

OCTOBER 2019

Citizen University launched the Youth Collaboratory in 2017 as part of the Youth Power Project, a multi-year effort supported by the Ford Foundation to empower and connect a rising generation of civic leaders and doers. The Collaboratory is a year-long cohort program that brings together high school students from across the US to learn about responsible citizenship and owning their civic power.

Every year a cohort of 24 highly-motivated students passionate about making a positive change in their communities and country travel to cities around the nation, meeting leading civic innovators, participating in workshops on citizen power, and completing independent projects in their communities that address a need they see where they live. This is a unique and exciting opportunity for students to connect with a network of incredible change-makers and gain the skills and connections for a lifetime of civic power.

JHS Junior, Akila Rajan, is one of 24 students in the fourth year of this program. She will travel to Atlanta, GA in February and New York, NY in May with the Youth Collaboratory to meet with national civic innovators. In the coming months, she will be completing a “power project” in the community, to increase awareness of how power functions in society and how people can access power.