

[Design for Change](#) is a global movement across 50+ countries, that empowers young people to transform themselves and the world around them. Every year, students do projects in their own community that not only improve lives but help them build character and key 21st century skills. Using a simple four step process - Feel, Imagine, Do, Share - they have [shut down drug houses](#), helped refugees [living in American food desserts](#), [addressed the teen suicide rate in their community](#) and have done countless other projects in their local communities that have resulted in real change.

The Design for Change program helps schools, afterschool organizations and other nonprofits implement design thinking, social activism and 21st century skills into their methodology and curriculum. Teachers and mentors who participate in Design for Change have access to dozens of expert designed lesson plans and activities, an online web portal that guides them through the design thinking process, in person and online workshops and an online accredited professional development course.

Design for Change acts as a partner, helping organizations adopt design thinking and service into their existing curriculum and models. We have ongoing partnerships with Teach for America, Ashoka, City Year and other national and regional organizations. In the United States, we have engaged thousands of students in a variety of educational environments since 2015.



Young people observe and list the issues in their community that bother them.



They interact with folks in their community to identify points of intervention and possible solutions.



They develop and implement a plan of action, keeping in mind resources, budget, time and skills.



They share the story of change and inspire others to get involved or start their own project.

Every year, student teams submit their projects to be judged by a panel of experts. The winning team is awarded an all expenses paid trip to the Design for Change Global Conference which brings together change makers from over 45+ countries. In November 2017, this year's winning team from Sandpoint, Idaho will travel to Madrid, Spain to celebrate [their project](#), hear inspiring speakers and participate in social justice and design thinking workshops.

Our Partners



Our Global Reach

Design for Change was founded in 2009 by visionary educator, designer and [TED](#) speaker, Kiran Bir Sethi. Since its inception, Design for Change has spread to over 50+ countries empowering over 2 million students to be agents of change in their own communities. To date, Design for Change has generated 22,000+ social change projects addressing everything from child marriages to bullying, environmental issues and helping refugees.

Each year, student teams submit their projects to be judged by a panel of experts. An ambassador team is chosen to attend an all expenses paid trip to the Design for Change Global Conference, where students from around the globe, come together to exchange stories, celebrate being the change, and be inspired. The annual event is hosted by a different Design for Change country partner every year. Here is a glimpse into the [story](#) of the Design for Change USA 2016 winning team who attended the conference in Beijing, China.

This year, winners of DFC USA 2017, will travel to Madrid, Spain to share their [project](#), hear inspiring speakers and participate in social justice and design thinking workshops.

Impact in the United States

Design for Change was brought to the US in 2015. The program has since been piloted in elementary, middle, and high schools, including independent, private, and public schools. Design for Change USA has been especially successful in the afterschool space. Since 2015, we have trained over 1,500 teachers, 1,000 kids participated in over 100 projects that have directly affected more than 10,000 people in their communities.

Design for Change lesson plans have been intentionally designed to align with common core standards while engaging students through project based, inquiry driven and experiential learning.

Our goal is to empower, enable and equip teachers and students with the tools and resources they need to hone and strengthen 21st century skills such as empathy, creativity, critical thinking and perseverance, develop key social and emotional capacities and most importantly, build their character and the community around them.

Primed for Growth

As we exit the pilot stage of Design for Change in the USA, our goal is to impact 10,000 young people a year by 2020. We are looking for a variety of partners to help us achieve this goal, including schools and afterschool programs, funding sources and other organizations that share our vision and have the ability to reach young people throughout the country.

To learn more, please visit www.designforchange.us or contact Sanjli Gidwaney at sanjli@designforchange.us / 857-869-7777.