

CIVICS REMIX

AI Ethics. Humanities. Civic Action.

At the intersection of Humanities and Technology is AI Ethics. "What story does this technology tell, and whose story does it leave out?"

CIVICS REMIX COMMUNITY RESILIENCE LABS · CIVICSREMIX.ORG ·
ROCKSTARS4IMPACT 501(C)(3)



50+

DC YOUTH
ALL 8 WARDS

6

WEEKS OF
FIELD SCIENCE
AND AI ETHICS

200

STORM DRAINS
STAMPED
ENTERING
OPEN DATA DC

100%

PILOT
COMPLETION
RATE SPRING
2026

Aug 7

AMERICA250
PUBLIC
SHOWCASE

\$0

COST TO
EVERY
STUDENT

THE FOUNDER



Isabella Getahun

Age 17 · Washington DC · Founder, Civics Remix and
RockStars4Impact

Washington Area Women's Foundation Rock Star Awardee · Mikva Challenge Fellow · DC Attorney General High School Advisory Board · Georgetown SFS Future Global Leaders Fellowship · Aspen Institute Center for Rising Generations Finalist · Georgetown University AI Ethics Certificate · Inspirit AI Algorithmic Justice Fellow

The problems humanity has never solved are being written into the most powerful technology ever built, and the generation that will live longest with that technology is sitting in classrooms right now, being handed tools they were never taught to question.

INDUSTRY VOICE

"Your presentation on the Civics Remix Harkness Lab and the principles of conducting thoughtful, evidence-based research was exceptional, explaining how AI can be used responsibly while reinforcing critical thinking, collaboration, and evaluating credible sources."

Joyce Hunter

Founder & President, Data Science Camp, Inc. · Executive Director, Mission Critical, Inc. · Former Deputy CIO and Interim CIO, USDA

The most neglected river in DC runs through the communities that need answers most.

The Anacostia River flows through DC's most underserved neighborhoods, which carry the city's highest exposure to interior flooding, when heavy rain overwhelms the sewer system and floods streets and homes. FY2026 budget cuts threaten the community science programs that give residents their only independent data on their block. And when young people search for information about the Anacostia using AI, the answers they get are vague, outdated, and stripped of local context. That is a data problem.

17,000

Residents near the Anacostia estimated to be consuming contaminated fish despite health warnings

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC · NOAA

95%

Of Anacostia stream miles rated poor or very poor for aquatic life while AI describes the river as recovering

USGS · ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

The disparity is not accidental. It is the product of decades of redlining, disinvestment, and policy decisions that AI tools continue to reproduce. Civics Remix plants its flag here deliberately. These students are not visitors to this story. They are stakeholders.

Three principles. Six weeks. One river.

A gift to Washington DC.

Civics Remix is a free, six-week fellowship for DC youth ages 14 to 18 anchored to the Anacostia River. Students collect original field science data, run it against what AI says about the same geography, and document the gap. They do not just study the problem. They produce original civic research and present it to DC city government. The program runs 10:30am to 2:30pm daily, Monday through Thursday. Every Friday is dedicated to civic project work and collaborative sessions with local DC artists and creatives. It costs students nothing.

01

THE HUMANITIES AS METHODOLOGY

Isabella built this as a humanities program, not a tech program. The Four-Filter Protocol asks every session: what bias does this carry, whose story is absent, would a civic institution rely on this, and what decision gets made wrong? Those are humanities questions. They are also the most important questions of our time.

02

FIELD SCIENCE AS COUNTER-NARRATIVE

Students collect original water quality and soil data along the Anacostia corridor, then compare their findings to what AI says about the same geography. Their data becomes the counter-narrative. The gap between the two is documented, mapped on ArcGIS Online StoryMaps, and presented to the people responsible for closing it.

03

CIVIC ACTION, NOT CIVIC AWARENESS

Every student submits a real FOIA request to a DC agency. Every student writes a public comment. Every student presents a Civic Research Finding to DC city government at America250 on August 7. The program ends with a documented record of civic participation, not a poster.

Every week builds toward one student-built gift to the city.

WEEK 1

AI and the River

Ask AI about the Anacostia, map the response, then overlay the redlining data. The gap is the lesson. GW Engineering Lab visit. ArcGIS Online introduction. First Four-Filter Protocol exercise.

AI FOUNDATION

WEEK 2

The Gap in the Data

Water quality and soil science with EarthEcho protocols and watershed restoration science with Anacostia Watershed Society. Students collect their first original field data to professional documentation standards. Financial equity session with DC DISB Financial Services Academy.

FIELD SCIENCE ARM

WEEK 3

On the River

Anacostia River Explorer with Trey Sherard, licensed river captain and 2022 River Hero. Water and blockage testing begins. AI output vs. field data vs. community voice. The gap is their finding.

FIELD SCIENCE ARM

WEEK 4

Green Finance and AI Assistant

Students ages 16+ configure and test the AI assistant using their own Anacostia field data as its knowledge base, structured to professional hydrologic data standards. Watershed economics.

DATA ENGINEERING ARM

WEEK 5

Civic Action

All 200 storm drains stamped and logged. FOIA requests submitted to DC agencies. GIS StoryMaps finalized. AI assistant tested on student-collected data.

CIVIC ACTION WEEK

WEEK 6

America250 Showcase

Anacostia Groundsource: The Street-Level AI Audit, presented to DC city government on August 7, 2026. A public gift to Washington DC for its 250th anniversary. Every student presents findings.

PUBLIC SHOWCASE

200 drains. 50 tested One dataset. Permanent.

Anacostia Groundsource: The Street-Level AI Audit

Flood forecasting tools like Google Flood Hub have a street-level blind spot. Satellites cannot see which curb inlets are choked with debris, and no commercial model knows the real condition of the drains on a given block in Ward 6 or 7. This summer, Civics Remix fellows close that gap by hand. They are stamping 200 curb inlets with official DOEE markers, testing water and slurry and measuring blockage on 50 of the most flood-critical drains, and collecting EarthEcho chemical water profiles at the most heavily clogged sites. On August 7, students hand DC city government two deliverables built from that fieldwork:

1 · The Open Data DC Groundsource Dataset

A peer-verified, street-level drainage dataset submitted to the city's official open data portal and formatted to hydrologic data standards so that any flood model, public or commercial, can ingest it. The missing layer, built by the residents the models overlook.

2 · The Public Groundsource Interface

Ar A public ArcGIS StoryMap and report-link an tool built on the student dataset. A resident the finds their block on the map and sees what v the students verified: test date, condition, co documented blockage, and known risk kn factors, with a direct link to report any str flagged drain to the city.

Why it matters. Every marked drain tells residents their street flows to a living river, which deters dumping at the source. Every data row gives the city ground truth no satellite can capture. And the pipeline does not close when the program ends. The dataset lives on Open Data DC, the drains stay marked, and the next cohort adds the next layer. This is civic infrastructure, not a summer project.

FOR THE CITY

A permanent street-level data layer the official flood picture is missing, delivered at zero cost to the District.

FOR RESIDENTS

Marked drains that deter pollution, and a public tool that answers questions about their own block from verified local data.

FOR THE STUDENTS

Field measurement, blockage and water quality testing, GIS, and data engineering skills, each one a first step toward an infrastructure career.

Built by two kinds of engineering.

The Field Science Arm

WEEKS 2 AND 3

Before a student can test a drain, they need to understand what it connects to. This arm teaches DC's stormwater and combined sewer systems, what happens below the grate, and how the infrastructure built to stop overflows during heavy rain actually works. Students learn field documentation standards drawn from professional engineering practice. Guided by professional engineers and scientific mentors.

The Data Engineering Arm

WEEKS 4 AND 5

Older fellows take the verified field records and build the Groundsource pipeline and AI knowledge base. This arm teaches data schema design to professional hydrologic standards, and how uncertainty is represented in real water datasets. The difference between a student project and civic infrastructure is rigor, built to professional standards in hydrologic data and uncertainty analysis.

1

FIELD LOGGING

Mobile GIS · DOEE
drain protocols · 200
drains stamped, 50
tested

2

OPEN DATA DC

Peer-verified records
submitted to the city's
official portal

3

ALGORITHMIC AUDIT

Student ground truth
vs. open-source
hydrology model
predictions

4

AI TRUTH MAP

The Civic Research
Finding presented
August 7

Where AI predicts safety and student ground truth proves flood risk, that gap is the finding.

Not awareness. Artifacts. Documented civic participation.

EVERY STUDENT

- Marks storm drains with DOEE-issued kits and contributes verified field data to DC's official open dataset
- Submits a real FOIA request to a DC agency
- Writes a public comment
- Presents a Civic Research Finding to DC city government at the August 7 America250 showcase
- Earns a Civics Remix Community Resilience Labs Facilitator Certification

AGES 14–15 · BUILDERS

- Complete DOEE Field Sheets documenting drain locations, blockages, and flood risks
- Record QR-coded audio narratives about the Anacostia watershed
- Build ArcGIS Online StoryMaps mapping their drain and water quality findings
- Produce written civic briefs with verified primary sources

AGES 16+ · ARCHITECTS

- Configure and test a public AI assistant using their own Anacostia field data as the sole knowledge base
- Run the ArcGIS overlay analysis comparing open-source hydrology model predictions against the student-built drain dataset
- Publish the ArcGIS StoryMap and drain report links as the program's public civic tool.

EDUCATOR VOICE

"The use of Civics Remix sparked excitement and engaging conversation. Students were intrigued by the discrepancies between AI-generated responses and primary sources, reinforcing the need to consider multiple sources without reliance on technology."

Felicia Baskin

Educator · Alexandria City Public Schools

EXPERTISE

MIT RAISE Day of AI

Free open-source K-12 AI literacy curriculum integrated across all six weeks as the technical foundation.

ArcGIS Online

Industry-standard GIS mapping platform. Students build StoryMaps and run overlay analyses using ArcGIS Online tools throughout the program.

Tolessa Deksissa, Ph.D. · UDC

Director, Water Resources Research Institute. Guiding student water quality analysis and field science methods.

Anacostia Riverkeeper

Trey Sherard, licensed river captain and 2022 River Hero, leads field science sessions on the river.

Anacostia Watershed Society

The oldest organization dedicated to restoring the Anacostia River, founded 1989. Watershed restoration science, Weeks 2 through 5.

Dave Padgett, Ph.D. · TSU · GLOBE Affiliate

TSU GIS professor aligning student mapping and geolocation data with NASA-backed GLOBE Land Cover protocols.

DC DOEE · Storm Drain Marking Program

Provides free storm drain marking toolkits and maintains the official Open Dataset that student fieldwork updates.

DC MBSYEP

RockStars4Impact is a registered DC Summer Youth Program host employer. DC provides direct stipends. Citywide, 54% of MBSYEP participants are from Wards 7 and 8.

AI Ethics and Governance Professionals

Guest experts joining sessions across the six weeks, showing students how these questions are examined in professional practice.

STUDENT VOICE

"The four filters helps me to get better results."

Eva

Student Participant · Summer 2026 Session

"Wow. I have to double check everything."

Student Participant

First Civics Remix Session · Spring 2026

Where we need help.

Civics Remix is free to every student. DC MBSYEP pays youth stipends directly. Every resource we raise goes straight to what students experience. Here is where you can make a difference.

Expert Speakers

Environmental scientists, hydrologists, structural and data engineers, AI researchers, civic leaders, artists. One session, one hour, one expert who shows students what their work can become.

Technology

Laptops, Chromebooks, API credits for Claude, Gemini, and ChatGPT. Most of these students arrive without a personal device or internet access.

Field Science

Water quality testing kits, soil science equipment, field science supplies for Anacostia River sessions. The river is the classroom.

Funding

Every dollar we raise funds facilitators, technology, field science, and the civic data pipeline. Detailed budget available upon request.

The room keeps getting bigger. The question stays the same.

A 17-year-old Washingtonian who asked the question no one could answer built a curriculum that teaches DC youth to find what AI keeps leaving out and change it. She is bringing it to the Anacostia River this summer. She is giving it to the city that raised her.

If you are an environmental scientist, an artist, a technologist, a neighbor, or anyone who believes young people deserve better tools and better answers, there is a place for you in this program.

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