Mission Bit

2023 Annual Report

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A Message from our CEO

Dear Mission Bit community,

Mission Bit's journey in 2023 was defined by growth in every sense, and I am overjoyed to share it with you. This growth reflects the very essence of our mission and purpose.

Mission Bit served 44% more students in 2023 than in the previous year. This achievement is more than just a statistic; it's a reflection of the transformative power of our collective efforts. With each student we reach, we unlock a world of possibilities, not just for them but for their families and communities as well.

This growth feels especially important to me because I grew up in San Francisco's Mission District and witnessed firsthand the economic disparities, the struggle for affordable housing, and the rapidly shifting socio-economic dynamics of our city. These experiences not only affected me deeply but continue to impact our youth today. They fuel my dedication to improving our students' futures, rooted in the belief that every young person deserves an equal opportunity to compete in the ever-evolving and lucrative tech field.

Our "village" has been instrumental in this journey, and I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to each member. From our dedicated staff and Board of Directors to our generous funders and committed partners and volunteers, your continued support has helped Mission Bit reach new heights. Together, we've made significant strides in empowering our next generation.

Our mission is not just to teach coding, but also to equip the next generation with the tools they need to excel. As we turn the corner to 2024 and navigate the challenges and opportunities of another year, we are dedicated to continuing to grow and evolve to meet the needs of our community. We will push boundaries, break barriers, and expand our reach, knowing that with each student we serve, our growth helps shape a brighter future for us all.

With sincere gratitude,

Christina N. Ortega

Vision

Mission Bit empowers young innovators who reflect our diversity to become leaders of the global technology revolution, developing solutions that serve our whole community.
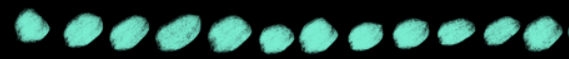
Mission

We inspire youth of color to explore the world of STEM with project-based computer science education that embraces their identities.

Core values

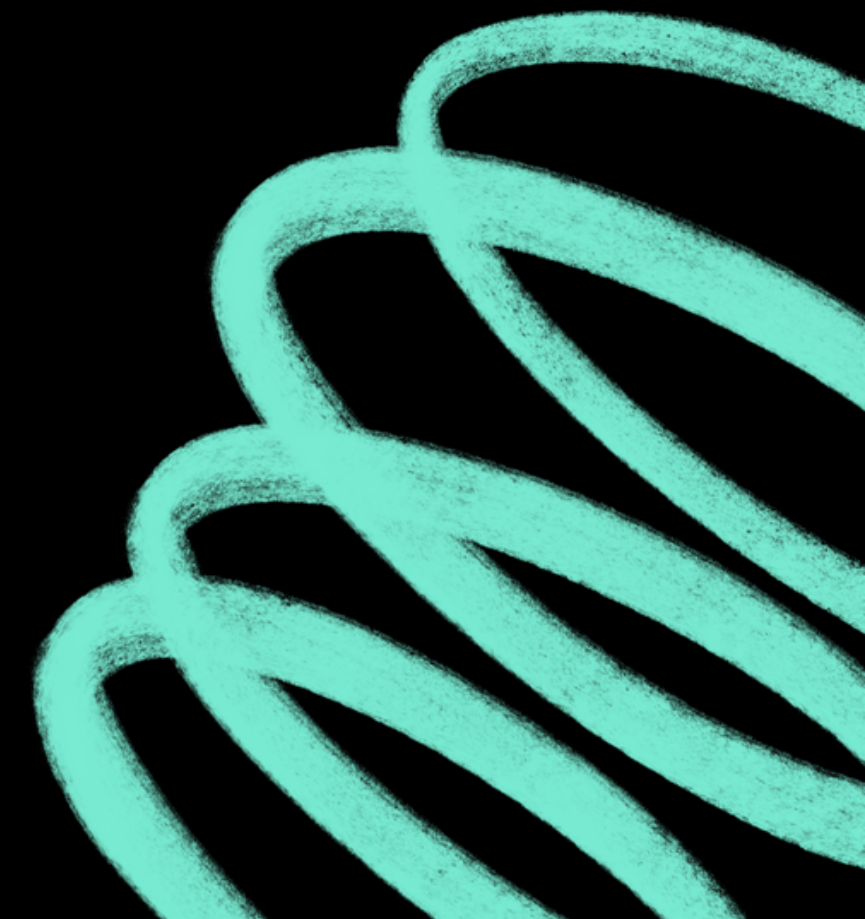**Community:** Cultivating a supportive environment of like-minded peers

Social justice: Providing equal opportunities for the underrepresented and under-resourced

Love: Practicing empathy, honesty, and openness

Accountability: Embracing the responsibility to inspire future generations

**Smart risks:** Encouraging the pursuit of passions

The challenge

Even in the Bay Area—the heart of the tech industry—thousands of students lack access to high school computer science courses, especially in underrepresented communities. When students can't acquire this core knowledge in high school, their future in the lucrative tech field is also limited.

This puts these students at a disadvantage in their career path, and it deprives the Bay Area of thousands of people who can contribute to the region's economic and social growth.
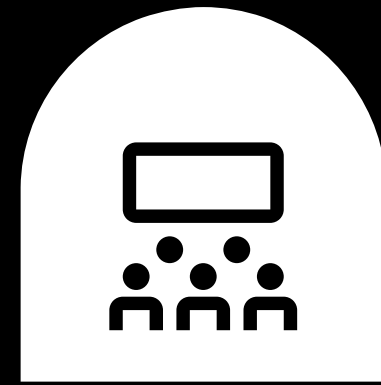

Only **4%** of San Francisco public high school students are enrolled in a computer science course through their school.

Our programs
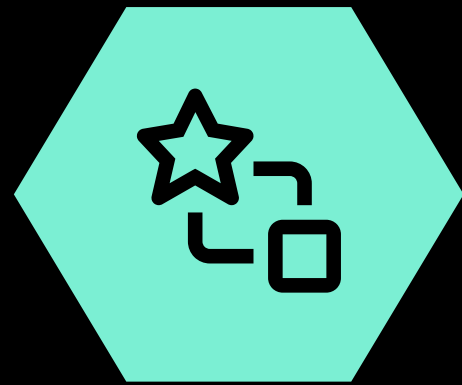
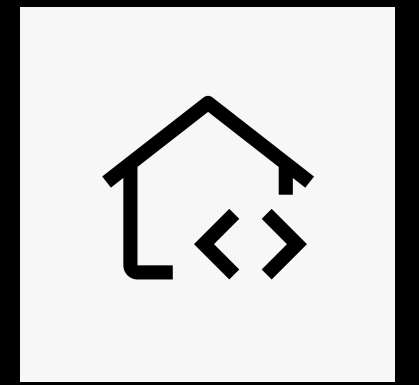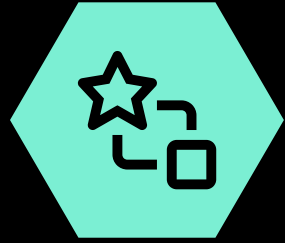Workshops

Explore
Code Academy

Student
Advisory Board

Tech Start

Alumni
Network

Code
Your Way

Workshops

Our 90-minute workshops are the gateway for many students who have never explored computer science. We aim not just to teach code but to make this first experience engaging and unforgettable, igniting their curiosity and passion for technology.
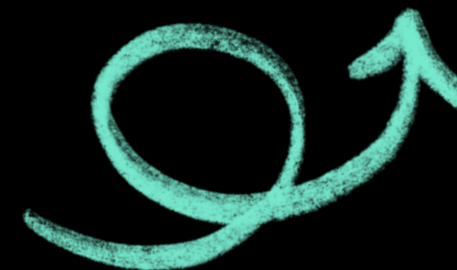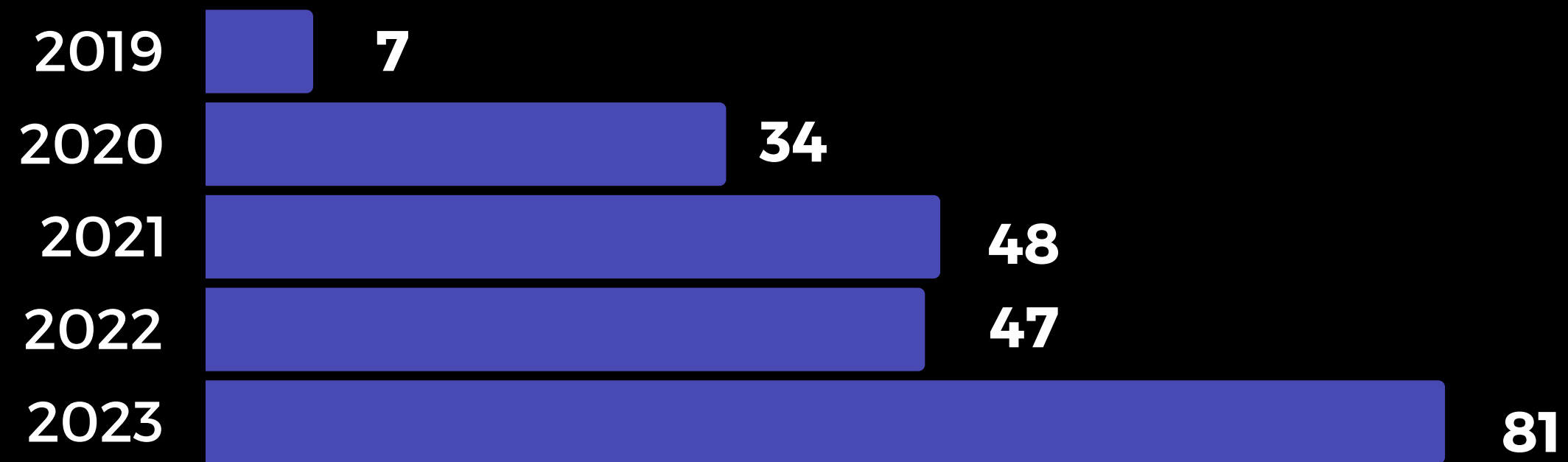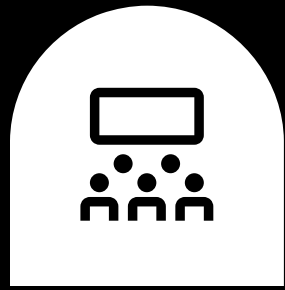
92% of students felt inspired to continue learning with Mission Bit after taking a workshop
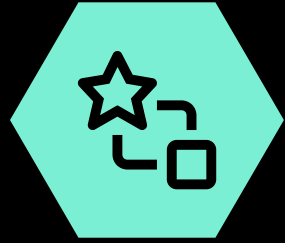
Exposing more students

Number of workshops taught each year

Year	Workshops
2019	7
2020	34
2021	48
2022	47
2023	81

Explore Code Academy

In our Explore Code Academy (ECA), students immerse themselves in the world of computer science. Through this semester-long program, students master core coding principles and gain invaluable practical experience via project-based learning.

With our commitment to small class sizes and dedicated, experienced instructors, ECA fosters an environment where passion meets expertise, creating a dynamic space for students to flourish in their coding journey.

100%
of ECA students felt Mission Bit's curriculum was fun and engaging
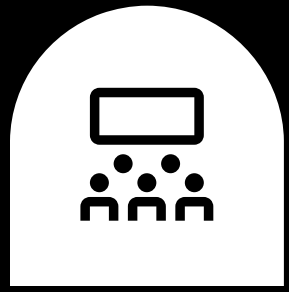
Subjects taught
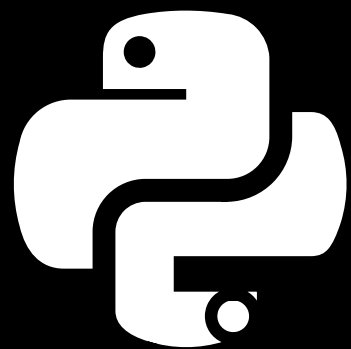
Python

HTML and CSS
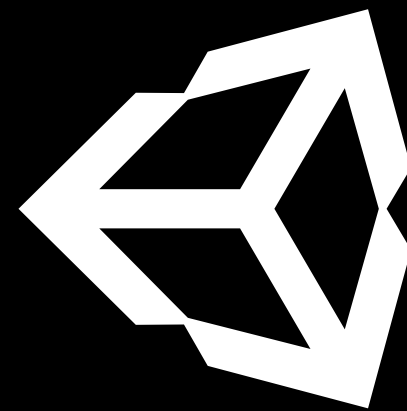
Unity
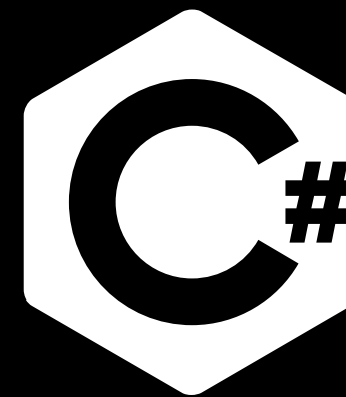
C#
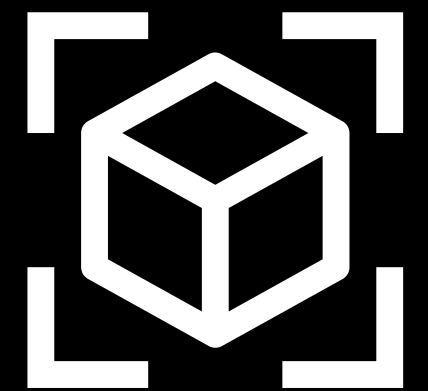
Virtual Reality
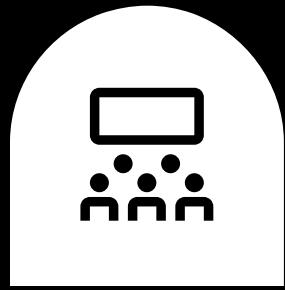
"I enrolled in Mission Bit's Introduction to Web Design class. I felt my mind blossoming, as I learned valuable skills and gained knowledge about web design. I felt empowered, surrounded by classmates with a passion for coding, which I hadn't felt before in my previous classes."

Vanessa L.
Explore Code Academy participant

Student Advisory Board

Our Student Ambassadors aren't just learners; they're catalysts of leadership. As integral members of our Student Advisory Board, they serve as the vital link between their high school communities and the Mission Bit family. Their initiatives span from spearheading conferences and hackathons to curating and guiding workshops. Through collaborative projects, they actively shape the trajectory of Mission Bit and the students we are dedicated to serving.

Tammy L.
Student Ambassador

"Mission Bit has truly empowered me to step up as a leader in my community. Their **supportive atmosphere** has allowed me to learn not just from incredible educators but also from my peers. After completing the summer Python course with Mission Bit, my partner and I had the chance to create a Python project of our own for Demo Day. It was an **unforgettable experience**, getting to showcase our work and connect with people from diverse backgrounds. Chatting with attendees from different cities, schools, and companies boosted my confidence. Their **curiosity** and **encouragement** fueled my passion for tech even more. It dawned on me that I have the potential to be a leader in the tech community, inspiring and guiding others just like me!"

Tech Start

Tech Start is a two-week program designed for 18–26 year olds aspiring to enter the tech industry. Through engaging workshops and insights from industry professionals, participants gain the confidence and skills necessary to pursue tech roles. Each student is paired with a mentor who provides invaluable guidance and support as they embark on their tech journey.

"I enrolled in Tech Start because I wanted to know more about things that will be useful in my future career. My goal is to finish my education and get my Associate's degree in Computer Science at City College of San Francisco, then transfer to a university. Once I'm done, I can start helping others who aren't sure how to get into STEM-related jobs or any field that involves computers and coding." **Rigoberto M.**

Alumni Network

Community is at the heart of what we do. After graduation, many students continue to build community within the Mission Bit family. These outstanding individuals play a pivotal role in uncovering new ways to foster support and involvement among our alumni.

In 2023, five alumni embraced the role of Instructors and Instructor's Assistants, guiding and nurturing the current generation of students. Their dedication will serve as a source of inspiration, encouraging more alumni to lend their skills and expertise to further enrich our program.
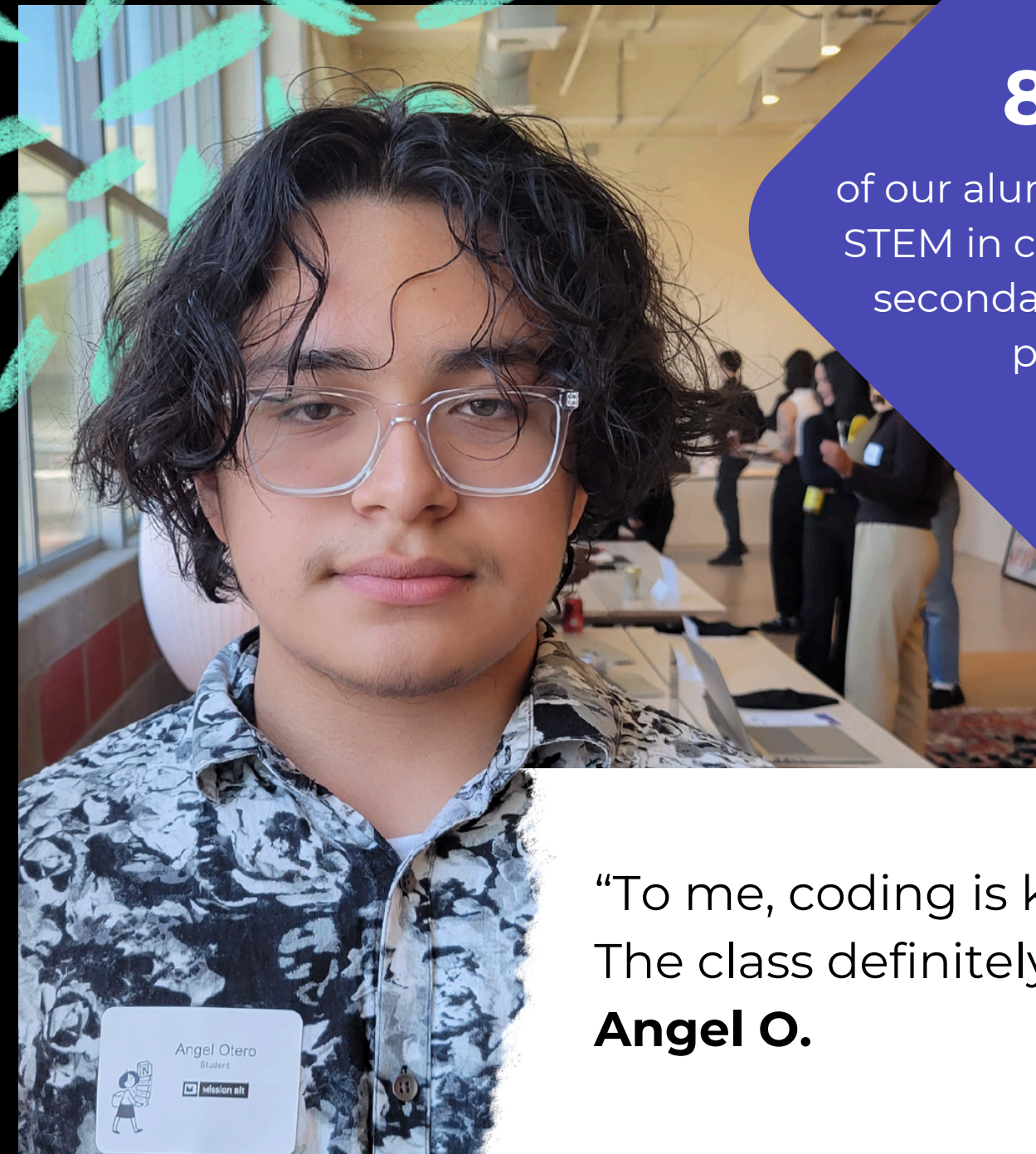
80%
of our alumni are studying STEM in college or a post-secondary educational program
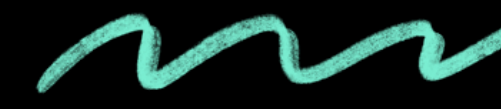
"To me, coding is kind of hard. The class definitely made it easier."
Angel O.

Nahawend E.
Mission Bit Alumna

"Mission Bit helped me become a leader by giving me a space to showcase my skills and learn how to better improve myself. Being part of Mission Bit has contributed to my own self-improvement and social skills. I enjoyed being a part of a group where I felt appreciated and ambitious to learn and succeed."

Code Your Way

ALL SHAPES ALL SIZES ALL COLORS
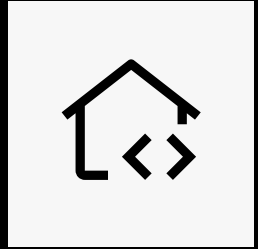
Code Your Way, Mission Bit's self-paced online coding program, empowers students to learn on their terms. Many of our students have responsibilities outside of school, so Code Your Way provides a flexible learning experience to create access for even the busiest student. This approach allows our students to overcome barriers to learning while balancing their other commitments.

Partnerships

We can't transform the landscape of technology alone. This belief fuels our ongoing collaborations with local schools, community organizations, and tech partners. Last year, we expanded our corporate partnerships, which were a key that unlocked new doors for our students. While every partnership is unique, they all help broaden Bay Area students' horizons and give them more opportunities to learn and grow.
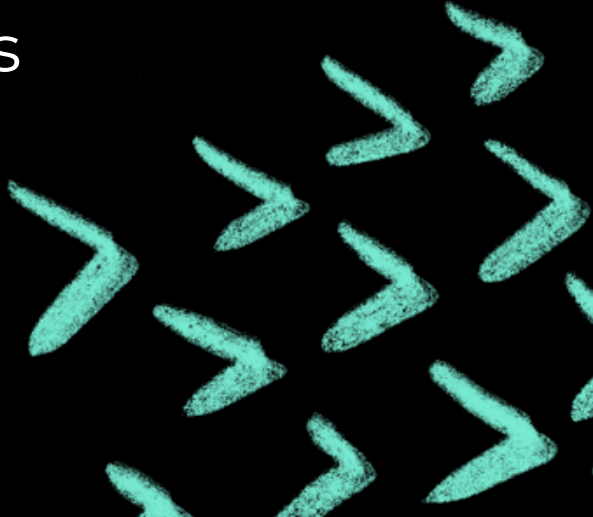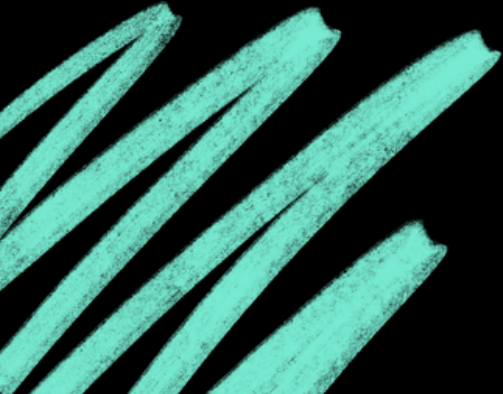

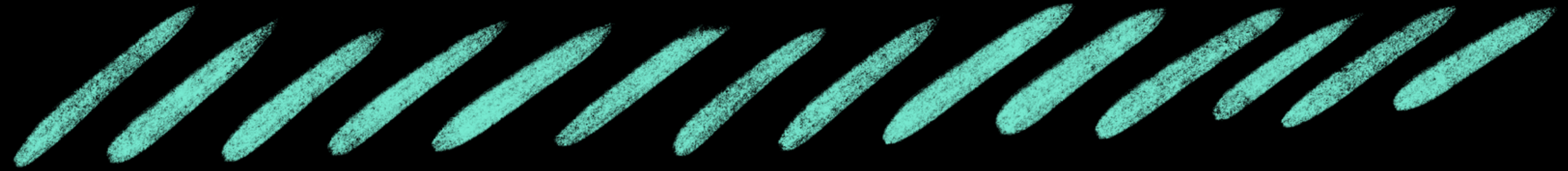Provided classroom space for an ECA class

Partnered to teach VR to their Summer Academy students

Donated laptops for our students

Partners list

3rd Street Youth Center & Clinic
826 Mission Bay
826 Valencia
American Eagle Outfitters Foundation
Assembled
AT&T
Balboa High School
Canva
Celo Foundation
Crankstart Foundation
City Arts & Leadership Academy
Code15
Coliseum College Preparatory Academy
Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School
Delphix
Downtown High School
Eastside College Preparatory School
Electronic Arts
First Graduate
Foundation for a College Education
FutureMap
Generation Thrive
George Washington High School
Girls Equity Movement
Google.org
Ida B Wells High School Japanese Community Youth
Council

JCYC MYEEP
JCYC SF YouthWorks
JCYC STEM
John O'Connell High School
JVS
KIPP College Preparatory
Latitude High School
Libertas Travel
LinkedIn
Mary A. Crocker Trust
McClymonds High School
Meta
Mission Girls
Mission Graduates
Mission High School
Mission Neighborhood Centers
Notion
Oakland High School
Oakland Public Education Fund Oakland
Technical High School
Oakland Unified School District
Oakland Unity High School
OperationSTART
Panda Cares
Percent
RePicture
Richmond High School

Ross Foundation
Ruth Asawa SOTA
RYSE Center
Sand Hill Angels
San Francisco Achievers
San Francisco Black Firefighters Association
San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families
San Francisco Giants
San Francisco Office of Economic Workforce and Developmnet
San Francisco Unified School District
San Francisco Public Library
Sans Serif Southeast Community Center
Shopify
Tesla
The Academy at McAteer
The Hidden Genius Project
The MADE
The Women's Building
ThredUP
Thurgood Marshall High School
Umpqua Bank
Unity Technologies
University of San Francisco
Verizon
Warriors Community Foundation
Youth United for Community Action
Youtube

Our growth

44%

Mission Bit student base growth from 2022 to 2023

Students served each year

Year	Students
2019	266
2020	619
2021	866
2022	1202
2023	1730
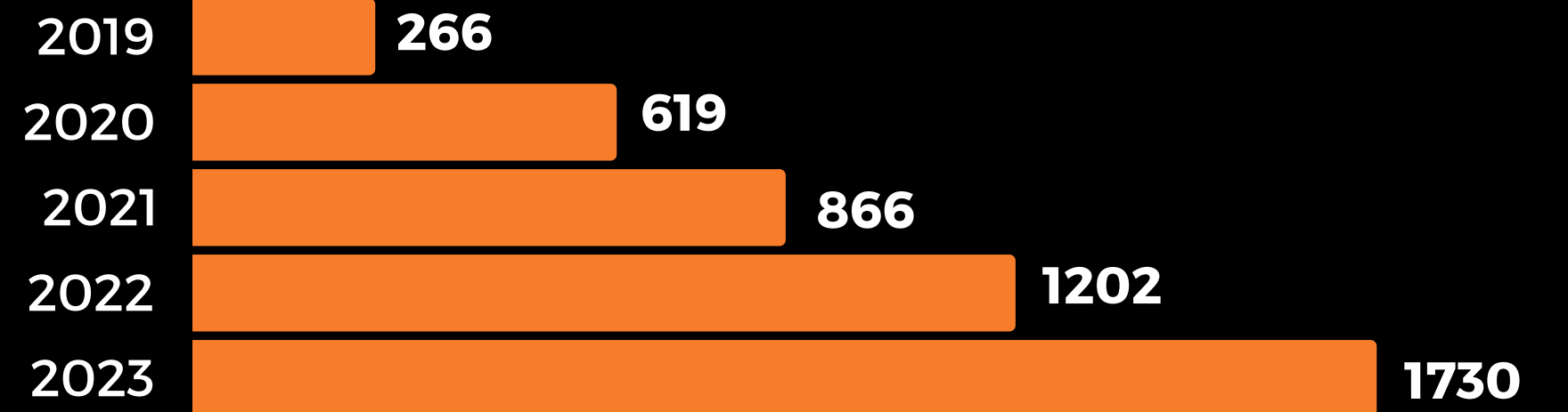
In 2023, **49%** of students were Black or Latinx and **45%** were female at Mission Bit, compared to the tech industry where only **15%** of employees are Black or Latinx and only **36%** are female (EEOC).

2023 highlights

Hack the Bay

This year, Mission Bit's Student Advisory Board hosted Hack the Bay at Generation Thrive. In the spirit of promoting comprehensive learning, our student leaders thoughtfully planned and executed the event, recruiting high school students from across Oakland. The event was focused on gaming, which helped participants feel more comfortable exploring the coding workshops and activities. They left with new skills and new networks.

2023 highlights

Summer Demo Day

In the summer, we had our first in-person Demo Day since before the pandemic and were thrilled to see students and families come together at Notion's beautiful office. The event was made even more special by the presence of guest speakers, including California State Senator Scott Wiener, San Francisco Supervisor Hillary Ronen, and Notion software engineer Eddie Tapia, who shared words of wisdom with our aspiring young minds. This remarkable event allowed our students to showcase their hard work and celebrate their achievements.

2023 highlights

7th Annual Gala

In November 2023, Mission Bit hosted the 7th Annual Gala Fundraiser at Gallery 308 in Fort Mason. Our community gathered to celebrate another successful year of growth and innovation. Students shared their experiences, giving us hope for the tech industry's bright future. The event successfully raised over $100,000 for Mission Bit's computer science programming.

Team

Candace Brady, People Operations Specialist

Cynthia Chin, Director of Programs

Evalani Clark, Marketing Manager

Itzel Gil, Programs Intern

Zoe Kurtz, Program Manager

Johnny Lin, Development Associate

Cora Monokandilos, Director of Curriculum

Zuri Mubarak, Program Coordinator

Christina Ortega, Chief Executive Officer

Allan Park, VR Curriculum Developer

Ver Pasamic, Curriculum Developer

Rachel Scales, Innovative Learning Manager

Esperanza Vaquiz, Marketing Intern

Board

Beth Anderson, President at Anthem Blue Cross

Jonathan Chan, Partner and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Jennifer Collins, Senior VP of Business Development at Tunein, Board Secretary

Dan Garon, Co-Founder at DotErth

Bob Ippolito, Entrepreneur

Christine Keener, Director, Government Affairs at Verizon

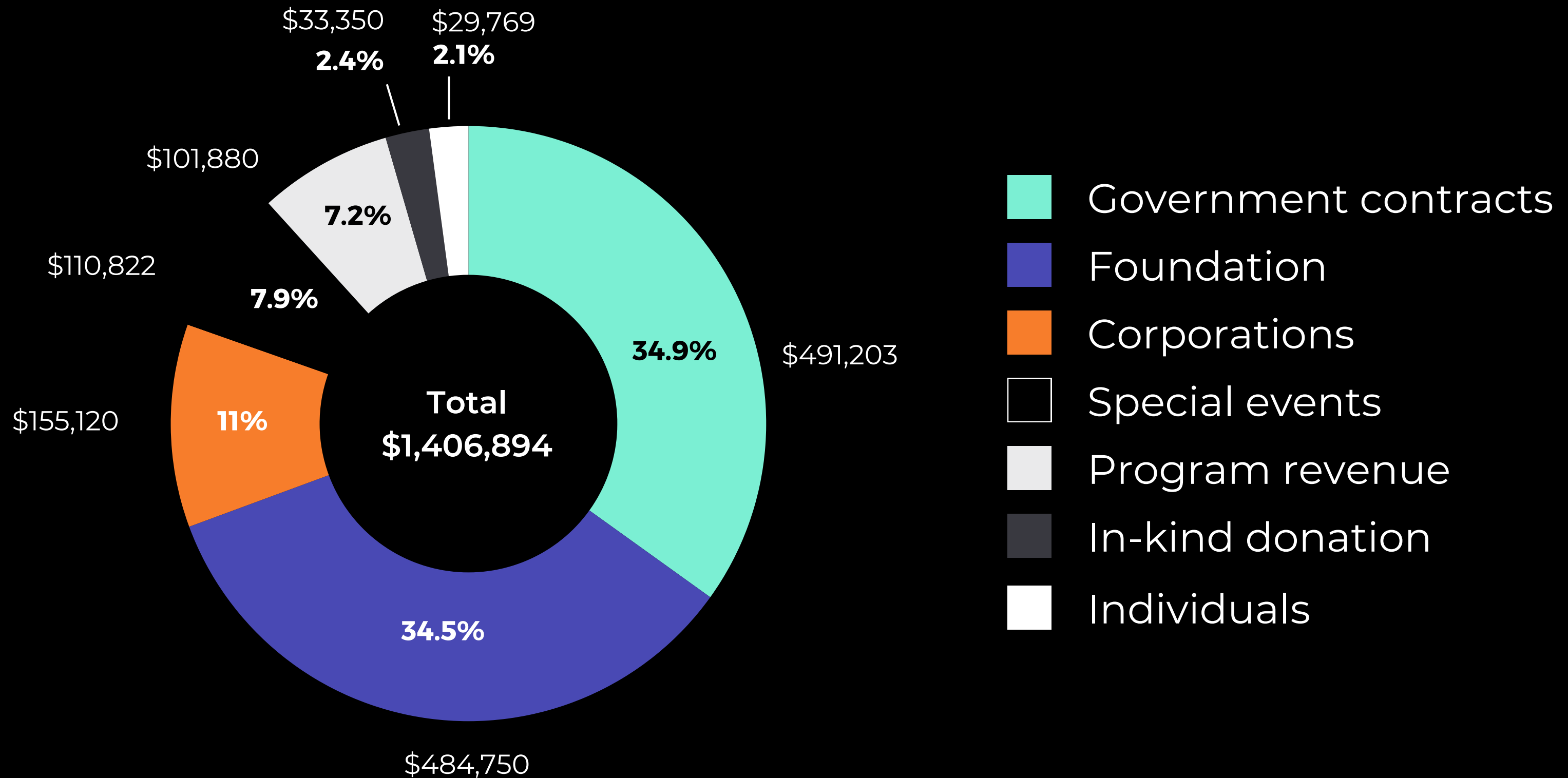**Christina Ortega**, Chief Executive Officer, Board President

Sam Purtill, VP of Engineering at Advantage Solutions, Board Chair

Jeff Schnitz, Senior Vice President at East West Bank, Board Treasurer

Allison Scott, PhD, CEO at Kapor Foundation

Revenue

Total $1,406,894

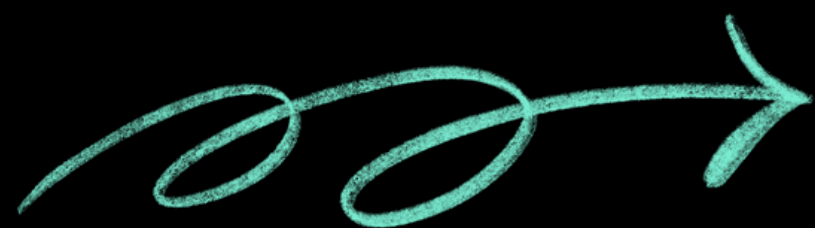| Category	Amount	Percent
Government contracts	$491,203	34.9%
Foundation	$484,750	34.5%
Corporations	$155,120	11%
Special events	$110,822	7.9%
Program revenue	$101,880	7.2%
In-kind donation	$33,350	2.4%
Individuals	$29,769	2.1%

Partner with us

Partner with us to make a real impact in computer science education. Join us today to shape tomorrow's generation of leaders.

Learn more

Volunteer with us
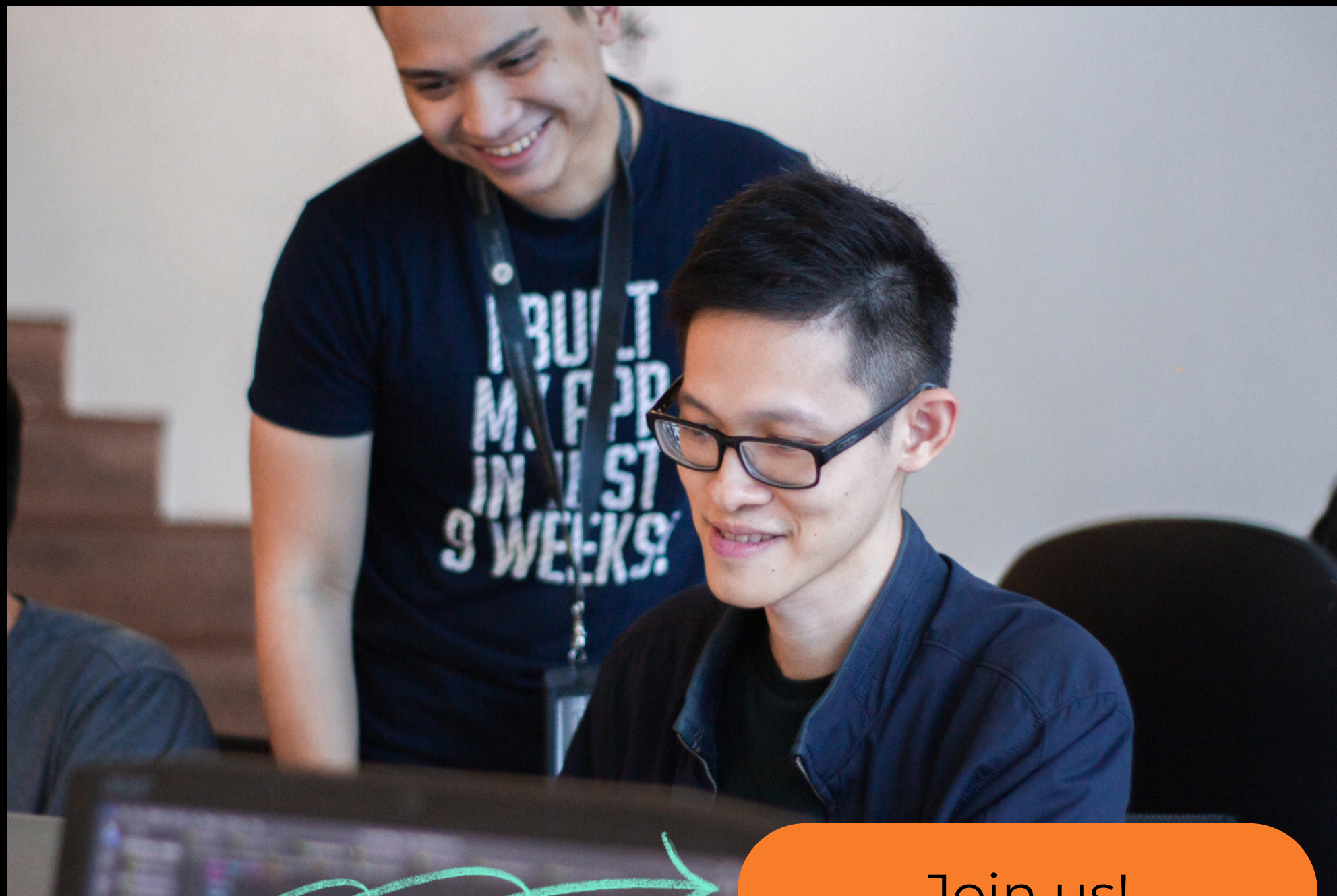
Join us!

Our students not only acquire new skills but also build connections with the tech industry professionals who volunteer at Mission Bit, guiding them on their tech journey. These volunteers help students understand the tech industry, apply their new skills practically, and gain industry insights from professionals. At Mission Bit, anyone can contribute by volunteering for one-time events, long-term projects, or weekly classroom support.

Donate

Your donation gives young minds the tools to pursue their tech dreams. Join us in making a difference in their lives.

Donate today

What's next?

COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR ALL

2023 was a breakout year that helped clear a path for an even brighter future. By the end of the year, we were closer than we've ever been to a milestone we've been striving toward for half a decade: serving **10,000** students. This growth is more than just a number; it symbolizes countless opportunities created, dreams nurtured, and futures shaped.

We're confident that we'll accomplish this once-audacious goal in 2024, and we're excited to celebrate it with you. We invite you to join us on this mission to expand opportunity for all students through technology education. Onward!