The leader in the design and delivery of immersive learning experiences in citizenship education

The increasingly complex challenges of our world require a generation of young people who have the passion, skills and confidence to accomplish what previous generations have failed to do: acting in the long-term collective interest of humanity. We can be as systematic about this kind of citizenship education as we are about core subjects like math and science. And given the state of the world, we have no choice but to do just that.

We have designed an award-winning system for building mastery of the core competencies of citizenship – like independent thinking, inclusive leadership, social advocacy and effective collaboration. Rote lectures are not effective in this domain. Our approach, based on learning science, shows that sustained personal transformations must begin with peak experiences that shift a young person’s thoughts and feelings about themselves and the world around them. The High Resolves curriculum hardwires these shifts into long-term memory through repeated practice and project-based application in the real world. Real impact requires all three of these elements. The results are clear: 95 percent of participants rate our program as highly engaging; 91 percent achieve the targeted cognitive outcomes; and 87 percent achieve the targeted affective and behavioral outcomes.

Geographically, High Resolves began with a deep focus on teenagers in Australia, where we have now engaged well over 300,000 young people in our multi-year programs. We have worked with about 5% of Australian youth. Thanks to a major new grant from the Australian Government, we will grow our reach tenfold and be engaged with 50% of youth in the next five years. We have expanded to the United States and Canada and we have established our first regional offices as well as other distribution channels in these markets. We are also partnering with developing countries like China and Brazil.

Recognizing the scale of the need, we have engaged in building an ecosystem of providers and like-minded organizations committed to raising a new generation of engaged and active citizens. The collective action by these players has been brought to life by Composer, a global, digital platform for schools to search, create, and coordinate sequences of citizenship education informed by the latest insights from learning science. It will remove barriers and ensure universal access to high-quality citizenship education, informed by the latest insights from learning science, for a critical mass of schools around the world. We will complete our private beta and formally launch Composer in early 2020.

In addition, we designed Videos for Change as a platform for young people to create powerful one-minute advocacy videos on social themes. Originally launched as a national competition in Australia, it has now become a digital platform enabling a global movement of young people exercising their voice to drive positive social change in their communities. Schools, camps, youth organizations and faith-based communities can all use their own instances of the platform to host local competitions. The platform is also the centrepiece of Project Amplify, our new collaboration in Latin America with Cinépolis (the second largest film exhibition company in the world) and Teach For All. We will jointly deliver a combined offering throughout Latin America, starting with Mexico.

Our work is becoming more recognized for its distinctiveness. High Resolves was awarded the Patron’s Prize from Good Design Australia for excellence in user experience design with the potential to shape the future economic, social, cultural and environmental aspects of our planet. We were awarded the Aspen Institute’s John P. McNulty Prize, which celebrates the boldness and impact of individuals who are using their expertise and entrepreneurial spirit to address the world’s toughest challenges. Our co-founder and CEO, Mehrdad Baghai, has been recognized as the Schwab Foundation’s Social Entrepreneur of the Year in 2019.