What a monumental year!

As 2017 began, John Farnam and I were working as Co-CEOs of the organization as we searched for the right person to take over this role. We changed the organization’s name from Share Fair Nation to mindSpark Learning to better communicate the nature of the work being done as the organization evolved. And we conceptualized, designed and built the first-of-its-kind center for educator innovation and collaboration – which also now serves as mindSpark Learning’s headquarters.

Fast forward to year-end. We found the ideal CEO in Kellie Lauth – a former principal, educator and bio-chemical engineer – who has been in the role for seven months. Supported by a talented, dedicated team, Kellie continues to shape the future of mindSpark Learning with fresh thinking and new and refined programming, all with an eye toward the workforce of the future. John Farnam and I continue our involvement with the organization as Secretary of the Board and Board Chair, respectively. We are proud to have inspired and trained over 4,100 educators and thought leaders, this year alone, in mindSpark Learning’s inspiring space.

I am incredibly proud of all that has been accomplished this year, and know that much more lies ahead, thanks in part to the incredible collaboration of our partners, both current and future. I am confident in the mindSpark Learning team – with Kellie at the helm – to continue, full steam ahead.

With gratitude,

Carrie Morgridge
Board Chair

We changed the name to better communicate the nature of the work being done as the organization evolved.
A survey of nearly a million U.S. students, conducted by Gallup, found that only half report feeling engaged in school. That’s right, only half. Engagement levels show a consistent decrease as students get older, bottoming out in 11th grade. If students are not engaged, they do not focus or pay attention – both of which are critical to learning. mindSpark Learning exists to change this, and understands that the most impactful path to doing so is through educators.

I am honored to have joined mindSpark Learning as Chief Executive Officer this year after serving as a member of the Board of Directors and collaborating extensively with the organization as a partner in advancing innovation in education through my previous role as principal of STEM Launch K-8. I am incredibly fortunate to have been able to jump in to this role quickly, expand existing partnerships and form new ones, and, along with my mindSpark Learning team, design additional paths forward to serve our mission, educators, and ultimately students.

The result has been refinement of our existing work, and development of new programs as outlined in this annual report. We are profoundly honored to have impacted over 6,300 educators through professional learning in 2017, and look forward to taking that number higher and higher in 2018 and beyond.

I am profoundly grateful to Carrie and John Morgridge, and John Farnam, for this incredible opportunity to help better engage students by better engaging educators. We know we can’t do this alone – I hope you will consider joining us.

With gratitude and excitement for what 2018 will bring,

Kellie Lauth
Chief Executive Officer

A survey of U.S. students found that only half report feeling engaged in school. Let’s change that.
mindSpark Learning is a nonprofit dedicated to evolving education through educators. We help educators become better engaged and more fulfilled so they can better engage students – which leads to greater student success. So while our work targets educators, it ultimately impacts today’s students and tomorrow’s workforce.

We design and deliver a variety of professional learning and development for teachers and administrators at all levels. We strongly believe in the power of partnership and collaboration, and know that in order to bring real change to the education landscape, we must bring together partners from inside and outside the sector. So that’s what we do.

Ours is not your typical professional learning. And evaluation shows it is working.

“mindSpark Learning is like Tomorrowland for teachers.”
- Peter Droege
Our work falls into four key areas, serving educators and administrators at various levels.

Regardless of the specific program or offering, key attributes of mindSpark Learning drive the design, delivery and outcome of the work. At the core of our organization lies profound respect for the profession of education, and the conviction that creativity and innovation are critical for educators and students alike.
Like students, different educators have different learning styles. So we offer many types of professional learning to choose from, covering a vast array of topics. Core areas of focus throughout our programs are Social Emotional Learning; STEM; Problem-solving frameworks including Design Thinking; and EdTech, which includes our work as the Regional Program Partner with Code.org.

**PLD Experiences at mindSpark Learning:** Highly interactive sessions which range from two hours to two days.

**mindSpark Learning Institutes:** Five-day immersive learning programs covering topics most relevant to education today – a unique combination of work, play and purpose. Participants earn 4.0 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) of transcripted credit through University of Denver. All costs included.

**In-School Consulting:** Customized programs for individuals, schools or districts designed to meet specific needs.

**Online Learning:** Modular learning designed to be completed on an individual’s own timeline, and at their own pace.

“Thank you for believing in the creativity of the teacher... I have never left a PD feeling as inspired as I do now.

- Educator, Pueblo

Whether you have a specific need to solve or mandatory PD days to program, let’s start a conversation to see if we can help. Contact Matt: matt@mymindsparklearning.org or 303 919 8582.
"The power is in the people and their passion that fuels the work. It is felt and appreciated.

-Educator, Denver
STEM jobs will number over 8 million by 2020. Yet there is a severe lack of qualified teachers to prepare today’s students for those jobs. STEMpath will change that.
Our organization has long been a champion for work in the STEM arena. We believe it is more important today than ever.

STEM remains one of our focus areas for professional learning, with a dedicated 5-day Institute and other ongoing work. We are proud to have recently been named an implementation partner for Colorado STEM 2.0 in partnership with Colorado Succeeds, and a charter affiliate for TalentFOUND in connection with the Colorado Workforce Development Council.

Given the increasing need for STEM education and educators – and the lack of qualified teachers to deliver that learning – we have also developed a program we believe will be critical to students, educators, and the future of our workforce. STEMpath is a game-changing workforce development program that allows educators to gain graduate credentials to teach STEM-related subject matter through a non–traditional pathway which combines coursework and in-industry externships. Partners include Metro State University, Couragion, Colorado Succeeds, and others. The program is being piloted in Colorado beginning January 2019, with an eye toward expansion to other states.

We leverage partners from inside and outside the education sector for greater impact.

Leadership Program

EDUCATION ACCELERATOR: NOT YOUR AVERAGE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Education Accelerator is a 9-month program designed for school leadership teams (principals as well as the next generation of leaders in a building) to identify and solve a school’s biggest problem of practice. Based on years of research and proven practice, this unique program leverages learnings and best practices from public and private sector partners outside the education sector, in addition to peer and mentor partners within it.

A few highlights of this cohort-based program:

- A three-day immersive kick-off
- Visits to nationally-recognized schools with other cohort members to leverage learning and gain first-hand resources for potential integration
- Monthly deep-dive sessions throughout the course of the program
- Opportunities for ongoing networking with participants from your cohort as well as others
mindSpark Learning’s headquarters is more than just a building. It’s a place where creativity, collaboration and innovation abounds – an 11,000 square-foot space filled with state-of-the-art furnishings and technology, a makerspace for kids of all ages, and a palpable passion for education.

The space is available for use by educators, schools, districts, nonprofit organizations and for-profit entities, with two large meeting areas and numerous smaller ones.

We are thrilled to have hosted over 4,100 educators and other individuals in 2017, and expect that number to grow significantly in the years to come – at our current location, as well as other locations currently in the planning stages.

To book space: www.mymindsparklearning.org/book-our-space/

What a delight to come to a collaborative work space and have comfy chairs, coffee, cold filtered water… And the staff! They were very friendly, making sure we had what we needed and knew how to access everything available in the building. The state-of-the-art desks, tables, stools, and chairs added to the upbeat, positive atmosphere which made our day so memorable.

- Teacher, Denver
Welcome to the first-of-its-kind center for educator innovation and collaboration.
With each learning event or program we develop, our ultimate goal is impact. Thus, we partner with a third-party research organization to evaluate the impact of our programs over time.

**EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF OUR WORK**

83% applied their learning or had a plan to do so.

92% indicated they are likely or extremely likely to **share their learning**.

90% left our events with the belief that their learning is likely or extremely likely to have a **positive impact on students**.
“I was engaged in learning the whole time... I can only imagine how that kind of learning will impact students. So fun, yet so powerful.

-Principal, Denver

2017 Social Return on Investment (SROI)
Measuring our ultimate impact

If mindSpark Learning did not exist...

6,388 educators would not have been compelled to stay in their profession or ignite their careers, resulting in school performance outcomes remaining stagnant or becoming even weaker than they already are,

thus negatively impacting 104,556 students at an estimated cost of $1.5MM.

What is the cost to date for mindSpark Learning to make the critical impact necessary for our educators and students to thrive?

$380 per educator, $23 per student.

* Cost of teacher attrition and lack of teacher career advancement
LEVERAGE WHAT’S WORKING AND SCALE FOR IMPACT

We know we will not change the education landscape single-handedly, nor would we want to.

We are profoundly grateful to all our partners who make our work stronger and richer, including these organizations with whom we have most recently been collaborating:
What a privilege to work with Colorado Succeeds on The Inaugural Succeeds Prize, where over 700 people gathered to honor what’s working in education today.
WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT

We are profoundly grateful to the individuals, corporations, and foundations that have supported our work. Donations of time, talent and treasure play a crucial role in fulfilling mindSpark Learning’s mission.

Today’s students are our future. Thank you for your commitment to them, through our work.
Interested in getting involved but not sure in what capacity?
Connect with Jeanette: jeanette@mymindsparklearning.org or 720 799 8560.

To donate: mymindsparklearning.org/donation
We are honored by the insights and guidance of our talented and dedicated Board members:

Carrie Morgridge  
Board Chair  
Vice President of Morgridge Family Foundation

John Farnam  
Secretary  
Community Investment Liaison at Morgridge Family Foundation

Anna Edwards  
Vice Chair  
Co-Founder at Whiteboard Advisors

John Bennett, Ph. D  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation Initiatives, University of Colorado Denver

Bridget Coughlin  
Chief Executive Officer at Shedd Aquarium

Denise Gitsham  
Principal at 7 Second Strategies

Geof Rochester  
GRI Consulting, formerly with The Nature Conservancy

Sondra Smith  
Senior Director, Corporate Social Responsibility and Director, Level 3 Foundation
## YEAR ENDED

### Revenue & Support

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue &amp; Support</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation grants</td>
<td>$1,887,200</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$1,937,200</td>
<td>$1,269,300</td>
<td>$390,500</td>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>28,469</td>
<td>119,903</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>In-kind contributions</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>48,638</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>Professional development services</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>53,948</td>
<td>163,959</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>163,959</td>
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<td>Special event revenue</td>
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<td>18,108</td>
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<td>Facility usage revenue</td>
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<td>32,483</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest income</td>
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<td>41</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>Total revenue &amp; support</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>2,118,887</td>
<td>1,553,162</td>
<td>390,500</td>
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<td>1,943,662</td>
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### Net Assets Released from Restrictions

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<th>Net Assets Released from Restrictions</th>
<th>254,701</th>
<th>(254,701)</th>
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<th>-</th>
<th>179,134</th>
<th>(179,134)</th>
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<th>-</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total revenue, support and net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>2,323,588</td>
<td>(204,701)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,118,887</td>
<td>1,732,296</td>
<td>211,366</td>
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### Expenses

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<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Program services</th>
<th>General and administrative</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
<th>Total expenses</th>
<th>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</th>
<th>Net Assets: Beginning of year</th>
<th>Net Assets: End of year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>1,996,409</td>
<td>1,309,743</td>
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<td>$580,139 $(204,701) 0 $375,437 $506,428 $211,366 0 $717,794</td>
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<td>General and administrative</td>
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<td>430,365</td>
<td>273,344</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>34,470</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>357,652</td>
<td>$0 $717,794</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>2,461,243</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2,461,244</td>
<td>1,583,520</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$717,794</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets**

- **(137,655) (204,701)**
- **342,357 148,776 211,366 - 360,142**

**Net Assets: Beginning of year**

- **717,794**

**Net Assets: End of year**

- **$580,139 $(204,701) 0 $375,437 $506,428 $211,366 0 $717,794**

* 2017 Unaudited
455 S. Pierce Street
Lakewood, CO 80226
303.963.5390
mymindsparklearning.org

/mymindspark