The mission of the Business Women’s Giving Circle is to invest in innovative programs that empower girls and young women in Northern Virginia, connect meaningfully with members and grantees, and inspire others to join the power of collective philanthropy.

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia launched its Business Women’s Giving Circle in 2014, the first group of its kind in the region comprised of women who are looking to empower girls and women of all ages through philanthropy in the Northern Virginia region.

BWGC has awarded more than $465,000 to organizations providing exciting experiences in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), Leadership, and Entrepreneurship with measurable impact on the lives of over 3,250 girls and young women in Northern Virginia.
ACPS - FACE Center: STEMinist Club ($20,000):
This club would be offered as part of an existing afterschool program at two middle schools in Alexandria. The club involves one-hour sessions of STEM enrichment across 18 weeks. The Grants Committee was impressed with STEMinist Club's focus on culturally responsive programming and mentoring, partnerships with established organizations providing STEM teaching, and the metrics they plan to collect, including SOL scores.

Children’s Science Center: Latina SciGirls Program ($15,000):
This program, which BWGC has funded for the past two years, is a 9-week hybrid after-school program offering a 1-hour parent orientation and 8 2-hour sessions of STEM learning and mentorship. In the Fall, they will be in Barcroft Elementary School; their Spring school partner is TBD. The Grants Committee was impressed with their focus on a clearly underserved population of low-income, Latina girls and their hybrid programming.

Year Up National Capital Region: Women in STEM Training ($20,000):
This program serves 18–30-year-olds with 35 hours of virtual classroom training over five months, followed by a six-month internship experience. They have seminars, workshops, clubs, and mentorship targeted toward women in their program. The Grants Committee was impressed by their strong partnership with Northern Virginia Community College and successful job placement track record.
2022 IMPACT

The Women’s Giving Circle is pleased to again provide funding to three amazing groups that worked with girls and young women to promote activities that encourage their interest and participation in STEM.

# GRANTEES  # OF GIRLS IMPACTED  # MEMBERS

3  120  56

OVER $465,000 GIVEN IN GRANTS

GROWN OUR ENDOWMENT TO OVER $300,000

Since 2014, the BWGC sets aside a small portion of the grant pool to go into the endowment fund and ensure the sustainability of the BWGC organization.
2021 GRANTEES

Latina SciGirls
Year Up National Capital Region
Women in STEM Training
ACPS - FACE Center: STEMinist Club

2022 GRANTEES

Ecologials
Boolean Girl Clubhouse
We Got Next Cyber Training Program

2022 MEMBERS FOR THE 2022 GRANTEES

EP - Emerging Philanthropist | Founding Member (F)

Nedra Agnew
Asha Sharma Anthony (EP)
Janna Bowman
Faith Boettger (F)
Bernie Bradley
Kathy Campbell
Laahiri Chalasani (EP)
Jen Dalton
Emily Daniels (F)
Leslie Dupree Culman
Susan Dykstra
Nancy Eberhardt (F)
Eileen Ellsworth (F)
Sue Fajer
Robin Finnell
Cate Fulkerson
Alexis Grason
Luanne Gutermuth (F)
Vinu Ilakkuvan
Nanette Henderson
Phyllis Kaye
Tanya La Force (F)
Natalie Lorenz-Anderson
Nicole Mcdonald
Virginia McNally (EP, '22)
Deborah McNicholas
Sheila Murphy
Anh Nguyen
Barbara O'Reilly
Meera Pillai
Judy Redpath
Nanci Schimizzi
Carol Shapiro Morgan (F)
Susan Snell
Patricia Sparrell
Jennifer Taylor
Lori Ann Terjesen
Karen Tovey (F)
Stefanie Zeldin Sigal (F)
Sustainability Matters: Ecologigals ($20,000)
Ecologigals is a new, girls-focused program for Sustainability Matters, engaging 60 girls in grades 9-12 within Fairfax County Public Schools (with outreach targeted to low-income, BIPOC, immigrant girls) in ecology/environmental science fieldwork at their 1-66 landfill Making Trash Bloom site. The Grants Committee was impressed with their clear topical focus, the opportunity for girls to engage with the innovative Making Trash Bloom program, their mentorship network (including engaging Smithsonian-Mason undergraduates as mentors for the Ecologigals), and the opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a new program for this rapidly growing organization.

Boolean Girl: Boolean Girl Clubhouse ($15,000)
Boolean Girl’s Clubhouse teaches Northern Virginia-based 3rd to 8th-grade girls (~ 20% low-income) coding and engineering in a fun environment while fostering a supportive community of girls with similar interests and providing them with role models in the older girls who serve as instructors and assistants. The Clubhouse meets 14 times during the school year for 3-hour sessions (about 20 girls at each session). It’s hosted in partnership with Marymount University at their Arlington location. The Grants Committee was impressed with the focus on peer and mentor support, the coding/engineering projects the girls engage in, and the partnership with Marymount University.

Black Girls Hack: We Got Next Cyber Training Program ($15,000)
Black Girls Hack, established in 2020, seeks to increase diversity and representation within cybersecurity by upskilling Black women and girls in ethical hacking. The We Got Next Cyber program is an 18-week-long, virtual Saturday program providing girls with a customized ethical hacking lesson plan based on the cyber.org curriculum. The program will engage 30 high school girls in Northern Virginia, targeting schools with minority populations. The program will provide participants with vouchers for their Security+ certification. The Grants Committee was impressed with the focus on cybersecurity and certification.
THANK YOU FOR A GREAT YEAR

2022 BWGC STEERING COMMITTEE

Emily Daniels Chair
Jen Dalton Past Chair Membership & Communications
Vinu Ilakkuvan Grants
Kathy Campbell Network & Education
Barbara O’Reillyl Capacity Building & Engagement

Judy Redpath Nominating
Sheila Murphy Nominating
Sari Raskin CFNOVA
Jennifer Cochran CFNOVA

2023 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Judy Redpath
Immediate Past Chair: Emily High Daniels
Grants & Capacity Building and Engagement: Beatriz McNelly, Nikki Macdonald, and Barbara O'Reilly
Membership & Communications: Jen Dalton and Sue Fajer
Network and Education: Nancy Schimizzi
Community Foundation for Northern Virginia: Sari Raskin and Jennifer Cochran