

BridgeUSA at Berkeley VOICE Grant Updates 2020

August

- Recruitment
 - We held two info-sessions and participated in club fairs to boost our presence at Berkeley and inspire students to join us. Grant funding was used for paid advertisements on social media, and we had about 20 new people in each info-session, and selected nine new officers.
- Navigating COVID-19 Panel
 - We moderated a discussion with 9 other clubs on campus to discuss plans for the semester and how to work together to create a vibrant online community. The attendance was about 20 people, and grant funding was used for social media advertising.

September

- COVID-19 and Health Equity: Addressing Racial Disparities
 - This was a panel discussion and Q&A with Dr. David Ansell and André Chapman. There were about 25 people at this speaker panel/discussion.
- Understanding Your Vote
 - We partnered with ASUC EAVP Vote Coalition and BerkVotes to create an informational meeting about California's propositions, and around 20 people joined us.

October

- 2020 Berkeley Mayoral Debate
 - We hosted the City of Berkeley mayoral debate with The Daily Californian and candidates Jesse Arreguín, Wayne Hsiung, and Aidan Hill. There was a great turnout with about 80 people tuning into the live Zoom and currently 345 views of the recorded debate.

We used VOICE grant funding for live captioning services to increase accessibility, bought ads in two local newspapers and social media sites, and posted flyers in local grocery stores. We really wanted all citizens of Berkeley to hear about, watch, and participate in the debate and not just UC Berkeley students.

- Berkeley City Council District Debates for Districts 2, 3, 5, and 6
 - We hosted city council debates for four days with ASUC EAVP and all of the candidates. The recorded debates garnered anywhere from 125 to 260 views.

Funding was used for social media marketing.

- The Future of SCOTUS
 - This was an internal discussion on the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett. There were about 15 people who participated.
- Voter Suppression in the Modern Era
 - In conjunction with New Voters at Berkeley and ASUC EAVP VoteCo, we talked about voter registration policies, implications, and both past and current instances of voter suppression. There were about 25 people in attendance.

November

- Election Watch Party
 - This was an internal watch party and discussion about the election process on election night.
- Burst Your Bubble: Post-Election Forum
 - Burst Your Bubble was organized by the national BridgeUSA organization and A Starting Point. It was one of the largest post-election student gatherings on Zoom, where over 350 people tuned in to hear from lawmakers on College Affordability and the Electoral College, and engaged in moderated discussions on topics such as mail-in voting, the issue of partisanship in our politics, and more. Some of our trained members moderated breakout rooms in one section of the event.
- The Need for Post-Election Bipartisanship
 - We hosted two former members of Congress, Mary Landrieu (D-LA) and Jeff Denham (R-CA), in a discussion on their thoughts on the current political climate, as well as how it has changed since their time in office. Students directly asked questions and it was a very successful event, with productive conversation and high participation from the approximately 45 participants.
- Reflecting on the 2020 Election
 - We co-hosted this discussion with the ASUC Sexual Violence Commission, and created a safe environment to talk about the challenges that arose from an election where both candidates have had sexual assault allegations made against them. There were about 15 attendees.