



MEDIA KIT

SEE FOREVER FOUNDATION

600 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20003



MAYA ANGELOU
SCHOOLS

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MISSION

Our mission is to create learning communities in lower income urban areas where all students can grow academically and socially. At Maya Angelou, our students develop the academic, social, and employment skills they need to build rewarding lives and promote positive change.

HISTORY

In 1997, David Domenici and James Forman, Jr. founded the See Forever Public Charter School as a program for teens involved in the juvenile justice system. The program offered youth opportunities to earn money, learn marketable skills, and the chance to return to an academic environment that offered small class sizes and individualized instruction from teachers. Soon thereafter, in 1998, See Forever incorporated the Maya Angelou Public Charter School (MAPCS) with collaboration from Reid Weingarten and Eric Holder. The school created the opportunity to offer a full-time, rigorous academic program with innovative wraparound services for all disconnected youth in the D.C. area.

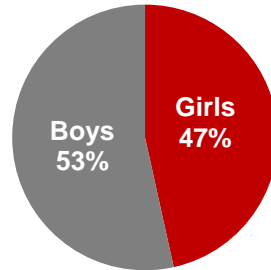
Today the See Forever Foundation is a nonprofit and youth development organization which manages a network of Maya Angelou Schools. We support the Maya Angelou Public Charter School, the Maya Angelou Academy at New Beginnings (a school for incarcerated young men), and the Young Adult Learning Center (a school for young adults who previously dropped out of high school).

NAMESAKE

One of the program's first graduates christened us the Maya Angelou Schools in a moving essay from our school naming contest:

"We have problems in our neighborhoods, our homes, and inside of ourselves. But like Dr. Angelou, the students of See Forever are using hard work and education to create a new future...The Dr. Maya Angelou Charter School will treat people by the way they carry themselves, and not by their history."

MAPCS Gender Demographics



25% of MAPCS high school students have been incarcerated or are under court supervision.

40% of MAPCS students have special needs, approximately twice the average for public schools in Washington, DC.

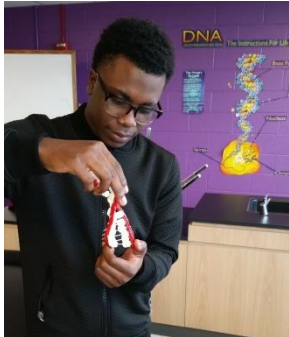
100% of MAPCS students are African American.

72.2% of MAPCS students are considered at-risk*

*Categories of At-Risk Designation: SNAP eligibility, TANF eligibility, Foster Care, Homelessness, or Student One year Older than Expected Age for Grade.



OUR IMPACT



63% of MAPCS graduates enroll in college vs. 50% of local, low-income African American high school graduates

87% of MAPCS alumni persist through the critical first year of college

78% of YALC students in the high school credential program pass the GED exam

60% of YALC students in the workforce program obtained a relevant credential



Academy scholars earn credits at an **87%** rate, more than 3 times the rate pre-Academy

71% of Academy scholars are positively engaged in education, employment, or a group home 120 days after returning to the community

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

“What works is an intensive, holistic approach like the one used by the Maya Angelou Charter School in Washington.”

- **David Shipler, New York Times**

“In the District of Columbia, Maya Angelou Public Charter School reaches out to students who have experienced substantial trauma in their lives by maintaining contacts with probation officers, social workers, special education advocates, and community groups. Classes are small, expectations are high, and a range of supportive services is in place to help kids make it.”

- **Washington Post**

“The See Forever Foundation is an extremely high performing and innovative organization that is helping young people successfully cross the finish line to thriving adulthood. The passion, dedication, and expertise of the leadership at See Forever and the Maya Angelou Public Charter School takes student learning to the next level, and their whatever it takes support of their students means dreams come true no matter how many obstacles exist.”

- **Carol Thompson Cole, President & CEO of Venture Philanthropy Partners (VPP)**

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FOUNDERS



David Domenici is the Director of the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings and a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress.

David has been working with at-risk and court-involved youth for 15 years. In 1997, he quit his job as a corporate lawyer, and along with James Forman Jr., started the See Forever Foundation and the Maya Angelou Public Charter School. Over the next 10 years David served as the organization's Executive Director, as well as the Principal of its initial campus.

In 2007, Maya Angelou was asked to take over the school at Oak Hill, Washington, DC's long term juvenile correctional facility. David designed the school program, hired all the staff, and became the founding Principal of the school, called the Maya Angelou Academy.

David left the Maya Angelou Academy in the fall of 2011 to start the Center for Educational Excellence in Alternative Settings. David is an Ashoka and Echoing Green Fellow, and is a graduate of Stanford Law School and the University of Virginia.



James Forman Jr. is a Clinical Professor of Law at Yale Law School.

Prof. Forman is a graduate of Atlanta's Roosevelt High School, Brown University, and Yale Law School, and was a law clerk for Judge William Norris of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and Justice Sandra Day O'Connor of the United States Supreme Court.

After clerking, he joined the Public Defender Service in Washington, D.C., where for six years he represented both juveniles and adults charged with crimes.

During his time as a public defender, Professor Forman became frustrated with the lack of education and job training opportunities for his clients. So in 1997, along with David Domenici, he started the Maya Angelou Public Charter School, an alternative school for school dropouts and youth who had previously been arrested.

Professor Forman teaches and writes in the areas of criminal procedure and criminal law policy, constitutional law, juvenile justice, and education law and policy. His particular interests are schools, prisons, and police, and those institutions' race and class dimensions. With the support of the Open Society Foundations, Professor Forman is currently writing a book about African-American attitudes towards crime and punishment in the age of mass incarceration.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Dr. Heather Wathington is the chief executive officer of the Maya Angelou Schools and the See Forever Foundation.

Prior to her appointment at the See Forever Foundation, Dr. Wathington was an assistant professor of education at the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia. Her scholarship focuses on the academic achievement of low-income students and students of color in postsecondary education, with a specific lens on understanding the educational contexts, levers, and practices that promote greater academic success for these students.

Her work has been supported by more than \$2.1 million in grants from the Institute for Education Sciences, the Houston Endowment, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Wathington is an honors graduate of Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts, and earned a master's degree in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania. She has her doctorate from the University of Michigan in Higher and Postsecondary Education.

KEY PERSONNEL

Tameika Ashford
MAPCS Principal

Steven Foster
MAPCS Vice Principal

Sarah Navarro
YALC Director

Rennie M. Taylor
Maya Angelou Academy at New Beginnings Principal

Dr. Kamal Wright-Cunningham
MAPCS Director of Social and Emotional Learning

Michael Walker
MAPCS Director of Post-Secondary Success

Marvin Harden
Director of Information Technology

Leah Lamb
SFF Chief Development Officer

Chris Tessone
SFF Chief Operating Officer

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