YEAR OF (RE)BUILDING

2022 ANNUAL REPORT
THE MISSION
Through personal development and hands-on learning in a
Prodigy enterprise, young adults build a foundation of
mindsets and skills for sustainable lives, economic mobility
and, most importantly, to go forth and enrich their city.

THE MODEL
Prodigy hires young adults from northeast Denver into a
paid apprenticeship in one of our two coffeehouses. Here
they discover their own inherent greatness while learning
to run a craft coffeehouse. The apprenticeship is a 12-18
month experience, designed by educators, of deep work
and deep learning in a culture of healing. From healing
in community together, these prodigies are the next
generation of leaders this city wants and needs.

PRODIGY
VENTURES
Twenty twenty two. A year of release for me personally. A year of change and a year of self-reflection for the organisation. Thank you for opening this Annual Report. Thank you for caring. We reached this report to share the impact of this beautiful and complex social enterprise approach. It is inordinate generosity and care more importantly for you to meet the people that make it thrive, and feel good to feel how deeply it is behind the scenes. Let’s do this...

Twenty twenty two is the year I decided to step down from Prodigy. Below is a portion of the letter I wrote in November 2022 to the Prodigy community about my decision. It’s time to rethink.

Friends and Family, Lorens and Supporters of Prodigy:

I am writing today to share the news that I have decided to step down from Prodigy. I can’t hardly believe it, but it’s true. And good...

Why am I stopping now? The simple explanation is “It’s time.” And I just know it with all my being.

After eight years of thinking, breathing, eating, sleeping, and talking non-stop about Prodigy, it is simply time. This gorgeous, joyful, holy, wild experiment in creating space for young adults to step into their prodigious greatness has been the honor of my life. And now that Prodigy is all grown, it is time to release it. To release it into the next level / phase / era of endless possibility. With a knowing that Prodigy is ready for this.

We’ve been tested over and over and over again. And we’ve weathered whatever has been thrown at us. We’ve survived pandemics, recession, violence, heartache, trauma and all around us. We’ve survived our own nation, with a leader who had never led before, a founder who had never founded before, craftswomen and warriors who had never crafted before, and a crew of random young people who had never been a crew before...

...and, we’ve weathered it with the most country-cultural thing you could imagine right now: turning toward each other and believing in each other: By banding together, despite the Chaos around us, in a steadfast faithfulness. A faithfulness in the love of our country and the love and professional greatness inside each one of us. A faithfulness in humanity. In people. In each other.
We embrace this notion of “spiritual hospitality,” where we give each other permission to focus on and commit to and be curious about and to be changed by this call to create space for people to be fully and authentically themselves.

And the crazy part is it has worked. Prodigy is not just ready. It’s not just grown. It is a vibrant, resilient, and even essential, part of this city now. It is, with you all a part of it, has cracked this city wide open. In these years, you’ve helped us raise over $25M in coffeehouse sales, open a second shop and pay $1.2M directly to apprentices in wages and tips. You’ve helped us train 200 young adults and hire 100 apprentices who have built a foundation of skills and mindset to experience economic mobility. But more, because I was the same leaders and lovers, we who need in this city. The type of leaders who, despite their proximity to and experiences of isolating systems, they choose spiritual hospitality, who value craft, who have become independent learners, use their voices in loving, respected, responsible ways to build the city we want and need.

Will Prodigy be ok? Oh Hell Yes it will. This is one of the biggest “Oh Hell Yes” of my life. I mean, we have an insane core Leadership team that’s here to stay, full of spiritual magic and wise beyond their years truth-telling generosity. With a powerful emerging leadership council who have also been living, working, learning, modeling and emitting spiritual hospitality for years. We have an amazing Board of Directors, with diverse life experiences and careers, almost all of whom will grow Prodigy, who know how to lead through listening to the right voices, through curiosity and with courage.

And, Prodigy has apprenticeship. The city, the world needs them right now. They have a unique gift that no other human on the planet has. And it deserves to be cultivated, shared and honored. Apprentices are the soul of Prodigy, and the soul of this city. And to be, no more, the courageous, open-hearted, wise souls agar.

And importantly, you have you—the heart of the community, who have wrapped your arms around us and over and over again. Even after you come into the shop and it took 12 minutes to get your last order that time. Even after you didn’t hear us for months on end, or weren’t thank you proper even for your generosity. Despite it all, you have all accompanied us to today. You, the community around and within us, have made us. And, your support and generosity will weather Prodigy through this transition as well. You’re not going nowhere.

So, will Prodigy be ok? It’s a clear “Oh Hell Yes.” Not only will we be ok, but my transition is an opportunity. It’s an opening of bigger possibilities for each apprentice, for the organization, and for this city.

Oh, by the way. Isn’t really going anywhere anywhere? I might not work for Prodigy in a year, but I do live four doors down from the Gliderick shop (I’m really hoping for a lifetime discount on carrots and tortas). So, yeah, I’ll be around, I mean, just as I always will have Prodigy inside of me, woven into the being that I was and the being that I will transcend into over time. I will also always be for a part of Prodigy, cheering alongside you as you cheer Prodigy on.

In gratitude to you for sharing this one wild and precious life with you, and with Prodigy.

Shep
THE OVERVIEW

2022 IMPACT AND OUTCOMES

* 90% of Apprentices

INCREASED EARNING POWER
We’re not just interested in apprentices getting a job after Prodigy. We’re successful if they are confident in their skills and abilities, use their voices to articulate their stories and build a career that inspires them. Apprentices increase earning power by building technical skills, earn industry-recognized certifications, and promotions. As a result, they graduate with the ability to earn a living wage and be leaders in their homes, communities and workplaces.

* 93% of Apprentices

BUILT TRANSFERABLE SKILLS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ECONOMY
At Prodigy, we measure our ability to equip youth with those skills using the Essential Skills and Dispositions framework from the National Center for Innovation in Education. It includes measures of Communication, Collaboration, Creative problem-solving, and Self-direction.

* 76% of Apprentices

INCREASED SOCIAL CAPITAL
Our research shows that building social capital, or ties that cross groups, are important for overall economic mobility. Understanding the assets in your community, how to leverage them, and increasing your community may be more powerful for economic growth than your education or work experience. At Prodigy, we intentionally design the apprenticeship to include activities that increase apprentices’ social capital and sense of belonging.

* 65% of Apprentices

EXPERIENCED HEALING
We understand that economic mobility cannot happen from increasing earning power and skills alone. Personal and cultural identity development and healing from inequitable systems is necessary to thrive. At Prodigy, apprentices engage in mental health and wellness, like healing circles, identity-based groups, and therapy. They study power, oppression, and liberation. They can attend therapy. They use their voices to change leadership and shape the culture in the shops for cementers and employees alike.
In addition to the elements on this timeline, we have built four key learning science components into Prodigy’s model. This is how we tap into the innate desire to engage deeply in learning and work:

Time on task and deliberate practice: Mastery requires deliberate practice. At Prodigy, assignments work and levels are set at an average of 1 hour per level (from student teacher ratios).

Clear, relevant, and engaging success milestones: Learning requires setting clear standards and providing scaffolded teaching to help learners achieve success.

Generative feedback: This is the key to Prodigy’s effectiveness. Young adults learn that feedback is at their service. At Prodigy, feedback is immediate, displayable, and essential part of everyday learning.

Community of spiritual/linguistic: All these learning strategies exist within a culture of spiritual hospitality. We create spaces for people to be authentically themselves.

In the overview of the trajectory:

**APPRENTICE TRAJECTORY**

**PRE-APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING**

Young adults can be introduced to foundational standards and skills for success in the workplace during a summer intensive. Weekly programs order to ready apprentices for success in a workplace-embedded way.

**BARISTA LEVEL I**

Apprenticeships in the learning framework begin. Their learning follows the Barista 1 Certification, which introduces the basic building blocks upon which apprenticeship can be built. This includes:

- Barista Skills
- Coffee Roasting Skills
- Coffee Marketing
- Product Mixology
- Professional Responsibilities

Apprenticeships work with their supervisors within small groups with the Director of Professional Learning and Development Manager to achieve the first significant milestone.

**LEADERSHIP MINDSET**

Apprenticeships learn leadership development and the importance of the Prodigy community.

**PEER LEARNING TEACHING**

Apprenticeships are more involved in teaching as a social network with their peers. Peer teaching is transformative skill that requires not only understanding of the learning process but also ability to adapt to different learners and teaching strategies for different pedagogues.

**MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS**

We believe Mental Health and Wellness is critical to a work and learning space. Apprentices are trained on how to identify the signs of stress and burnout. From there, we practice in a weekly setting to develop the skills, practice, and support that we might provide to others. 

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT MODULES**

Apprenticeships are given access to core professional development modules such as, Coffee & Culinology, Promotional Custom and Brand Identity, Sustainability, Finance and Operations, Catering and Events, Coffee Bar, Caterer Management, Social Responsibility, Food & Wine, Financial Literacy, Work Life Skills 101, and Leadership Skills.

**SCA CERTIFICATIONS**

Apprenticeships become certified by the Specialty Coffee Association. An internationally recognized organization that offers barista certification for coffee professionals.

**JOB DEVELOPMENT TRAJECTORY**

Young adults can benefit from the learning experience outside the shop through various internships, job shadowing, externships. These activities include the development of resumes, interviews, and job application.

**GRADUATION**

Apprentices gain the ability to secure meaningful employment in their community. Graduates continue to serve as mentors for Prodigy’s staff and resources externally.

The organization PRODIGY EDUCATION was created by a team of educators in Denver, Colorado, on the conviction that the city’s next great contributors are already here: the young adults just beyond our periphery, those disconnected from our institutions.

The PRODIGY EDUCATION Model of Learning is a unique approach to adult education that focuses on the development of essential skills through a combination of apprenticeship, peer learning, and professional development. This model is designed to empower young adults to achieve their full potential and contributes to the overall health and prosperity of the community.

The PRODIGY EDUCATION Model of Learning is built on the belief that every young adult has the potential to contribute to society and make a positive impact. By providing a supportive and inclusive environment, the model encourages participants to develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their personal and professional lives.

The PRODIGY EDUCATION Model of Learning is not just about education; it is about creating a community of learners who support and inspire each other. It is a place where young adults can find their voice, develop their passions, and make a meaningful contribution to their communities.

The PRODIGY EDUCATION Model of Learning is designed to be flexible and adaptable, allowing participants to choose their path and pace of learning. It is a model that is rooted in the local context and is designed to meet the needs of the young adults it serves.

The PRODIGY EDUCATION Model of Learning is an opportunity for young adults to discover their interests, develop their skills, and build their confidence. It is a model that prepares them for the challenges of the future and empowers them to make a difference in their communities.
THE PEOPLE

MEET THE APPRENTICES
AND THE MANAGERS IN TRAINING

WE ASKED THE APPRENTICES — NOT WHAT AM I BUILDING RIGHT NOW?
AALIYAH
COMRADE: 26
NEIGHBORHOOD: LAKESIDE
2022 was a year of new beginnings and a fresh start. I got new opportunities and started creating my own new beginning. I am building off of the knowledge I already had and adding to it all the time. Also, I am growing as a person while I am learning. Both with the people I work with and on my own. I have become a great leader and in math teacher to be one, too.

ALEX
COMRADE: 25
NEIGHBORHOOD: SUNNYSIDE
The year of 2022 was the year of self-love and self-comfort of amazing stories to come. Having high standards and goals for myself, 2022 was the year when I live as a person and as a leader. I had self-determination and leadership. I wanted to be a person I knew I can do something I set my mind to. It was a good year. I was very focused and happy with the way I was planning my life. I kept my ambition high and I didn’t let anything stop me. I built my reputation as the person who always gives 100% and is never afraid to ask questions. This is the year I was able to achieve those goals. It’s building moments in response upon actions or decisions in a different manner. I continued building myself physically and mentally. Physically, I began an active and healthy lifestyle that gave me rest and body energy. Mentally, I am much more mentally active and learning about new skills, advice, and learning.

ALONZO
COMRADE: 29
NEIGHBORHOOD: ELYRIA
2021/22 were big years of growth for me. A lot of ups and downs. I was very, very, very happy when being born was a highlight. But a lot of lows last year. One hardship after another. Consistently in having things go just like planned and through them. It pushed me to be a better person. To work hard I needed to find happiness in myself. I have been working hard to improve my grades. I went back to the drawing board and started building a new foundation for myself. I’m on a mission to achieve those goals. I’m building moments in response upon actions or decisions in a different manner. I continued building myself physically and mentally. Physically, I began an active and healthy lifestyle that gave me rest and body energy. Mentally, I am much more mentally active and learning about new skills, advice, and learning.

AUTUMN
COMRADE: 20
NEIGHBORHOOD: CLEVELAND
When I found Prodigy in 2022, it changed my life. I gained a new perspective on how I want my future to be. I found myself. I’m working, I’ve made awesome new friends. Going back to PHS with my sister it was a good feeling. Spending time with my dog. Reminiscing figured out during camp. I’m a working on being more patient and open-minded. Right now, I’m building new connections with my family. Going back to school this year and going to try to stick with it.

CISCO
COMRADE: 26
NEIGHBORHOOD: CLEVELAND
2022 was a year of changes and adjustments.Highlight was Prodigy for me. Graduating high school. Meeting new people. Prodigy made me realize that no matter what happens you always need to take care of yourself and your business. Building new connections whatever for the future. I got the house of my dreams. Right now, I’m building my relationship with others. There’s diversity among my friends and I am learning to connect deeper. Being around others has helped me to build myself because I figure out what I like and don’t like.

DEACO
COMRADE: 29
NEIGHBORHOOD: A.E.A. NOT W. TOAST
2022 was about getting money. It motivated me to work even harder for myself. I’m not in it for the people. Building up to me to be in a better place in the next year. Right now I’m getting my money up to touch 150 million. I’m trying to build up my social network.
ELSA
CONSORT: 27
NEIGHBORHOOD: CLAYTON

2022 was about practicing being grateful and learning to my body more. I’m building to always have the mindset to take a break. “There is no need to go anywhere,” being a focus. Working on being grateful with myself.

ERYC
CONSORT: 26
NEIGHBORHOOD: CAP HILL

In 2022 I’m feeling the growth and strength. I didn’t know I had in me. Living back in school, working my way up to shift hard, learning about myself. These experiences have helped me see. I still have a future. The growth I’m feeling is present. Starting back at school for psychology and building business skills here, I know my future is ahead, and learning how to grow with every challenge that comes my way.

HALLA
CONSORT: 24
NEIGHBORHOOD: BARNUM

2022 was about finding the growth and strength. I didn’t know how strong I was. Living back in school, working my way up to shift hard, learning about myself. These experiences have helped me see. I still have a future. The growth I’m feeling is present. Starting back at school for psychology and building business skills here, I know my future is ahead, and learning how to grow with every challenge that comes my way.

JULIAN
CONSORT: 24
NEIGHBORHOOD: COMMERCE CITY

2022 was extremely hard, from the beginning to the end. But the most important thing for me to do is that I am alive and trying my best in life and for my family. 2022 broke me down, but I had to rebuild myself. And that I mean to rebuild myself, that I had to take everything I’ve been trying from my parents. I’m feeling the growth. I’m feeling the strength. 2022 was about learning, growing and moving forward.

MALENI
CONSORT: 26
NEIGHBORHOOD: MONTBELLO

2022 taught me being able to stay strong in what hard things happened. Finding myself was a highlight. This gives me a more optimistic point of view. Given me a sense of responsibility that I don’t have to be a rich. Right now, I am building my mental health and confidence. I’m building my strength and finding my purposes. I have learned that I can’t do it alone, I can’t catch myself and I can’t be with myself. I can’t catch myself and I can’t be with myself. I can’t catch myself and I can’t be with myself.

RAFAEL
CONSORT: 27
NEIGHBORHOOD: CLOBEVILLE

2022 was transition from being a kid to being an adult. I graduated high school, got a job and started transitioning to adult life. It’s a thinking process of what I’m gonna do next. In high school, you show up everyday and do your thing, whereas in the workplace, you’re responsible for your own work and your own time. Right now, I’m building a career and a place where I can feel your peace. I’m moving up in my life. Finding peace in what I’m doing with my life and how I’m gonna do it.
In 2012, I felt caught up to myaker time for myself and do the things we enjoy every chance we get. I finally moved enough for my first truck, and GRADUATE. Which backfired, but I was starting to feel stable enough to accept I was going in the right direction. I'm building my professional and personal connections. I'm making sure space for myself instead of just going with it. That's building. I'm building children. I'm learning how to work with others. I've been pushed here, but I am starting to push myself. That's the mentality.

2021 was a year of change and growth. My daughter was born in June 2021. It was a very challenging time, but I'm feeling free. I built a lot of friendships. I felt very social in 2021. I was involved in a lot of things, and I met a lot of people. I'm feeling free. I'm building my connections. I'm making space for myself instead of just going with it. That's building. I'm building children. I'm learning how to work with others. I've been pushed here, but I am starting to push myself. That's the mentality.

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NAYELI DIMAS  
MANAGER IN TRAINING YEAR 2  
COMPANY: 18  
NEIGHBORHOOD: SWANSEA-ELYRIA

A constant state of iteration. Fixed lessons learned and core competencies made, like traveling to the stars, now known. SV Cars, New shop + responsibilities, Pride week. Being bold is like allowing change. It’s never too late to believe in yourself and the world you can create. My role is to challenge the status quo, create new career opportunities, bring joy and purpose and improve the lives of the people I am implementing new trainings. Right now, I am building a foundation for my future. I am building foundations for my future.

ERIONNA TOVAR  
MANAGER IN TRAINING YEAR 1  
COMPANY: 16  
NEIGHBORHOOD: NORTH EAST DENVER

2022 was a year of evaluation and perseverance. It was like a constant state of iteration. Fixed lessons learned and core competencies made, like traveling to the stars, now known. SV Cars, New shop + responsibilities, Pride week. Building is like allowing change. It’s never too late to believe in yourself and the world you can create. My role is to challenge the status quo, create new career opportunities, bring joy and purpose and improve the lives of the people I am implementing new trainings. Right now, I am building a foundation for my future. I am building foundations for my future.

MALINDA MEDINA  
MANAGER IN TRAINING YEAR 1  
COMPANY: 15  
NEIGHBORHOOD: FIVE POINTS

2022 was a year of evaluation and perseverance. It was like a constant state of iteration. Fixed lessons learned and core competencies made, like traveling to the stars, now known. SV Cars, New shop + responsibilities, Pride week. Building is like allowing change. It’s never too late to believe in yourself and the world you can create. My role is to challenge the status quo, create new career opportunities, bring joy and purpose and improve the lives of the people I am implementing new trainings. Right now, I am building a foundation for my future. I am building foundations for my future.

A GRADUATE'S RETURN TO PRODICY

ERIONNA TOVAR

APPRENTICESHIP DATES: Oct 2020 - Dec 2021
EMPLOYMENT ROLES AFTER PRODICY GRADUATION:
After-School Art Program Director, Scholars Unlimited  
Barista, Cherry Creek Coffee  
Ric Center Assistant, Berrendo Collective
CURRENT ROLE: Manager in Training (MTI), Prodigy Ventures  
MANAGER IN TRAINING DATES: Aug 2022 - Present
EDUCATION: Junior at Metropolitan State University of Denver  
PROGRAM: Bachelor of Science in Human Services, High Risk Youth Studies concentration

Why did you choose Human Services, High Risk Youth Studies program for your bachelor’s degree?
Almost all the youth I grew up with, including myself, were at risk. We didn’t have the education system that we had today, mainly because of the community. It’s even more challenging for youth from low-income families, being on track myself I now know that I am now a first-generation college student and I am part of a minority family.

What was a challenging part of your Prodigy apprenticeship?
Graduation (from my apprenticeship), it was hard. I felt frustrated because (during covid), we were working from home. We didn’t have the same kind of freedom like I used to have before. The Gloville shop was speaking on my toes and the history I have with Gloville, that led me to believe that I am going to be able to adapt to any challenges. But my journey wasn’t the same as before. I used to be able to go to the store, do my work, go back to Gloville. But then I had to go to the world. I was used to being able to go home, be my own boss and also school program director in the store after graduation before she was hired for the Manager in Training role.

About the Manager in Training Year 1 (MTI) Program at Prodigy?
Erionna has been an MTI since August 2022, with a focus on Gloville shop. During her apprenticeship, she gained leadership experience for her role in the management team. During her apprenticeship, she was passionate about wanting to work at the Gloville shop. As well, during her apprenticeship, she was working in other places. Erionna is excited and driven towards impacting those who are challenged. She is also someone who is passionate about the community that she is part of. She was interviewed by the authors in preparation for this piece. Today, she is the Manager in Training (MTI) for the Prodigy Ventures team. She was interviewed by the authors in preparation for this piece. Today, she is the Manager in Training (MTI) for the Prodigy Ventures team. She was interviewed by the authors in preparation for this piece. Today, she is the Manager in Training (MTI) for the Prodigy Ventures team. She was interviewed by the authors in preparation for this piece. Today, she is the Manager in Training (MTI) for the Prodigy Ventures team.
As part of the program, MITT’s are taking a class at University of Denver University College, the Frontier Manager Leadership Program. Estrella and Malinda (Estrella’s partner MITT) are taking this course alongside aspiring managers in the corporate and public sectors. The class is a big hit. We’re learning about different leadership styles, kind, clear communication. It’s clear in kind, [held], how to be specific with what you are saying. It’s a good way for me to incorporate what I learn into my work and my life.

What are you learning right now?

[This experience is giving me the space to take accountability when I do not need to take accountability because of the trusting environment that there is here. We have us on each other’s back. I am improving my communication. And I can take that back to my job on my own: How am I supporting you? Can I support you better? I can take on more fulfilling roles.]

What are a few highlights of your MITT experiences?

Pumpkin carving in a team at the Globoscope shop around Halloween. And, being part of the Denver City Party Team. There are a lot of people I know from Denver through that team. You have to be able to hold off each other and thriving as what a power team, we still kill and we are there for each other. Encouraging when we need to speak up about things. We are leaders with big purposes. Being thoughtful and taking initiative. We can connect people in each other, this tight community, having social awareness and cultural awareness.

Why is a challenge to your MITT role?

Sometimes I feel like our shop is the most gentrified block in Globoscope (a community already dominated by gentrification and colonization). Even physically, it’s a coffee shop with a big parking lot. So, our staff are seen as different, and they have to adapt to how they interact with the community and the clientele.

But it’s also a place for connections, healing, and growth. I’m just trying to just say more authentically and intentionally. Throughout this time I’ve had the chance to connect with a bunch of apprentices. That’s important.

Why is the Globoscope neighborhood important to you?

I went to elementary and part of my middle school years here. My dad and his family are from here, and he’s a big part of my life. And I’ve seen him want to help the community. I definitely wanted to be part of the Globoscope shop because, I would have expected not expecting.

What are you focused on right now in your role?

Using my voice, with helping teach apprentices to help them learn and set up some kind of signage for our spaces and organizing and using my voice in a kind way where I’m also respectful, I think that’s really important. I’m also making time to get to know someone. And, showing people you care for them and showing up as yourself. And I’m like a super inclusive person. I try to include everyone and their different values of other people to try to build connections and just be kind and nice.

What is something you’re proud of?

My mom is proud of me and makes that known. When she has that energy, you can feel it. I have to do better, you know. She teaches me how to be graceful. Both of my parents are really great parents. Maybe it’s coming from my family. I already have this path ready for me. I just have to put in the work for it.

Estrella, I believe you could and should be Denver’s Mayor one day. What type of city do you want to build when you’re in charge?

I want to see more inclusiveness and supporting the communities that are struggling. Being more aware of our take away from the neighborhoods that have been standing there forever. Being more aware about focusing on one issue to tackle it as a race to address all the big issues, especially addiction and mental health for youth. I’ve even debated the community I want to help but Denver is a community on a whole I want to prevent.

What are you building for the future of your own life?

I want to stay in Denver; knowing my values and what I stand for and not having to question what I do and say. I’m also building a family. Because my little brothers they are so good. I was definitely the problem child. They are so dope. They will be heartbreakers. Anthony & Anthony. They are funny and loud and singing and I’m like just shut up. My brother has so much love. I’m such a big family person.

I want to work and work and voice dedication and real intentional thoughts behind trying to build generational wealth. Generational wealth is something that’s like sending a foundation for my little brothers and little cousins, and setting them up for college and real-life stuff that no one teaches you.

When you talk about ‘generational wealth,’ how do you define wealth?

Having enough to get by but also having space on the side to relax and save and make smart decisions with your money. Personally, I need a vacay. Also being kind to yourself and your family. I have big businesses to fill up my dad. He’s telling me how to be a good person and do what you love and the blessings will come as long as you want them and for smart.

Additional 2022 Graduates:

Aja
Ayden
Atif
Alicia
Levi
Makita
Scholar
Yoss
Erin was in her room, reading a novel. She looked up at the clock on the wall, which showed that it was almost 10:30. She sighed, realizing that she was late for her next class. She quickly got up and headed towards the door, knowing that she needed to be there soon.

Meanwhile, in the classroom, the teacher was already speaking. Erin felt a pang of envy as she listened to the students discussing their assignments. She wished she could be as engaged in her studies as they were, but her mind was too preoccupied with other things.

Erin was, in other words, "a girl growing up too fast," putting her hand in middle school. "I was still growing up too fast," she told her friends. "I was too fast, my friends, too fast, by other words, my form in the school." She was, of course, a boy, a boy growing up in middle school. She had, in other words, "a boy, a boy growing up in middle school."

Mr. Dugan, 30, is a native of his locality, for his social spirit, and his ability to keep it real and authentic. He shares what's on his mind. He will tell you the truth. He has presented talks, but he has also presented talks that are well received. Erin, who is a native of this area, was, in other words, "a girl growing up too fast," putting her in middle school.

Mr. Dugan, 30, has presented talks that are well received. Erin, who is a native of this area, was, in other words, "a girl growing up too fast," putting her in middle school.
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Sonia Simonos, Director  
Senior Director, SOMW Elementary School  

Mark Tagg, Director  
Senior Talent Management Manager, Pearson Americas  

Special thanks to essential folks, including:  
Kate Schima, Bookkeeper and Spiritual Guide  
Shelley Price, Director of Facilities  
Martina Montiel, Special Projects  
Bret Poppleton, Transition Consultant  
CJ McKee, General Manager  
Whitten Plan Branding & Design, Graphic Design  
Eve and Fern, Jewell, Expansive Minds & Action Plan  
J ideal Boa  
Lind Williams, Interior Design  
All Souls Church of Shadrack, Partners
EMILIA CANO
OPERATIONS MANAGER

Transition. Someday, Prodigy has experienced leadership in 2022/23 and a world that we never thought would be possible. I am also on my own personal transition path. As the company evolves, so are we. I am using this as a reflection time for rethinking, reevaluating, and the building of concepts and values as I will begin to pass them on to a new life.

SUMMER DAVIS
ASSISTANT OPERATIONS MANAGER

I am currently building systems/organizational skills that I can fall back on when I’m new at 100x but will allow me to still show up and get shit done. It’s a great opportunity to learn and grow. I am in the midst of a leadership transition and in this preparation phase I am using this as a reflection time for rethinking, reevaluating, and the building of concepts and values as I will begin to pass them on to a new life.

BRADY GRANT
DIRECTOR OF LEARNING

We are building a more equitable and inclusive organization intentionally in the order of our leadership transition. I am honored to be a part of this and to continue to uplift the other amazing folks on our team. This is an exciting opportunity. I am grateful for the opportunity to work to increase the impact of this opportunity for our crew now and in the future.

STEPH FRANCES
FOUNDER — EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022 was a monumental year for Prodigy... And, for me personally, came a monumental decision to leave Prodigy. This is a stripping down, an emptiness, a letting go, a release of the thing itself. We have grown exponentially, I have grown exponentially, and I am not set in the rebuilding phase. Now is a time of discernment, reflection, healing, opening up, with hope of dreaming, and taking the architecture and design phase for a transformed renewal of myself.
If ever thought I would be working at a coffeehouse. A hot girl living in a big world looking for new opportunities. Now here I am, after being the most prescribed thing to the last part. I still managed to get up again. On my path, I found Prudig and I didn’t think I was gonna have my big impact on me.

I came to Prudig like a deer. Quiet, unassuming, shy, adorably, kind, and shy. And I say I really didn’t think I was even able to get this job. I wasn’t really into this but managing coffee things. I was learning how to communicate with others which I had never done so much. And I think learning how to grow as a person, in and while trying to learn. I wasn’t used to smelling coffee everyday or even having to smell coffee at all. Just my coffee was a big thing. My childhood had a history with coffee. I would sit down in a coffee at the table, drink coffee really want past this. It’s just great, he’s most importantly, it was with my loved ones. The best memories. I didn’t even think it was going to happen then. But didn’t know you can make such a big impact.

I just loved the way it was. Now it’s real different. My knowledge of coffee kept on growing and I’m still learning. Learning from my teammates, from myself, and from coffee.

Prudig has given me so many opportunities to become a better leader and to help me face my fears. I have going to my gaming skills getting ready to bring a smile to a customer’s face. Or go out in her making strikes with my friends making us feel at home. I start having to practice late at night. The confidence that I get here gets bigger and it grows and I finally begin to have a new era of a part. By me not only gaining confidence, but by being lead, communication, great, a problem solver and a leader.

What is a Prudig? Prudig is a non-profit organization where young adults can become the best version of themselves by crafting with coffee and by developing themselves. An apprenticeship that will help you grow, enable you with the next step in life. Not only will you learn but you will laugh and live. You can enter in Prudig just looking for a new beginning and you will start changing after about a few months. People like you can do it too, you can never out some wrong. After dealing with so much grief people dealt with I would move from where I was at. But if I could write my life in a seven word memoir it would be: “I’m too proud, I can’t sit.”

An Apprentice Story. Me, Myself, and I. I’m so proud.
PRODICY COFFEEHOUSE
JOINS THE GLOBEVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD
By Laura Stein

Sitting in the new Globeville coffeehouse sipping my hazelnut latte, with high ceilings and an abundance of natural light, the many forms of the space since it was built, are a distant memory. In the building at 2850 Broadway, mechanics previously worked on motorcycles, artists created their canvases by painting directly on the now white walls for inspiration. This space has been many things to many people, just like the neighborhood of Globeville, that Prodigy is now a family member of. Globeville, at the intersection of Interstate 70 and 25 in Denver, is the culmination of a diverse ethnic heritage, strong work ethic, and holds a small-town neighborhood. As a family member of the Globeville community now, Prodigy is learning that here, someone is always related to someone, or knows of each other by word of mouth, or, in many cases, share at each other’s dinner table, where we hold respect and love for one another. My name is Laura Stein and I am an 80’s generation Globeville resident, and Prodigy’s new Administrative Manager. My one year old son and I look forward to our morning walks to Prodigy Coffee, a space that allows us to know our neighbors, and encourage our community’s young adult population.

As you walk along 45th Avenue, you can hear the students of Garden Place Elementary laughing on the playground. Further down at Birdchild Collective, you might see and hear Ginger Taylor Atwood dancing practicing in the gymnasium to the beat of their drums. But the weather is warm and families are celebrating together. Mexican corridos and bands sound blare throughout the space of multiple blocks-schooling off the constant movement of Interstate 70. Traffic constantly runs through the industrial tracks, and cars cruise by during rush hour.

As of September 2022 towards the West end of 45th Avenue, Prodigy’s Globeville location brings together families, local vendors, community leaders of Denver and Trans visitors located to Denver International Airport sitting from the Rocky Mountains ski slopes.

Walking into the coffeehouse today, you are greeted by the authentic smile of a young professional from North Denver. The sign behind their authentic smile catches your attention, makes you feel at ease. “Come as You Are.” The cultural network of Anthony Garcia hangs proudly on the walls, another of his many artworks on different surfaces throughout the Globeville Elks/Ymca/Rosewood neighborhoods. Craftsmanship can be witnessed in artwork perusing their lone art skills, all while activating their inherent greatness in their own neighborhood of Globeville. Apprentices play incredible music choices on the coffeehouse sound system, creating an atmosphere of authenticity that you can hear and appreciate, amidst the voices and conversations taking place—the sounds of conversations amongst humanity, all over a delicious coffee.

Prodigy is proud to have designed the shop with direction from our Apprentice Design Committee. This group of apprentices met over a year’s time to deliberate about and develop four core Design Principles: Honor Neighbors, Honor People of All Cultures, Honor Globeville’s Legacy and Honor Local Talent. Next, apprentices began work with Linda Williams, owner of interior design firm SaltWater, who over a four-month period expertly guided a group of young adults full of eager design ideas. Linda and the Apprentice Design Committee created a model, tested samples, and selected key design features of the shop. Among these are the iconic “Come As You Are” mosaic sign, the terrazzo barista tile, butcher block countertops, and the built-in benches with scrapp-inspired pillows at the perfect lumbar support height.

We are incredibly thankful for all the people who donated time, resources, and energy so that this shop could come to life. In particular, we want to acknowledge the generosity of MAI/FPG, a real estate and business development firm that devoted countless hours and resources to helping us open this shop door. As well, in all who donated to the Expansion Campaign and general operating support over the past two years. A special thanks to Angela Garcia, Globeville artisan and ambassador, and member of Prodigy’s Board of Directors. And big shoutout to Jeffrey Ross for finding coffee expertise, Spry Construction, South Brown Design, Horsefeet custom furniture, Deli Forces, Matteo Maselli and the entire Prodigy team.

We hope you’ll visit us soon and experience this very special place. We will be here ready to welcome you. Come as you are.
It’s About Music Time

Holla and Lalo spend their days off together. “My partner and I both like to relax, it’s something we enjoy doing together.” They go to Emo’s DeathHouse, where they see a movie, and order some munchies. But the movies don’t stop there.

Evening Time is Coming.

1. Order Food. “It’s a very fast food day!”
2. Shower While Waiting.
3. Dinner Around. “Not that we’re good at dancing but we like to.”
4. Movie or TV Show with Dinner. The Walking Dead is their show of choice now.

Talk and Reflect

1. Talk and reflect. “We talk about true gratitude. We are for each other, reflect on how we love each other, show each other appreciation and love.”
2. Milk and cookies.
3. Play with the cats.
4. Chase the cats out of the room.
5. Put a movie on the laptop so the cat lay in bed and watch.
6. Fall asleep.

On the Horizon for Holla

“I am going to work on self-care and helping myself up further. I want to have continued success in work and school. Going to be taking the steps to free from my past. I want to be able to live in the present. It looks to me like doing things for myself, and succeeding because I want to, not because I’m expected to. Fulfillment looks like accepting love from the people and my pets that care about me and love me.”

*From aProdigy

“Since the beginning of my Prodigy journey, I’ve felt a sense of community with not only my own cohort, but everyone that I’ve met including past apprentices, regular classmates, and the leadership team. I was taught to show spiritual hospitality to my team and everyone I encounter because you never know what’s going on in someone’s life. I learned to be my authentic self and I’ve made the most genuine friends that care for me and make me feel included. I feel like my voice is heard and listened to because of the many ideas I have. I hope everyone finds a place like Prodigy to feel at home and welcomed.”

*Medil
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