

A N N U A L R E P O R T

2025

2026



VL™

21 ARIZONA CITIES REPRESENTED

Class 5 brought together voices from across the state, because solving Arizona's most pressing issues starts with understanding them from where people actually live.

25 PRESENTERS

From policy architects to grassroots advocates, our speakers brought the real work of Arizona's future into every session, and challenged our participants to find their place in it.



134 CATALYZE CLASS 5 GRADUATES

Our largest ever class of emerging leaders graduated with both a deeper understanding of Arizona's challenges and a personal commitment to act.

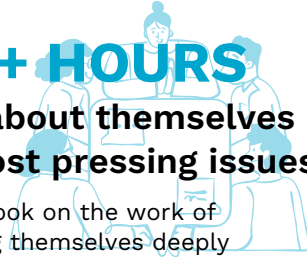


89% of participants improved in their Principles of Doing alignment

Class 5 participants grew across all Principles of Doing®: Integrity, Building Trust, Team Mindset, Arizona First and Driven To Do.

4,500+ HOURS learning about themselves & AZ's most pressing issues

Participants took on the work of understanding themselves deeply enough to lead others well, and understanding Arizona well enough to know where their leadership can be put to use for the most impact.



Catalyze helped me better understand root causes, connect my day-to-day work to larger systems, and approach challenges with a more thoughtful, collaborative mindset. The program also strengthened my confidence and helped me see myself as a leader, regardless of title. The relationships and perspectives I gained through the cohort were just as valuable as the content, and they continue to influence how I lead and plan my next steps.

- Christopher Thompson,
Catalyze Class 5 Graduate

10 CITIES VISITED

- Yuma & San Luis
- South Phoenix
- Buckeye
- Mesa
- Nogales, AZ & Nogales, Sonora
- Navajo Nation
- Gila River Indian Community

Across Arizona, participants engaged with communities spanning regions, cultures, and lived experiences that define our state.

162 hours IN PERSON TOGETHER

Extended time together allowed participants to listen, reflect, and engage more deeply with one another and the communities they visited.



1,794 MILES TRAVELED

Travel served as a foundation for connection, with each mile strengthening relationships and shared understanding.

50 COMMUNITY SITE VISITS

From the Border Port of Entry in San Luis and Nogales to Spaces of Opportunity in South Phoenix, Gila River Indian Community, and the breathtaking Monument Valley in the Navajo Nation, each visit offered a unique window into the people and places shaping Arizona's future.

Over 100 Community-based partners

8 PARTICIPANTS

An intentionally small cohort created the conditions for honest dialogue, deeper relationships, and meaningful exchange.

The VL Explore program has provided an insightful opportunity to visit key areas around Arizona and learn the true challenges that are facing our State. During each trip, we meet with local politicians, economic development groups, and employers, to hear their challenges and what is needed for their communities to thrive. Additionally, they take us to the best restaurants and art galleries so that we can really get a feel for the local flavors and culture.

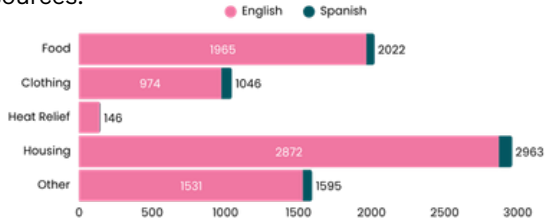
- Dave Barnes,
Explore Class 5 Graduate

This experience was made possible by partners across Arizona who welcomed participants in and shared their work, perspectives, and vision for the future.

VALLEY LEADERSHIP IMPACT MAKER™

8,000+ Arizonans reached with Just Ask Mia Chatbot

We worked with community partners to expand access to Just Ask Mia to support Arizona families to connect with quality local resources.



**35% of Catalyze Class
5 graduates joined an
Impact Team**

They joined 12 different
To Do Items and are
ready to make an impact.

72 Leaders Attended Dinner & Dialogue Events

We continued our Dinner & Dialogue series to bring Arizonans together to discuss and come together across lines of difference including speciality dinners focused on Education and Housing and Homelessness in Arizona.



25 Organizations Onboarded to the OUD Business Toolkit

More and more organizations are committing to taking action and becoming more recovery-friendly with the support of our Opioid Use Disorder Business Toolkit that's supported by Maricopa County Department of Health Services.



Valley Leadership's strength is in its network and its resources. When you bring talented people together from diverse backgrounds, who all care about strengthening Arizona, incredible things happen. Now, provide them with potent resources and reminders of the Principles of Doing? That's when change launches forward on a new level. That has been my experience as an Impact Team member.

- Molly Peterson, Child Well-Being Impact Team
Member & Ready Together Graduate



133 TOTAL TEAM MEMBERS

15 CHAIR AND TEAM LEADS

119 ALUMNI TEAM MEMBERS

11 STRATEGIC PARTNERS

3 COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

144 ALUMNI CONTRIBUTORS

This year we added 55 new Catalyze graduates and community partners to the Impact Maker roster.



17 ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE CIVIC SHIFT

Using a competency based inventory to align programming with shared civic goals, The Civic Shift is creating a statewide pipeline that allows students to discover, track, and earn prizes for their leadership and civic learning experiences.



LAUNCHED THE FOOD & NUTRITION TEAM

The Food & Nutrition Impact Maker kicked off in 2025 by prioritizing the development of an immersive K-6 field trip curriculum designed to connect students to the growing process and empower them with the knowledge to understand how fresh produce affects their health and nutrition.

33 Alumni Trained for Leaders for Literacy Across 11 Schools

Leaders were paired with local teachers to substitute once a month so they can do training on the Science of Reading.





Thank you to all of the Valley
Leadership alumni, sponsors,
board members and
community supporters for
making this work possible.

