# **Reservoir Center** for Water Solutions

**2023 ANNUAL REPORT** 







In 2023, water challenges continued to escalate worldwide. The realities of climate change became even clearer. Communities impacted by floods, drought, emerging contaminants and aging infrastructure collectively asked: What can we do?

Addressing these issues requires changes both big and small — using new technology, updating policies, and making more people aware of the challenges. But to truly solve water, we must move beyond fragmented approaches and simplify how everyone manages and delivers this precious resource.

Reservoir partners comprise an extraordinary group at the center of this essential work. Water challenges are complex. Making it easier to solve them requires collective effort: bringing together water trade associations, policy influencers, think tanks, philanthropic foundations, academic institutions, non-profits, and the private sector.

In 2023 alone, Reservoir partners hosted more than 150 meetings and events at the Center. You convened water experts, delivered career development for new professionals, and catalyzed community cleanups. Together, we set a strong example of the focused collaboration required to make solving water possible.

This collaboration is the heart of meaningful change. Together, we can unite to turn our shared vision for the future of water into a reality.

Sincerely,

#### **Matthew Pine**

President and Chief Executive Officer, Xylem



### **Meet the Team**



Josh Mahan Director, Government and Industry Relations at Xylem Inc.



**Nicole Horvath** Program Manager



Gabriela (Gabi) Castro Site Manager



**Justin Curtis** 



Jonathan (John) Naves Facilities Manager



**Jan Nowak** Youth Outreach



**Kevin Flis** Rising Water Professional Lead

## What's New

In 2023 we made big changes at the Reservoir Center! Joining us this year as our new program manager is Nicole Horvath, an environmental professional with more than 15 years of sustainability education experience.

We've launched a new video series. Voices @ Reservoir, that highlights our partners and the water work their organizations do. These videos help our partners and members of the larger water community familiarize themselves with all the types of work being done to improve water quality and access.

We've also upgraded our community spaces at the Reservoir Center by prioritizing comfortable working and seating areas where guests can collaborate, and we recently launched our new Stories of Water 3D Interactive Hub! This interactive global map features water projects taking place across the world. Best of all? When the hard work is done, Reservoir Center guests can unwind with games and good company that our space provides.



### Thank You To Our Partners





## **Creating Space for Collaboration and Solutions**

#### **Our Mission**

To advance the shared interests of the water sector through collaboration and constructive dialogue to make progress towards overcoming global water challenges.

#### **Our Vision**

To create a world where water issues are no longer a constraint to human health, prosperity, or environmental sustainability.

#### **Our Strategic Pillars**



#### CONVENE

Offer a shared space for collaboration and innovation.



## IDEATE AND DRIVE ACTION

Engage in programs that drive action in the water sector.



## EDUCATE AND ELEVATE

Promote community outreach and watersector education.

#### CONVENE

We hosted **71 events** with more than **3,000 visitors** from around the world for collaboration and innovation.

#### ■ IDEATE AND DRIVE ACTION

We hosted more than **150 meetings**.

#### **↑** EDUCATE AND ELEVATE

over **170 participants**and provided more than **600 hours** of service in our local community.

In its first year, the Reservoir Center has formed a diverse range of partnerships across nonprofits, universities, water trade associations, think tanks, youth engagement organizations, local riverkeepers, and international entities.

Located at 301 Water Street, along the banks of the Anacostia River in Washington, near DC's Navy Yard, the Center is a catalyst for solutions. It provides event, work, and meeting space to raise awareness, eliminate barriers, and advance the collective interests of all segments of the water sector. Our success is guided by pillars of convening, generating actionable ideas, and educating communities.





## **Our Impact**

**CONVENE** 

Jan. 18, 2023

**Marketing and Communications in Water** 

We hosted water sector marketing and communications professionals. Participants worked at the Reservoir Center for the day, enjoyed lunch, networked with peers, met colleagues, and learned about new trends in the field. Travis Loop, founder and host of waterloop, and Pat Sinicropi, Executive Director of the WateReuse Association, spoke.

CONVENE

Feb. 16, 2023

**Themed Work Day: Data Science** 

We held a Data Science in Water themed work day at the Reservoir Center! Data science enthusiasts engaged in discussions, networking, team building, and lunch. Members from Anacostia Riverkeeper, World Resources Institute, Internet of Water Coalition, and Xylem were in attendance.



April 27, 2023

**Run Blue** 

A team of runners joined Mina Guli, water advocate and ultra marathon endurance runner. for an informative and actionpacked afternoon to Run Blue together in Washington, D.C. Participants ran and walked along the Anacostia River, tackling water pollution by picking up trash along the way. **CONVENE** 

June 20, 2023

**Integrating Water and Transportation Infrastructure Decision-Making in the Climate Change Era** 

We hosted a thoughtprovoking event about integrating resilient water into transportation decision-making to enhance climate resiliency. Attendees learned about the importance of heightened stakeholder collaboration, open communication, and access to updated data.

**■ IDEATE AND DRIVE ACTION** 

Sept. 8, 2023

**Kayaking River Cleanup** ® Kingsman Island

In partnership with Living Classrooms and the district's Department of Energy & Environment, we hosted an evening of kayaking and cleanup on the Anacostia River. Kayaks were used to remove a lot of trash and gathered data crucial to informing policy and education focused on reducing litter that washes into the river.











## **Our Impact**

**EDUCATE AND ELEVATE** 

Sept. 21, 2023

Innovation and Access:
Water Solutions for
Underserved Communities

To improve water access for underserved communities, we hosted an event with water experts and federal agencies about the Biden Administration's \$200 million investment in technical assistance to communities to improve access to water. Attendees learned about investment in human capacity within communities, infrastructure, engineering, technology, and the need for human-centered design for water projects.





Sept. 26, 2023

**Reservoir Center Movie Night** 

We held a night at the movies! It was a fun and informative evening filled with impressive films and great networking. The movies screened were water-focused documentaries "Upstream, Downriver" and "A River Out of Time."





## **Programs**

## "Year of Impactful Initiatives" for Youth and Rising Water Professionals

The Reservoir Center supports two unique programs—the **Youth Program** and **Rising Water Professionals**—to drive our mission of positive change in the water sector. The Youth Program engages young people from around the world in events that facilitate dialogue, education, and connection in solving the world's water challenges. Our Rising Water Professionals are early- to mid-career, water-passionate individuals who represent a cross-functional, diverse, and inclusive community to address local, national, and global water challenges.

Through strategic collaboration, community engagement, and education, program participants have not only created awareness and sought justice, but they have also

inspired and elevated the next generation of water professionals. As we reflect on these accomplishments, we look forward to another year of continued growth and influence in our pursuit of a sustainable and just future for all.

In 2023, we hosted several events this year to support our Youth Program and Rising Water Professionals and drive our pillars: Convene, Ideate and Drive Action, and Educate and Elevate. The events provided diverse platforms for learning, networking, and inspiring the next generation of water professionals. They demonstrated the multifaceted nature of the water sector, encouraging individuals with various skills and interests to contribute positively. Below are some examples of these empowering events.









**■ IDEATE AND DRIVE ACTION** 

March 30, 2023

Careers for Change Series: "Environmental Justice and Equity"

Objective: Creating awareness, seeking justice, taking action

Environmental degradation and climate change effects fall first on under-resourced, and often minority, communities. We hosted an event with Maura Jarvis, a communityfocused communications specialist, who shared her career journey and encouraged college students and rising professionals who attended to envision solutions to environmental challenges. Participants met with a diverse group of experts who lead environmental justice efforts in their communities and drive equity and inclusion in their organizations. Attendees gained new knowledge of how they can contribute their time, energy, and skills to support marginalized communities in a just transition.

**CONVENE** 

May 4, 2023

"May the Fourth Be With Water": Rising Water Professionals Happy Hour at Hook Hall

Objective: Building connections; fostering a community of young water professionals

Young water professionals with diverse water interests came together for a happy hour at Hook Hall. The event provided a platform for networking and building relationships, and it encouraged involvement and engagement in the attendees' respective communities. It was wonderful to see so many water professionals reconnecting with old friends, making new connections, and expanding a community of fun and eager water professionals.

**↑** EDUCATE AND ELEVATE

Oct. 27, 2023

**Work in Water Open House** 

Objective: Education and community engagement; inspiring the next generation of water professionals

The Work in Water Open House welcomed more than 40 D.C. public high school students and volunteers representing an array of our partners, water sector professionals, and local water service providers. The event helped students understand water challenges in their communities and allowed them to meet the people working to solve them. Students rotated through 10 activity stations—ranging from digital water management challenges and water tower builds to mentorship with local university students—designed to open their eyes to the world of water.





## **Building A Community,** One Drop At A Time

Don't Take it From Us, **Hear it From Them** 

The Reservoir Center is an amazing place for people to come together to convene, to share ideas and innovate, and really just to network with each other and support each other. [It's a place tol leverage each other's expertise to create bigger and better ideas."

#### **Paula Conolly**

Director of Local Engagement and Senior Advisor for Distributed Infrastructure, US Water Alliance

It's a very unusual thing to have a venue like this that is dedicated to [water] issues. And let's face it, there really isn't anything more central to life and health and the economy than ensuring safe, reliable water and sanitation. Having a center dedicated to water issues is so needed."

#### **Cynthia Koehler**

**Executive Director, WaterNow Alliance** 

It's incredible to be a part of the **Reservoir Center** to find and meet new people, have opportunities to develop solutions together, and really find a future for water sustainability and access for all."

#### **Kabir Thatte**

Vice President, Policy & External Relations, Dig Deep

[The Reservoir Center is in] a beautiful area right on the waterfront where all the different affiliate groups, including NACWA, can bring their members, host events, and create essentially ... the best practices that will help shape the water sector going forward."

#### **Adam Krantz**

Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)

#### **What Our Partners Are Saying**



Watch Testimonials on Voices from the **Reservoir Center** 

## **Social Media Snapshots**









