

aspire!
Afterschool Learning



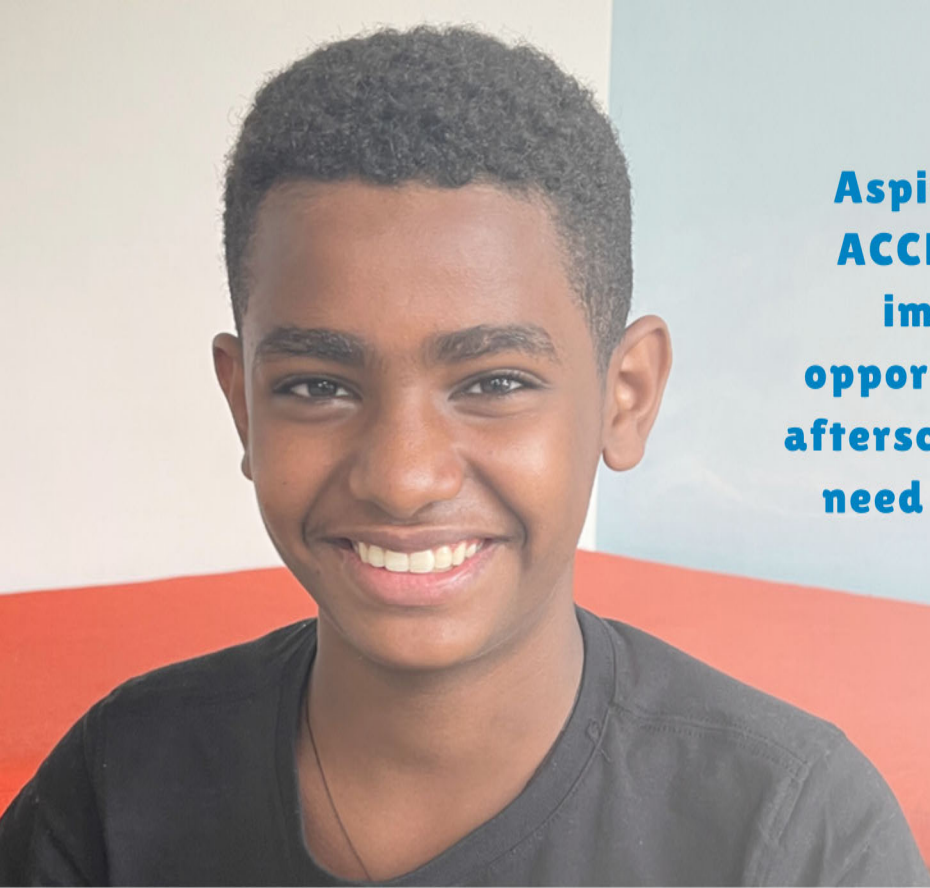
Growth
Creativity
Access



A CAMPAIGN FOR ASPIRE'S NEW
MAKERSPACE

INSPIRING A LOVE OF LEARNING AND PROVIDING
HANDS-ON LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR
SOUTH ARLINGTON STUDENTS

**\$75K left to
raise as of
Feb 2025!**



Aspire is committed to EQUITY & ACCESS, ensuring students most impacted by the educational opportunity gap receive the holistic afterschool and summer support they need at NO COST to their families.

WHO WE ARE AND WHO WE SERVE

For 30 years, Aspire Afterschool Learning has provided afterschool and summer learning programs for historically underserved students in South Arlington. Aspire currently operates three program sites near and along the Columbia Pike Corridor, with our largest site located at the Arlington Mill Community Center.

During our 2024-2025 year, we will serve 160 students through our award-winning Learning ROCKS afterschool program, which is the only daily, accessible, no-cost afterschool program for 3rd-8th graders in Arlington. We serve an additional 120+ students through our six-week summer learning camp.

67%

of students improved their reading over the past 2 school years

72%

of students improved their math level over the past 2 school years

99%

identify as students of color

76%

of students live in non-English speaking households

98%

of students come from low-income households

A TIME OF RAPID GROWTH TO MEET GROWING NEED

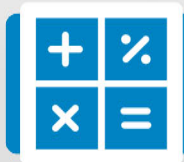
In 2019, Aspire opened our 7,300 square foot learning space at the Arlington Mill Community Center, which has allowed us to deepen our impact and grow our programming.



We have increased the number of children we serve by 100% over the past three years.



We established a new middle school program to help students prepare for high school.



Even as the program has grown, Aspire has continued to maintain the high-quality, individualized programming that we know works.



We increased hands-on STEAM programming to help students explore new topics and develop “21st century skills.”



Our students have made important gains in math, reading, and social-emotional learning through daily lessons and activities.



WHY THE MAKERSPACE IS NEEDED NOW

Supporting More Students

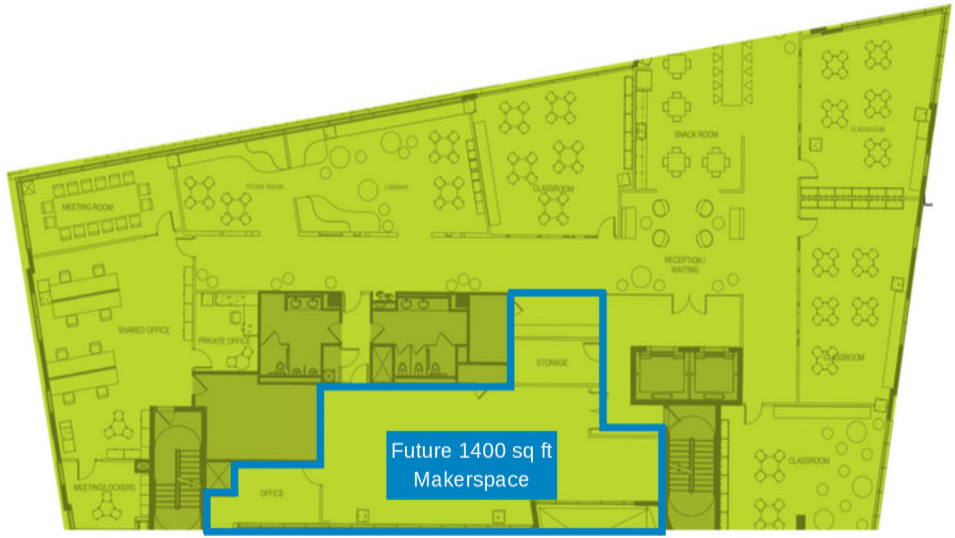
Aspire is experiencing the highest-ever demand for our programming. There are very few opportunities for historically underserved Arlington students to participate in academically focused afterschool and summer programs. This widens the opportunity gap in our community and has lifelong impacts on students' academic and career trajectories. The new space will allow us to welcome more students and meet the growing demand.

Expanding STEAM Programming and Project-Based Learning

Our students and their families are interested in having additional hands-on programming in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, math, and related subjects). Opportunities for early experiences with STEAM are particularly important for our students, among whom 50% are girls and 99% identify as people of color. As students begin to select elective coursework, we want to ensure they have a baseline understanding of STEAM topics and the opportunity to see STEAM as a viable career pathway. There are no other Makerspaces available or accessible for 3rd-8th grade students in South Arlington.



**A space
where kids
love to
learn.**



PROPOSED 1400 SQ FT EXPANDED FLEXIBLE USE MAKERSPACE

Aspire will build out the new space at our Arlington Mill Community Center location. It will allow us to expand learning opportunities that spark curiosity and accelerate learning.

Hands-on STEAM Learning

A space that facilitates hands-on and experiential learning opportunities. Projects will include science experiments and labs, coding classes, robotics demonstrations, video and film design, and more.

Innovation and Career Exploration

A space that familiarizes students with new fields and emerging technologies.

Growth and Connection

A space that expands the holistic, high-quality programs that Aspire offers to the community, and allows us to serve more students.

Flexibility

A space that grows and evolves with Aspire, including expanded classroom and meeting space.

Partnerships and Community Connections

A space that provides opportunities to collaborate with corporate and education partners to engage guest speakers and host special programming for Aspire students. Also, we will make the space a true community resource by identifying opportunities for community partners to use the space when Aspire programming is not in session.



Opportunities for Support



As of February 2025, Aspire has just \$75,000 left to raise, and permitting is in process!
Funds raised going forward will go toward furniture, technology, and supplies.

	\$50,000 +	\$49,999 - \$25,000	\$24,999 - \$10,000	\$9,999 - \$5,000	\$4,999 - \$1,000	< \$1,000
Opportunity to name a “learning station”						
Recognized at the ribbon cutting						
Featured in e-newsletter						
Listed on donor wall						
Gifted artwork from Aspire student						
Listed in Aspire’s Annual Report						
Invited to the ribbon cutting						

Contact Paula Fynboh at paula@aspireafterschool.org or 202.813.2140 to learn more
about the space, discuss funding opportunities, or explore ways to get involved.

What can your support do?



Donate Today!

\$50

2 Stackable Stools

These stools will provide flexible seating options so we can re-organize the Makerspace for different uses throughout the day, from coding classes to science experiments and more.

\$100

1 Giant Flexible Space Pillow

This pillow will provide a comfortable alternative seating option for students, as well as a way for them to comfortably participate in robotics demonstrations and small group discussions.

\$500

1 Laptop Charging Cart

This charging cart can charge and store up to 30 laptops and tablets, so a whole class of students can all be working on their laptops at the same time for individual work and group classes!

\$1,000

1 Art Cart

This cart will provide versatile storage to keep the Makerspace organized and materials accessible. The cart is on wheels and will enable easy transportation of materials and supplies to different areas.

\$5,000

1 Mobile Workstation + 1 Projector

The flexible workstation will provide storage, flexibility, and a space for students to work in groups for hands-on experiments and art projects. The projector will also provide more options for in-person and virtual workshops with guest speakers, and will make it possible for us to showcase students' video and design projects.

\$10,000

25 Laptops

These laptops will provide students with the opportunity to engage in STEAM lessons like coding and research projects as a class, while also teaching them critical digital skills for the 21st century.