

I.AM ROBOTICS

Created by will.i.am in 2009, the i.am Angel Foundation supports students living below the poverty line in his hometown neighborhood of Boyle Heights/East Los Angeles and beyond to provide access to after-school tutoring, STEAM courses, robotics clubs and computer coding classes.

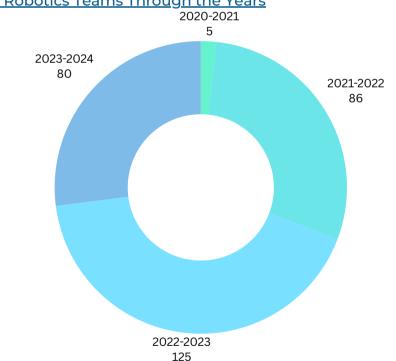
"Every school has a basketball court and many have football fields, but only two businesses benefit from these skill sets, and it's mostly for boys," will.i.am said. "Football is great, but my niece will never play for the NFL. With robotics clubs, boys and girls can learn valuable STEM skills and how to work in teams – knowledge that helps secure college scholarships and, eventually, high-paying jobs. With FIRST Robotics, every child can be a winner in school, work and in life. My mission is to put a robotics club in every public school, and we are off to a great start with this new program in Los Angeles."

LAUSD PARTNERSHIP

LAUSD partners with will.i.am and i.am Angel Foundation to bring robotics programs to Los Angeles public schools. In 2019, there were 160 FTC teams that competed in the Southern California League (which includes LA County, Orange County, Riverside, and parts of the Valley). Out of 160 teams, only 5 teams were associated with LAUSD schools.

In June of 2021, the i.am/Angel Foundation and the Los Angeles Unified School District partnered together to announce an initiative to create robotics teams for over 400 LAUSD middle and high schools. In 2021-2022, the pilot year of the i.am Angel x LAUSD FTC partnership, a total of 86 teams competed in the LAUSD league, for a total increase of x17.2 or 1,620% from 2019. 2022-2023 64.

Additionally, because the LAUSD had such a significant number of teams, it merited the creation of its own League. In comparison, in 2021-2022, there were 125 teams that competed in the Southern California League. If the 162 LAUSD teams that registered had actually completed the season, the LAUSD League would outnumber the entire rest of Southern California.



LAUSD FTC Robotics Teams Through the Years

This initiative was first of its kind in creating and implementing robotics teams for a major metropolitan public school district at scale. Given that Los Angeles Unified is the second largest public school district in the United States, this was no small feat.

i.am/Angel Foundation worked in partnership with FIRST Robotics, an international robotics competition for K-12 students, to roll out robotics kits to schools and provide professional development training to teachers. Working together, we created a tournament structure for students across the LAUSD to compete with the robots they built and programmed from scratch.

I.AM ROBOTICS IMPACT

LAUSD demographics: 73.4% Latino, 7.5% African American, 80% Student enrollment qualify for free or reduced lunch. Students from these backgrounds lack access to STEM opportunities and resources. That's why It's important for these programs to succeed, so students to be represented at STEM events and activities

LAUSD does not have a district wide robotics league. With this being the 2nd largest district in the nation, this program is a "first of its kind"

FTC in Los Angeles: In 2019, there were 5 registered LA Unified schools out of 160 teams in LA. In 2021, 86 LA Unified FTC teams competed in the pilot season. That's a growth of 1620%

Over 900 students participated in the LA Unified FIRST Robotics pilot season

Over 200 students attended the in-person LAUSD FTC Los Angeles Championship Tournament

Rancho Dominguez Preparatory School: Located in Long Beach, CA, this 6th-12th grade school participated in robotics for the first time. Offering engineering courses for students, it was the perfect program to expand on STEAM learning. As a rookie robotics team, Rancho Dominguez was on the winning alliance for the LA Unified Regional Championship, making them the inaugural champions for the FTC x LAUSD robotics program.

"I wanted to join Robotics because I have an interest in engineering as a career. I would like to continue doing LAUSD robotics just because it's a very fun experience. I think the program is great for anybody regardless of their interest in engineering or STEM, and I wish that I could've been exposed to this program sooner." - Leilani, RD Robotics Student

"FIRST Robotics in LAUSD was a great opportunity for Rancho Dominguez Preparatory School. It was exciting to see our team collaborate, work together, build together, to learn from one another and grow throughout the program. We would definitely like to continue with LAUSD robotics." - Keri Lew, Rancho Dominguez Prep Principal



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Contact Us

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