



Cambria Bartlett 00:01

Hello, everyone, and welcome. We're super excited to be here with you all to share more about our organization, Heirs to Our Oceans, and how youth can really join and be mobilized to take action. My name is Cambria. I'm from Northern California. And I'm 16. And I've been with Heirs to Our Oceans since we started five years ago.

Abirami Subramanian 00:25

Hey, everyone. My name is Abi, I'm 14 years old. I'm from Bainbridge Island. And I've also been with Heirs to Our Oceans since it started many years ago. And I'm really excited to be here today representing our organization.

April Peebler 00:38

My name is April Peebler, Executive Director of Heirs to Our Oceans, and we're thrilled to be here and thankful that Edactive and Maureen are having us. This is an ed reform convening, and that is what Heirs to Our Oceans is all about. We recognize that the education system has failed youth, including what we've exported around the world. And it's time to shift that. And it was the youth who identified that when they look at the problems of the climate, the oceans, the waterways, each other, that it really boils down to, for them, from their perspective, an education crisis. So now let's look at the problem. I'm going to share my screen here. Today's institutions are failing to educate youth in solving the crises they face and prepare them to lead through those challenges. That's the biggest component for Heirs to Our Oceans, is recognizing that youth today have a large array of challenges that they're inheriting from us adults in our generation. And there's, there are intersectionality issues and existential issues. And one thing that really jumped out at us as we were processing, this was a quote by the World Bank, just in 2019, that it's not just about learning, through school and through curriculum and through education. It's much more than that. So the quote is, "The world is facing a learning crisis." For the World Bank to recognize that that means it's pretty significant. While countries have significantly increased access to education, being in school isn't the same thing as learning. The productivity of 50%, 56% of the world's children will be less than half of what it could be if they actually enjoyed complete education. And we here at Heirs to Our Oceans would go a step farther and say, it's not just about enjoying it, it's about developing tools for real world change. Heirs to Our Oceans educates, connects and empowers youth around the world and ocean and water protection and climate action. That is, if you put everything in a nutshell, it's right there. But the nutshell is fully loaded. There are a lot of pieces there to unpack. And that's what we'll do here. Our mission is to inspire the next generation of leaders by connecting them in purpose, educating them on the environmental and humanitarian crises they're inheriting, and cultivating



the necessary skills to make real world change. We support errors and realizing solutions to today's global challenges. The vision ultimately, is that all youth understand the world they're inheriting and are capable of creating a healthier, safer world for themselves and future generations. The long term impact? A healthier, safer world for every generation. How do we connect, educate and cultivate youth leaders? Well, our programs are multifaceted, movement building and networking, policy advocacy and actions, and education and empowerment programs. Now, one of the greatest pieces of Heirs to Our Oceans, from my perspective, is that we serve four-fifths underprivileged and most vulnerable in all of our convenings, in all of our summits. We really do understand that not all who should be at the table have been at the table for the last few centuries, if not longer, and that needs to shift. As we look around us and we see the the extent to which humanity is greatly in a crisis on many levels, and that includes natural environment disasters and destruction, that those who hold the most knowledge of traditional knowledge practices and an eco technology and ancient wisdom; those Indigenous peoples need to be at the table. Those who are the most vulnerable and the most marginalized need to be at the table. Right now we're operating with just a fraction of humanity at the table making decisions for everyone and that needs to change. So we are fully committed to fully sponsoring four-fifths youth who are underprivileged and most vulnerable, Black, Indigenous, Persons of Color, at all of our programming and we highly encourage you to do the same. It is not an easy lift, it is philanthropy and fundraising and corporate sponsorship and a lot of lift to make it happen. But we really do encourage everyone in your programming to make that piece happen. That is the differentiation with Heirs to Our Oceans. So now let's look at education empowerment programs. One of our greatest is our youth leadership summit, and we do an array of summits. Our greatest, I would say, is our annual summit for empowerment, action, and leadership, which we'll talk about shortly. But we've organized and facilitate International Youth Leadership summits, which are deep dive intensives; these are not camps. They're deep dive intensives, where ages 13 to 25 come together, crossing barriers, religion, socioeconomic differences, cultural differences, to connect in purpose. They learn about problems they are inheriting, they process solutions together, they learn from each other and expert mentors in theory and in the field, and most importantly, they build together necessary real world skills, for purpose, for purpose of ocean protection, water protection, climate action. Those skills involve public speaking and presenting, policy advocacy, empathetic leadership, digital storytelling and filmmaking, problem solving, critical thinking, creative thinking, and more. And what is the purpose that you've connect around and say, "Okay, I'm going to take that mic and I'm going to give it a go. I'm going to really extend myself, even though I walked into the door and said, 'I'll never speak in front of this group at the microphone.'" But then day 10, they are or day seven, or day four. And this is the key: to have them all connect in purpose on our one water system. This is our one shared home, none of us, no matter where we are, are disconnected from this shared home; we're all connected by the shared home. The water in our faucet, the water in our oceans, that's all the same water. The water in our sky, the water in our placenta in our bodies, that's all the same water on this water planet. And that's where the education failed system fails as well, is it fails to teach water literacy, on top of empathetic leadership, but water literacy. And



so that's where we come in, and we tried to supplement education and connect youth in purpose, so they understand the ocean is connecting them, not dividing them. And how do we tackle some of these real world issues that our blue planet and ultimately humanity is facing? Well, we asked youth, "What is the greatest challenge you believe your generation faces?" This is an example of a common response, which is climate crisis. So we have them kind of peel apart the effects of the climate crisis. What about the climate crisis has you all concerned? And you can see off to the right, all of those arrows, species die off, loss of livelihood, loss of culture, poor health, COVID harms, refugees and displacement of people, loss of natural environment and resources, that one's loaded, fully packed. And then the mental health crises that comes out of all of those more physiological crises, from other species, to ourselves, to our natural environment. But then we don't stop there. Okay, now let's back up, the climate crisis: is that the problem? So then they start peeling off the other direction, and they start looking at, well, what caused the climate crisis? And so this, these are some examples of what have come out of our summits as we asked the youth to workshop this. System allows corporations to buy government officials and lawmakers, that's the US government, for instance, from the youth perspective. Exploitative economic systems and capitalism, no policy for corporate responsibility, there's too much corporate irresponsibility, poor education system, front and center. There's a lack of STEM and Indigenous systems applications for all, or I would say STEAM. Discriminatory policies against women and Persons of Color. Corporations are getting subsidies from government that goes back to the system, the US system. And military is heavily funded and tied to capitalism. And there's a real concern with the youth with regards to militarization and colonialization. So when they start to look at those thoughts around what's caused the climate crisis, then the responses end up being the real problem we need to change is bad governance, or a poor education system. And so that's the type of work that we do with youth that that brings in the intersectionality component, and connects them in purpose, and they workshop this; these are workshop opportunities that we offer at all of our summits. I'm gonna let Cambria who attended SEAL, which is Summit for Empowerment, Action, and Leadership, 2019, we do it every year, one coming up this summer as well, talk about what this internet convening means to her.

Heirs to Our Oceans 10:02

Thank you, April. So like April said, one of our biggest summits, which kind of combines all these skill building opportunities, is SEAL, Summit for Empowerment, Action, and Leadership. SEAL is an opportunity for all youth leaders to be coming together, to be empowered by connecting with each other, by learning about real world issues, and by building the skills they need to take action. At SEAL, we spend time out in the fields with scientists, we learn from each other, we make change through policy, we critically think about solution, spread awareness through films and presentations.

Cambria Bartlett 10:43



So I wanted to give you a little bit of a glimpse to our 2019 SEAL, and one of the workshops or opportunities that we had there. I led a workshop along with some other youth about how to talk to our policymakers. And we also learned about specific bills that were in legislation at the time, that were focused on reducing plastics. And we spent the day learning about that and working together to come up with our pitches, our arguments about the bills. And then the next day, we all drove to Sacramento to talk to our policymakers, which is crazy. I'm sure, or I know that all of the youth were very nervous about it, because they had never done anything like it. But what is incredible is that all 40 of them spoke up about what they were passionate about. And this just really shows the power of youth: if we're given these opportunities to learn and build skills, and then we're really able to use them to make a real world change and a real world difference.

Abirami Subramanian 11:55

Hello again, everybody. So I quickly want to touch upon a word that April mentioned before: a word called convening. Convening it is generally defined as bringing together people for a meeting or activity. The main goal of the convener, who worked to assemble the group, is to identify and bring all legitimate stakeholders to the table in order to participate in a credible and trustworthy discussion. This is exactly what Heirs to Our Oceans sought to do with SEAL 2020, where the stakeholders in our future, us youth, were brought together to collaborate on solutions to the problems that we face. The pandemic that we currently face, SEAL 2020 was adopted into a virtual six week camp that engaged over 40 youth, and 20 crew members from around the world, in developing critical thinking and problem solving skills. There are numerous activities, the attendees were able to discuss a wide variety of topics, including the intersectionality of issues their generation faces, human impacts on their shared water planet, and plastic leadership, connection, and communication. And as a way to sum up all of our learnings, we also broke up into nine teams during the final weeks of the camp to engage in creating nine different films, which will be, which should be submitted to film festivals later on, and I will touch upon that later on in the presentation. Back to you. April.

April Peebler 13:21

Thank you. So I think as you can see, just in listening to Cambria and Abi, us passing the torch in terms of what is it, what is the substance, to the youth to let us know what the substance is; we create the wireframing and the scaffolding, they fill it in, that's where the magic happens. Let them let them create the what and we just drive the bus. So the movement building and networking component. This is really important for Heirs to Our Oceans because it's how we activate, mobilize, inspire others to join in and and support youth education, connection and empowerment. There's many ways in which we do this. One is we form and support youth advisory councils, where youth are ensured a seat at the table, to be part of the policy conversations that shape their world and future. And one thing that we commit to is ensuring that the youth are not tokenized. And I'm not afraid to use that word. It is something that is a real issue we find right, left, and center, and that is not doing them a service, that's doing them a disservice. So we work with youth to create their own working agreement with whatever adult



council they're working with, so that they can engage meaningfully in policy response strategy and planning, they can participate in meetings and communications, and they can contribute to review of and commenting on policy drafts that affect them as the greatest stakeholders. Heirs to Our Oceans is organized and supports the US Youth Advisory Council to the UN Ocean Decade, made up of over 40 youth here, and including US territories or US occupied lands here in the US. And we're also working with youth that came out of our United Nations Oceans Decade youth leadership summit last December, internationally to form their youth advisory councils for their UN Ocean Decade national committees. So it really is an important way for you to have their voices heard, and to movement build, as, as youth come together from around the world for these, or around a nation, for these really important youth advisory councils, and the roles that they play in shaping their futures. Here's a little bit of the real important components: again, they we really push to have them included in communications, and in working sessions, involved in planning and strategy, and to review and comment on any draft document related to policy that affects their future.

Heirs to Our Oceans 15:56

So like April mentioned, we are a part of the Youth Advisory Council for the United Nations National Committee for the Ocean Decade. And with that, we've had a lot of opportunities to engage with world leaders that are making changes to better our oceans, as well as making real world change. And like April was mentioning, these youth advisory councils are really important for us to push for our voices to be heard in policy, because we are truly the greatest stakeholders, and they need to be listening to us before they make these huge decisions that are going to affect us. So I think one takeaway from this also is just like, continue to push for the things that we need, because we have done this a lot to get youth advisory councils. And you can do that, too, if there's legislation or something else in your community, this is totally a doable way for us to be included and part of the change that is being made.

April Peebler 16:57

I'm really glad that Cambria mentioned that this could be done at a local level. This, of course, is National, but absolutely. Heirs have engaged in Youth Advisory positions for the county, for city council, they speak out quite a bit regionally, statewide. So it is really an important component. And for you as the adult in the room, who wants to further their their empowerment piece, their voice, their skill building, and their futures, them taking agency for their futures, to please be the adult support and ensure that they are not tokenized. That's like I can't tell you how often it happens. It happens a lot where where youth are brought in merely as a figurehead. And there's only form no substance. So we encourage all of you to be their support. Education and empowerment programs. As you can imagine, this is a really important piece for us. And this is deep, a deep piece for us. We do direct services, air solutions ensures youth are developing skills to take agency for their futures successfully and are effectively able to amplify their voices for their communities on wide reaching platforms. We talked a little bit about the skill building that we focus on at our summits. We do that also through our focus retreats. In fact, with the



seasoned heirs that we now have who started Heirs to Our Oceans five years ago, Cambria being one of them, she organized, along with three other seasoned founding heirs, a policy advocacy retreat summit that was just focus on policy advocacy. And this was just done in March, three days intensive, and it is real. It is preparing with real bills and being before mock Congress persons, to then attend a Hill day, which is going to speak to lawmakers at, in this case, US Capitol Hill, virtually, of course this year, in April. So it is truly the youth who are now empowered, delivering high level content with adult support around a particular skill being built, this one being policy advocacy, and then putting into real world contexts with actual bills, and then taking it to US lawmakers. So that is the key for us. It's not just building the skills, it's putting it into real world action and letting them be youth leaders today as youth, not beyond college. The one-on-one skill building sessions and tutoring where youth are in need of additional assistance, this is really important to us. There are youth who we've supported, from, from math support, to how to use a camera, to how to open a laptop, to public speaking, presenting, especially for those youth who are highly vulnerable, a particular girl in Uganda comes to mind, and we want to make sure that her voice is heard on an international level. So we've spent a lot of one-on-one time with her at no cost, fully supported. Technology access, we make sure that the youth who wouldn't otherwise be able to have their voices amplified, have laptops, have bandwidth, have internet, including providing, for instance, in youth in Nigeria, we make sure that they have bundles, of internet bundles to that they can access a global stage, cameras. So that's it's so important that we again going back to bringing everyone to the table that we support them so they can get to the table. That's the important piece. It's It's one thing to say, oh, fill in this registration form. No, it doesn't work that way for a lot of these youth in the most vulnerably in the most vulnerable situations. So really encouraging you all to dig deep into how can you really bring all the voices to the table.

Abirami Subramanian 20:49

As I mentioned previously, SEAL 2020 culminated in the creation of nine different films by the camps youth attendees. In order to prepare us for the filmmaking process, Heirs to Our Oceans provided technology skill building sessions, led by our Director of Photography, Mike Potter, where we learned tips and tricks for working with cameras and video software. As a person with prior knowledge, as I had already made a film before like, I attended the camp. I saw many valuable filming techniques that I had learned with experience, being taught in a really simple and clear manner, which was extremely valuable for me. And during the last couple of weeks of the camp is actually when we began to formulate our films. My team, which was team nine, was comprised of my peers, Cambria, Mercy, Serena, and myself, along with our team mentor, Diamond, and our team intern, Chloe. The goal of our film, which is called Youth Misinformed, as you can see on the slide, was to bring attention to areas where both lack of education and misinformation seep into our education system, and impact all of us youth in a detrimental manner. In my film, my team and I discussed one example of this contamination of our education system, through looking into the world of climate education, a world where the quality of information that is shared is tainted by untruth in order to hide the real scope of the climate



issue. And when the youth of my generation are misinformed, they ultimately lack real education on the subject, which is something that we need to consider doesn't apply. This is why, as this film is made by us as the youth of the next generation, we need to discuss a system that majorly impacts our future and the importance of it being coherent for our sake. This is exactly why we made this film. For many of my peers in team nine such as Mercy, who's on the screen right now, this camp also was a brand new skill building experience for her that brought new confidence for her. And with the recognition that our films had, such as two awards, which I'm really grateful for as one of the filmmakers. I'm so proud of how much my team and I grew and what we have been able to accomplish. Back to you April.

April Peebler 22:58

Thank you. So I think that you can probably gather just with Cambria and Abi, the public speaking and presenting skill building opportunities for youth really are important. It allows them to take steps further in their empowerment to effectively engage in shared learning, to spread awareness, to speak to policymakers. It is an absolute keystone of the skill building component of Heirs to Our Oceans. Heirs to Our Oceans really looks at getting youth on to high level panels so that their voices are heard, especially those most vulnerably be situated, present to schools and classrooms, present on main stages and plenary opportunities, and speak on media platforms, to further their advocacy and to raise awareness. And youth inspire youth, so when you combine a relatively new youth to these skills with a youth who's seasoned, it really does, in these summits and in these opportunities, have the person newer and develop new skills, really kind of lean toward giving that stage a go with a mic, as opposed to walk away.

Abirami Subramanian 24:12

Through my time with Heirs to Our Oceans, one of the major things that I've learned about is the importance of public speaking which April just mentioned. For a majority of my life, I've actually been a singer performing classical music from South India. And just like how many of you probably feel, I get really scared when I have to get up on stage and start singing. However, once I do start singing, I fall into a rhythm and nothing else really matters. I tend to focus purely on what I'm singing, and there's, as a result, the way that I deliver my music becomes really powerful and can resonate with many, many people. Know they are two really different skills, performing music and public speaking have many things in common, especially in terms of delivery. When you are on stage and the spotlight is on you, you have been given power that you need to channel to your audience. Heirs to Our Oceans has taught me how to channel this power and through effective public speaking; a skill that can influence the world around me, help me develop leadership skills, and also help me become a go-to person for ideas and solutions. As heirs, I have been able to empower myself through research, knowledge, understanding, and community. And when I get on stage, I find rhythm, just like with music, and I channel the power to my audience. And the audience then formulates their own opinions and ideas. This is what I have learned from Heirs to Our Oceans about the importance of public speaking in our lives today. Back to you, April.



April Peebler 25:39

Thank you. The other, another example, there are many of the actions that Heirs to Our Oceans takes, is policy advocacy, which we spoke a little bit about earlier, especially with Cambria's great story of the youth at our Summit for Empowerment, Action, and Leadership 2019, going to speak to California state lawmakers. Heirs to Our Oceans support youth to influence policy change to protect the planet. So that youth are empowered to meet with lawmakers at all levels, including international, testify before governing bodies about protecting wildlife habitats, water resources, and taking climate action. And today, youth in California, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Uganda, are actually working toward policy change with regards to food, and how food is grown, and raised, regenerative agriculture and Indigenous systems for our environment is a mainstay. And with that, you can imagine the importance of deindustrializing agricultural practices, not only to protect us, as the humans and our oceans, but also to more effectively grow food, considering food insecurity issues. And, and so that's an example of a an initiative, where policy is put into, policy advocacy is put into practice.

Heirs to Our Oceans 26:56

Yeah, and through my experience of Heirs to Our Oceans, this has definitely stood out to me: is how much change we can make with our youth voice through policy advocacy. It's been one of the most empowering, empowering experiences I have had. I have gone to our Capitol multiple times to talk to lawmakers. And through those opportunities, I have built the skills needed. And like April's mentioning before, I and some other youth organized a policy advocacy retreat. And it was because of my experience I had had with Heirs to Our Oceans that I was able to bring that experience to more youth, through peer-to-peer learning. And in the policy advocacy retreat, we were able to get other youth to build these skills and learn about particular bills that are in our legislature right now. So this is definitely a way to apply real world skill building and action.

April Peebler 27:57

Into the international stage, you may be wondering, "Well, on what platform does that take place?" For an example, Children Versus Climate Crisis. There are 16 petitioners from around the world, including Greta Thunberg, who are bringing a petition to the Convention for the Rights of the Child to five most-offensive countries, who signed on to the Convention for the Rights of the Child. The US did not, so the US is not a named respondent. Turkey, Argentina, Brazil, France, and Germany are. So again, 10 of the 16 youth from around the world are not US, again, because US didn't sign in, are petitioners in Children Versus Climate Crisis. And Deborah here, who is a youth in Lagos, who, in Nigeria, had never been a part of a mainstage or a microphone, speaking about the issues that she faces, dire in Lagos, Nigeria, had the opportunity, after building some skills at SEAL, Summit for Empowerment, Action, and Leadership 2019, fully scholarshipped, to be a part of of this petition, just months after SEAL. So going back again, wanting to highlight Deborah, because her voice is so important for



communities like hers that are on the frontlines, with regards to the humanitarian crises that that peoples face on coastlines due to what we've done to our, our natural environment. She now has these opportunities. And so again, going back to you all and and making the plea to make space in your education programs, with full scholarships for youth like this. Movement building and networking. This is super exciting, because this is where youth, again, get out into the world with also their youth-led initiatives. And this is again where all of their important skill building comes into play. They start Heirs to Our Oceans chapters, they engage in youth-led initiatives, they invite friends to IHeirs to Our Oceans summits, they present at Heirs to Our Oceans summits, they organize retreats. They attend high level conferences where they network with government leaders, scientists, policymakers, educators, influencers, and other youth leaders. And a really great example of a youth led initiative, just recently for Earth Day this year, completely youth led, youth organized, youth implemented, youth executed, youth follow up, youth everything, is one in which involves fighting plastic pollution, one sweep and one brand audit at a time. And with that, I'll turn it over to Cambria.

Heirs to Our Oceans 30:42

Yeah, so I'll share a little bit more about this. Heirs to Our Oceans calls it a sweep and a brand audit because we really want to shift the narrative away from the narrative that corporations are pushing onto us. In reality, we can't clean up all the plastic in the environment. We all know this. It's just in too many unreachable places and there's too much of it. This is why we call it a sweep. And during a sweep, we collect a sample of trash, but is then used for a brand audit, where we collected data on the top polluting brands that we find out in the field. So this year, for Earth Day, Heirs to Our Oceans organized a really fantastic event called Operation Global Sweep. And we wanted to engage youth from all over the world to come together, to make change, to hold corporations accountable for their plastic pollution. And we also made it very fun, just like all of our heirs events, we make it engaging, we make it fun, we make it interactive, you can see we made it all secret agent themed, we were all out in the field as agents, collecting evidence for the suspects that are guilty for plastic pollution.

April Peebler 32:07

And maybe the listeners and the viewers can guess, which are the top three polluters that came out of Operation Global Sweep. Throw it into the chat.

Cambria Bartlett 32:16

Yeah. And you can go onto our Instagram to see all those results as well. But I want to share a little bit how that was super successful event. We had youth from all of these places and more, doing Operation Global Sweep, and this just tells, makes success of how we can engage youth to make an actual real world change, even if we're not all together in the same room. And these are the top polluting brands that are found during brand audits globally. We submit all our data to an organization called Break Free from Plastic. It's a coalition that we are a part of. And all the data that we collected during Operation Global Sweep went to them that will go into their



annual report on the top polluting brands. And this is really a way for us to take a real world action: it's going into this report, it's putting pressure on companies. And we were able to connect worldwide.

April Peebler 33:22

So one thing that Cambria really pointed out was, that report that Break Free from Plastic generates, that actually is the basis because they have now identified the worst polluters consistently: Coca Cola, Pepsi Cola, Nestle, Unilever gets in there, Procter and Gamble gets in every year. They now have, after three years of reporting, a basis to create an act, a bill, that was just shared in March, the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act. Highly recommending you have your kids get involved. Dear educators, youth out there, check it out: Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act and make your way to US lawmakers. We're going to be taking it to US lawmakers later this year. And let's stay connected to get your youth engaged and connecting worldwide on this plastic single use, plastic issue by bringing your youth, bringing your classroom. Let's descend upon US corporations through US lawmakers and policies with the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act. Contact us if you'd like to join. We're aiming for around cop 26 so probably November this year, but we'll be letting you know, and at the end here I'll give you our contact information on that. So here's some other examples of initiatives. Like I shared earlier the Rays initiative, regenerative agriculture, traditional ecological farming. Again, these are youth oriented. Cambria really spearheaded a group of youth targeting a, a California plastic reduction bill. She sits on the legislative committee of that group, that group of organizations who are trying to further AB 1080 and SB 54. This was now the last couple of years. Disposable-free Dining Berkeley Ordinance, no more plastics in the Berkeley city, in restaurants. E-waste management regulations. Kentucky youth are really worried about e-waste, so they've been talking to their legislators there for the last couple of years about that issue. Plastic bag ban law. Regulations. And coral safe sunscreen and Palau. That happened a couple years ago with the great efforts of the Palau chapter. And then San Mateo County Climate Ready, that's an example of a local organization, a local group here that really worked to to partner with San Mateo County in getting climate ready here in Northern California. Those are just a few examples of youth led initiatives. And so what does this mean? Well, if we change the education system, to educating, empowering, and connecting youth, then they go out into the world now, as young leaders. Cambria and Abi were 10 and 11 when they were at, speaking to US lawmakers for the first time, back in 2017, if I recall correctly on ages. It's really important that we look at what kids can do now. Let them take agency for their futures. Impacts like this can arise effectively if we do. The founding heirs are now 15 and 16. They're not 25. They're 15 and 16. And this is what's come out, due to their leadership, including a TED talk, including a Nat Geo Young Explorer nomination, including 115 beach in England sweeps, 110 films, 170 awareness-raising and education events, 175 lawmaker and government official events. So if we can come in partnering with youth, connecting with them in in imagining they're at the table with us, at an equitable stance, in furthering their futures, and they have agency in doing so, where there's support, then these things will happen. And Cambria and Abi, there's



not going to be an issue when they go into college. And wonder, "Should I take that path, which is the solution path for my future? Or that path, which is the problem path of my future?" We saw that slide that looked at bad governance and bad education and what comes out of it. If we can have our us understanding much earlier what they're capable of, and understanding the problems, and working together on solutions, there's never going to be an elective issue in university. They're going to be well on their way, as empathetic leaders, to being a part of the solution. So I'll turn it over to Cambria and Abi.

Cambria Bartlett 37:44

Yeah, well, just to wrap us up, we thank you very much for being here. And we hope that you join us in taking this action, join us in our skill building retreats. There are so many opportunities for us all to connect globally to build these important skills, to talk to our lawmakers, to make films, and more. It's always important that we continue to push to get our youth voices to be heard and to take action.

Abirami Subramanian 38:14

Thank you so much for being here today and listening to us. And we're really excited to see you at some of our, possibly some of our events in the future.

April Peebler 38:22

And as we wrap, our upcoming Summit for Empowerment, Action, and Leadership is a two-week intensive this July in Hawai'i, with an Indigenous community in Honokaa. And there are some youth who could use scholarship support, if any of you out there would like to support full college scholarships for these youth, it would be fantastic if you felt it. And if you would like to contact me, there is my number and my email. And again, I can't thank you all enough for the work you're doing to change the education system and for our youth. You're maybe a parent like I am, and what matters most to me is that we all operate as though all youth on the planet are our children and all youth have opportunities to be heard and take agency for their communities. And I look forward to collaborating with you all. Thank you again, Maureen and Edactive for having us.

Cambria Bartlett 39:13

Thank you.

Abirami Subramanian 39:15

Thank you