

History

- 1983 – Founding Executive Director Joanna Lennon established the oldest and largest regional urban corps in California, giving young adults a chance to learn employability, life and citizenship skills through environmental service projects while furthering their academic education.
- 1984 – Ms. Lennon was the founding Board President for the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps (NASCC) in Washington, D.C., which facilitated the creation of 110 local corps around the country.
- 1985 – Public/Private Ventures, a Philadelphia-based policy group, secured funding for the Urban Corps Expansion Project. EBCC was the “best practices model” that informed the establishment of seventeen more urban conservation corps throughout the nation.
- 1986 – EBCC partnered with Bob Taggart at the Department of Labor to design its learning center and was named the National Service and Learning Demonstration Site by the Remediation and Training Institute in Washington, D.C.
- 1988 – The Corps was instrumental in helping to write and pass Assembly Bill 2020 (the Bottle Bill). This bill allocates millions of dollars to local conservation corps through a bottle and can redemption fund. EBCC was awarded a \$2,200,000 competitive grant through the California Department of Conservation, Division of Recycling.
- 1990 – The National Community Service Act of 1990 was crafted with significant input and consultation from EBCC’s Executive Director. Congress passed the Act with strong bi-partisan support and President Bush signed it. Representatives from programs throughout the nation and from other countries continued to visit EBCC to learn about its comprehensive program methodology.
- 1991 – EBCC’s influence as an education reform model grew with the success of Project YES and the Corps’ comprehensive program model. Ms. Lennon was a founding member of the Alliance for Service-Learning and Education Reform, an alliance of leaders in the service-learning field that crafted the initial standards for service-which became the basis for national expansion.
- 1993 – EBCC was the only corps in the nation to be awarded a ServeAmerica (now known as Learn & Serve America) Leadership (sub-title B) grant for its school-based program, Project YES. As a prelude to the pending National Service Trust Act implementation, the 1993 Summer of Service program was created. EBCC directed a collaborative of over twenty-five colleges, universities, cities, and non-profit agencies in response to the Summer of Service Request for Proposals. EBCC received the largest Summer of Service grant in the nation (\$1,100,000) and engaged 250 diverse participants, ages 17-24, in a dynamic program designed to address the needs of over 15,000 children in the areas of education, health and the environment. Hundreds of volunteers supported

EBCC's summer effort including a Host Committee composed of some of the San Francisco Bay Area's most influential business leaders. EBCC's reputation as a highly effective and innovative program model advanced significantly.

- 1994 – EBCC helped launch and served as the lead agency in the Western Region for the National Service-Learning Cooperative (now the National Service-Learning Clearinghouse), which was designed to support teachers' integration of service-learning into the classroom.
- 1993 through 1997 – EBCC's Project YES was chosen as one of two leadership programs by the California Department of Education's Cal Serve Initiative to provide service-learning technical assistance and launched the first service-learning training for the state's teachers.
- 1998 through 2000 – Ms. Lennon served on the Kellogg Foundation's Learning in Deed Steering Committee to explore how to successfully establish service-learning as a primary teaching strategy for citizenship education nationwide.
- 2000 through the present -- EBCC's Charter School serves as a model for charter schools locally and nationally. Many of EBCC Charter School documents are used as exemplars promoted by the California Network of Educational Charters, the Charter Schools Development Center and the National Charter School Friends Network.
- 2001 — EBCC's Institute launched a partnership with the Walter and Elise Haas Fund for the project Teaching the Fundamentals: Citizenship Education at the Elementary Level, with the overall goal of producing a replicable service-learning model for citizenship education in the primary grades.
- 2002 — Ms. Lennon was awarded the Peter E. Haas Public Service Award, given annually to a Berkeley graduate who "has made a significant public contribution to the betterment of society, particularly at the community level, within the boundaries of the U.S.A."
- 2003 — EBCC launches the Urban Tree Mill, an innovative enterprise that recycles urban trees for their highest-end uses. The program operates by diverting trees from landfill to create finished lumber products.
- 2004 — EBCC achieves ECO status and is honored as a 2003 ECO (Excellence in Corps Operations) Corps by the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps. ECO standards are established by the nation's corps directors to honor and recognize corps that are committed to high quality, effective programs.
- 2007 — EBCC drafts a charter for the new Civicorps Academy.
- 2007 —EBCC changes its name to **Civicorps Schools**—reflecting the organization's growth and influence beyond San Francisco's East Bay region.