



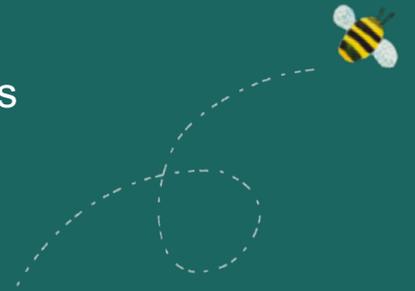
Wildflower Schools

- District of Columbia -

# A Unique Model



- Over 12-18 months, Teacher Leaders co-design their schools with parents and community members
- Teacher Leaders are social entrepreneurs who have the autonomy and flexibility necessary to build culturally affirming and adaptive learning environments
- Intentionally small schools (never larger than 60 kids) with two authentically trained Montessori teachers, co-leading mixed aged classrooms
- Anti-racist, identity affirming, inclusive Montessori programs





# Maia Blankenship

Founding Partner & Regional Site Entrepreneur, Wildflower Schools DC tasked with creating the charter pathway for a network of Montessori microschoools.



## Leader

Proven education leader in DC with over 15 years of experience in districts, charter schools, and nonprofits.



## Founder

Founding Managing Director of Education Pioneers in DC, Vice Chair of The Equity Lab and Advisor to nonprofits working to dismantle systemic racism and oppression.



## Mother

Proud mother of an independent and adventurous toddler who inspires her daily.



## Our Design Team

Educators, Parents, Advocates, DC Residents with decades of classroom and school leadership, policy making, board development, human resources, and operational experience.



## Their Collective Experience

- Charter education policy, personalized learning and extensive budget experience
- Experience navigating DC's charter school landscape
- Special Education and student services experience
- Leader of the only Montessori program in DC that accepts school vouchers
- Administrative leadership experience (Accounting, Finance, HR, Facilities)
- Organizational design and system building experience



## The Problem

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Today's factory model of education, **leaves us lacking** schools that affirm, nurture and support children of the global majority. As a result, children who come into their educational experience whole, **struggle to remain so**. Students leave their education depleted, rather than affirmed in their brilliance and ability to positively impact the world.



## To Unlock

children's full potential, we need learning environments grounded in research on how humans thrive:

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- **Small and safe** settings
- Intentionally **anti-racist**, identity affirming, **inclusive** spaces
- **Freedom** to make decisions, move and communicate – with limits
- Focus on developing **intrinsic motivation** vs. extrinsic rewards
- Hands-on, experiential, **challenging** curriculum



## The Solution

Wildflower School DC

At Wildflower School DC, we are planting the seeds for a **new type of school** – public, intentionally small, authentic Montessori learning environments that honor teachers, children and families of the global majority.

# Our Mission



Our mission is to create a new learning environment that blurs the boundaries between home and school. Our schools are **intentionally small** and **teacher-led** with **community input and engagement** to ensure **students define their purpose and fulfill their potential.**



# Our Principles



Teacher-Led



Montessori



Shop Front



Equity



Innovation



Beauty



Home



Nature



Network

# TEACHER LEADER INCUBATOR

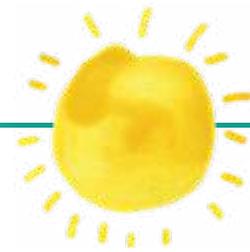
Wildflower DC School Startup Journey

Emerging Teacher Leaders embark upon a 12-18 month Teacher Incubator journey, with access to various programming, coaching and tools to use at their own pace.

A defined roadmap with steps and phases to enhance self-awareness, adaptive leadership, and to deepen understanding of the roots of systemic racism.

When their schools open, Teacher Leaders will have the support of a local and national network of stakeholders who share resources, provide feedback, exchange guidance and more.

# WILDFLOWER EQUITY SERIES



The Wildflower Equity Series will strengthen the early care educator workforce by creating a community of practitioners committed to enhancing their pedagogy and teaching practice through racial identity work.



By providing Montessori teachers with adaptive leadership training, racial identity workshops, and leadership development skills, the Wildflower DC Equity Series will have a positive effect on teachers' long-term impact in the classroom and school communities across the District of Columbia.

# THE JOURNEY OF AN EMERGING WILDFLOWER TEACHER LEADER

## Teacher Leader Incubator

- 8-10 Montessori teachers enter inaugural exploration cohort (expect that journey will end at different times)
- Engage Montessori teachers through the DC Metro Area to complete the Wildflower Equity Series as pipeline of future Teacher Leaders

## DC Equity Series

- Complete a scope and sequence of workshops including:
  - Exploring Social Identity
  - Unpacking Our Experiences in Education
  - Assets Based Community Engagement
  - Understanding Dynamics of Power

## Fertile ground for Wildflower Schools

- Emerging Teachers Leaders design schools with the community and beginning in Fall 2021 we launch 1-2 sites per year
- Strengthen the broader DC Montessori community by amplifying the voice of teachers and serve as a proof point for culturally responsive, identify affirming authentic Montessori programs

# DC MARKET DEMAND



**79%** **Black / African American students**

In the 2017-2018 school year, 79% of students enrolled in the Charter sector were Black/African American, with 51% at risk (homeless, foster care, qualify for food stamps or are a year behind peers in high school).

**64,631** **Population Forecast**

The 2020 population forecast for students age 3-10 years and expected to reach ..

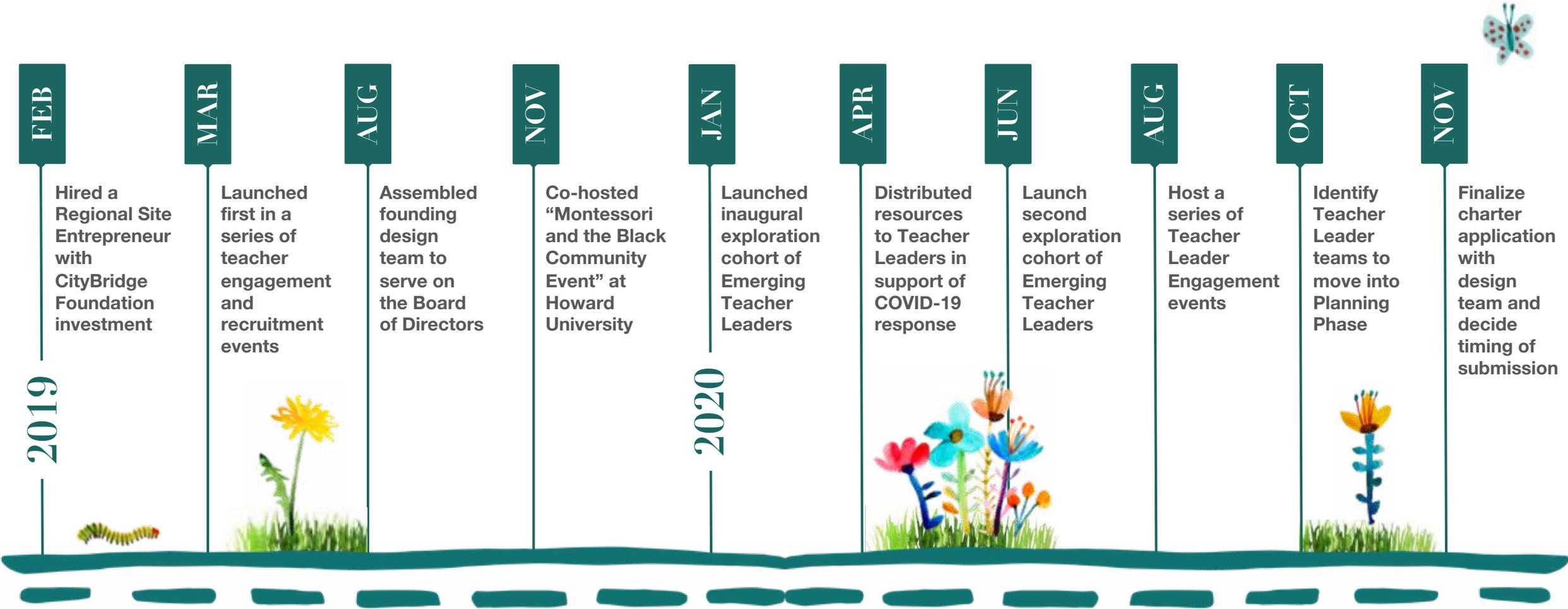
**3,958** **Waitlist for Montessori Schools**

2020 Charter school wait list in wards 4, 5\* 7 – our niche market.

# LAUNCHING WILDFLOWER SCHOOLS DC

## Ongoing Activities

- Cultivate design team who will become trustees of the Wildflower DC Public Charter School and engage Montessori and early childhood stakeholders about Wildflower for advice / guidance
- Develop strong emerging teacher leader pipeline to launch the first the first Wildflower DC schools
- Engage Funders to raise approximately \$1 million to support the launch of up to two sites by Fall 2021
- Create an independent network of schools and provide back office Charter supports that allow the Wildflower DC Public Charter School to thrive



# Our Ask



**\$1,000,000**

to fund the building blocks  
of Wildflower Schools DC:

- ☞ Teacher Incubator
- ☞ Back Office Support for Teacher Leaders
- ☞ Equity Design Series

Learn  
More



**Maia A.  
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Regional Site Entrepreneur

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 [www.wildflowerschools.org/dc](http://www.wildflowerschools.org/dc)



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