learning. This research has shown that adding a game narrative to a simulated learning experience layers on motivation for the participants which solidifies skills and prolongs the ability to retain information and make use of it in other contexts.

The Kennedy Institute’s Senate Chamber is the setting for other simulated and immersive learning experiences, too, such as Today’s Vote, a program for visitors of all ages to learn about and debate an issue currently before the United States Senate, and Great Senate Debates, a theatrical, multimedia performance for visitors to experience some of the great oratory delivered in the Senate Chamber throughout U.S history.

“Our students had an incredible time at the SIM last week. Even students who are often very skeptical of putting themselves out there really enjoyed it, and I had students tell me they never knew how complex the legislative process is, and that they have a renewed interest in the process now. Three things I heard consistently from students: they had fun, they learned a lot, and they wanted to do it again!”

Max McCollough
City on a Hill
March 17, 2017
Edward M. Kennedy Institute exhibitions amplify the profound connection between civic and artistic expression. Of particular importance in 2017, were partnerships that encourage young people to give voice to their civic ideas and concerns through the arts, whether through spoken word poetry, collaborative art-making, or creating participatory arts projects that involve our visitors to the Institute.

One such partnership is with the nonprofit organization Massachusetts Literary Education and Performance (MassLEAP), a Boston-based group of writer-educators and young people dedicated to building and supporting spaces for youth to experience the transformative power of their own voices in community with one another. The Institute first hosted the semi-finals of MassLEAP’s Louder Than a Bomb Massachusetts Youth Poetry Slam Festival in 2016, and repeated the event in April 2017. The slam gives young people a real and metaphorical stage upon which to spotlight their poetry and amplify their civic expression, and expands the Kennedy Institute’s support of civic engagement in all forms.

In 2017, the Institute had a second highly successful artistic installation in partnership with Artists for Humanity (AFH) a Boston-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing teens with training and employment that turns their artistic skills and expressions into commissioned pieces for local clients. The Institute worked with AFH artists on a piece entitled “Immerica,” a collaborative mural that incorporates the faces of its diverse artists, many of who are immigrants to America, and invites all people to see how America is most beautiful when viewed as a blend of diverse backgrounds, stories, dreams, and futures. The mural invites Kennedy Institute visitors to color in sections of the art piece, and contribute a piece of themselves to this diverse portrait.

Sharing the important theme of immigration and its profound impact on the United States is the collaborative mural that is on loan to the Kennedy Institute from Boston International Newcomers Academy (BINcA). BINcA is a Dorchester-based Boston Public School that is comprised of adolescent Boston residents who are also immigrants. These students marked the 2017 Presidential Inauguration with a special civics celebration, Democracy Day, which included a workshop where over 140 students contributed rectangular paper “blocks” to a giant series of murals depicting the Statue of Liberty and featuring Emma Lazarus’ sonnet, “The New Colossus.” These murals are on display at the Institute and are a profound reminder of the impact that immigration policy has on local community members and the nation.
The Martin Richard Foundation is a local organization that exemplifies civic engagement, and a family’s ability to rise from a devastating event and turn pain into an opportunity that makes positive differences in their community. Bill and Denise Richard, and their children, were one of the families profoundly affected by the Boston Marathon Bombing in 2013, which claimed the life of their son, Martin. The family took the public outpouring of support and created a foundation that is dedicated to providing opportunities for young people to learn, grow, and lead through volunteerism and community engagement, a mission very much aligned with that of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute.

Since the first year of being open to the public, the Kennedy Institute has been honored to receive support from the Martin Richard Foundation in order to make educational programs more accessible to school districts for whom transportation costs are a barrier. As the Institute grows its programs for Massachusetts school children, the team is keenly aware that the cost of admission is only one of the many challenges that educators face when connecting their students with high quality field trips. With the support of the Martin Richard Foundation, the Kennedy Institute reduces that challenge by providing transportation support to schools receiving Title One funds. In the 2016–2017 school year, the Institute was able to offset some or all of the transportation costs for 26 schools (2,708 students) visiting from across Massachusetts. In honor of this generous support, the Institute’s bus scholarship program is named after the Martin Richard Foundation.

Schools benefiting
2016-2017 school year

- Academy of the Pacific Rim, Hyde Park
- Attleboro High School, Attleboro
- Auburn High School, Auburn
- Boston International Newcomers Academy, Dorchester
- Chittick Elementary, Boston
- City on a Hill, Roxbury
- Clark Avenue School, Chelsea
- Curley K-8, Jamaica Plain
- Friedman Middle School, Taunton
- Forestdale School, Malden
- Henry Grew Elementary, Hyde Park
- Joyce Kilmer, Boston
- Moody Elementary, Lowell
- Lowell High School, Lowell
- Malden High School, Malden
- Margarita Muniz, Jamaica Plain
- Mario Umana Academy, East Boston
- New Mission High School, Hyde Park
- O’Maley Innovation Middle School, Gloucester
- Orchard Gardens K-8, Boston
- Pollard Middle School, Needham
- Rodham School, New Bedford
- South Community High, Worcester
- Snug Harbor Elementary, Quincy
- Walsh Middle School, Framingham
- William Ohrenberger Elementary, West Roxbury
Our Programs
Forums, Convenings & Public Conversations

Across the Aisle
Across the Aisle programs are dedicated to convening bipartisan conversations. The Kennedy Institute brings together leaders from different political parties to discuss current areas of common cause. Through moderated discussions in Boston and Washington, D.C., senators, governors, mayors, and leaders with diverse perspectives highlight the issues and problems they are working on together to solve through common-ground solutions. Across the Aisle programs have featured a range of leaders and covered a variety of issues from how to tackle the national opioid epidemic, to criminal justice reform, to a discussion on how working across political party lines within the Senate itself is critical to a healthy and functioning democracy.

Getting to the Point
The Getting to the Point speaker series highlights the people and topics driving national policy and the current dialogue. These programs take on various formats, including keynote lectures, moderated conversations, and panel discussions. Getting to the Point programs have featured a range of elected officials and thought leaders.

Our Programs
Senate Chamber

Future Senator
Young visitors debate whether the U.S. government should require a longer school day. Featuring a segment from WGBH’s Fetch! with Ruff Ruffman, students interview “expert witnesses,” collect data, make statements on the Senate floor, and vote on an extended day bill.

Today’s Vote
Visitors of all ages participate in a simulated U.S. Senate session and a live floor debate. They learn about and consider actual legislation pending before the Senate in Washington, D.C.

Great Senate Debates
Visitors of all ages experience some of the greatest debates in U.S. Senate history as they come to life through live performances, historic film footage, and archival images.

Special programs
The Institute produces a selection of programs that offer insight into specific issues and challenges facing our democracy and our society. These programs tackle bold themes, and address important issues such as encouraging diverse leadership, examining the policy challenges facing local leaders in Massachusetts, and using the lessons of history to inform a path forward for today’s policy challenges.

Our Programs
Simulations

Senate Immersion Module
The award-winning Senate Immersion Module (SIM) program uses debate, role-play, and negotiation to teach the legislative process. It is designed for students and visitors from high school age through adulthood. Using tablets provided by the Institute, groups work together to create a bill based on a historic issue or current policy affecting the United States.

Our National Civic Engagement Poll
The Institute sponsors national polls designed to gauge Americans’ knowledge about the United States Senate and their views on government and civic engagement. In 2017, the poll results showed that Americans’ knowledge about the United States Senate was low, that they were taking civic action to influence the government, and remain optimistic about the power of civic education. Half of Americans (51%) polled recently took action to influence government, a slight majority (52%) could correctly state that each state has two Senators, and 90% agreed that “Educating youth about our government leads to a better-functioning democracy.”
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American Federation of Teachers
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Barbara A. Souliotis
The Honorable Louis B. Susman
Henry M. Thomas III

In Memorium
Nick Littlefield
(August 6, 1942 – February 4, 2017)

“Nick was a brilliant, amazingly talented and kind man. Teddy loved him dearly, and so did I. This country is a better place and people who may never know his name have better lives because of Nick Littlefield. The Edward M. Kennedy Institute wouldn’t be what it is today without Nick’s commitment and leadership, and we will forever be thankful.”

— Victoria Reggie Kennedy
The Kennedy Institute recognized 68th U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry with the Edward M. Kennedy Institute Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding public service. The award was conferred at the Institute’s Annual Dinner in October 2017. As a decorated combat veteran, Assistant District Attorney, Lieutenant Governor, five-term United States Senator and Secretary of State, John Kerry served the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States with distinction.

The Institute thanks the leadership of its Annual Dinner Host Committee for the success of the event, the organization’s single largest fundraiser.

**Co-Chairs**
Patricia Jacobs
The Honorable Louis B. Susman

**Host Committee**
Dr. Joseph Aoun
Tom Crohan
The Honorable William D. Delahunt
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The Honorable Martin T. Meehan
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Rasky Partners
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The Honorable Alan and Mrs. Susan Solomont
Contributors

The Institute is grateful for the many generous donors who have supported the work of the organization throughout the year.

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Bank of America
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The Highland Street Foundation
Edward Hoff and Kathleen O’Connell
International Union of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers
Howard and Michele Kessler
David Lang
Jean MacCormack Ed.D.
Martin Richard Family Foundation
Launched in 2015 to celebrate the opening of the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate, the 1787 Society is comprised of individuals who annually support the Institute and its mission of promoting public service and full participation in the democratic process. The 1787 Society takes its name from the year that the U.S. Senate was created by the framers of the Constitution.

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Lois Angelo
Corinne Atkins
Sherry Barrat
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Barry Weiner
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Christine Wider
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Tomas Wright-Katz
Jon Zion
Kennedy Staff Club Members

The Kennedy Staff Club is comprised of Kennedy alumni who worked for Senator Kennedy in the United States Senate during his five decades of service, as well as Kennedy campaign workers who served on his U.S. Senate campaigns or the 1980 Presidential campaign, and who make a financial contribution every year. The alumni-only club was launched in 2017 in celebration of the 85th anniversary of Senator Kennedy’s birth.

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Karen Donahue Alden
Sanji Alwis
Ava Ambramowitz
Kathleen Anderson
Judy Appelbaum
Henry Banta
Robert Bates
Ashley Bennett
Teri Bergman
Richard Berliner
Brian Biles
Jeffrey Blettner
Sharon Block
Theresa Bourgeois
Susan Brophy
Robin Buckley
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Ann Burrola
Kevin Callahan
Brian Carey
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Charles Casartello
Chris Casey
Mark Colby
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Caroline Croft
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Emily Winterson
Portia Wu
Corinne Young
### Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Current and other assets</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Property and equipment</td>
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<td>Current and long-term liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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### Distribution of 2016 Operating Expenses

- **Program Services**: 76%
- **Management & General**: 16%
- **Fundraising**: 8%