



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Technology Boost in Cox Innovation Lab at Boys & Girls Club Provides Opportunities for Local Kids**

*\$25K grant from Cox Communications brings new technology at the Roy Drachman Boys & Girls Club with 2024 marking a special 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

**TUCSON ARIZONA – OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024**—Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson celebrated the unveiling of a new technology-filled Innovation Lab at its Roy Drachman Clubhouse, made possible thanks to a \$25,000 grant from Cox Communications. The Cox Innovation Lab was unveiled with a grand opening ceremony held by Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, which included Denise Watters, Boys & Girls Clubs of Tucson CEO, Mitch Sigsworth, Autumn van den Berg, Melissa Acuna, and Stephanie Healy representing Cox.

#### **Why It Matters**

This year the donation is part of greater gifts from the James M. Cox Foundation and Cox Communications to open 11 additional Cox Innovation Labs in Arizona, California, Florida, Kansas, Louisiana, Nevada, and Virginia; develop STEM programming; and provide training for Boys & Girls Club staff this year.

The Cox Innovation Labs are the cornerstone of Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Club Tech program, which provides students access to curriculum to advance their computer literacy skills and help bridge the digital divide for children without access to a computer or internet connection at home.

We are so grateful for this long-standing partnership with Cox Communications. They understand the needs of the youth we serve, and we are fortunate to receive the innovation labs in our Tucson clubhouses. These labs are equipped with high-end technology and the most updated products, allowing our club members to grow in their exploration of STEM and development of their technical skills. Cox is positioning our youth for great futures and that truly aligns with our mission. *Denise Watters, Boys & Girls Club of Tucson CEO.*

Receiving this Cox Innovation Lab Grant has allowed us to provide new experiences and opportunities for our youth. I made it a priority to ask our Roy Drachman kids what they would want in this new lab. From getting iPad, headsets, and mini mics for our keystone teens to create

a podcast, to purchasing VR headsets we were able to create a space for our youth to be creative and give them access to equipment they've always wanted to use but never had access to. Being able to attend the training in Atlanta helped me a lot with getting ideas and input from other club professionals, especially when it came to the layout of my lab and how to make the most out of a smaller lab space. *Ari Bonillas – Roy Drachman Program Director.*

In the Roy Drachman Clubhouse, the Cox Innovation Lab will give local Boys & Girls Club members the freedom to explore their interest in STEM while providing those without a computer or internet access with a way to get connected and manage through distance learning. The lab includes laptop computers, furniture, 3D printers, Wi-Fi and internet services provided by Cox.

### **A Longstanding Partnership**

Cox's partnership with Boys & Girls Clubs of America began in the 1970s and expanded significantly in 2004 with the launch of innovation labs, making 2024 a milestone year that celebrates two decades of growth and impact. Today, over 100 Cox Innovation Labs operate nationwide, benefiting thousands of kids and teens in Clubs across the nation each year.

"We are thrilled to celebrate this new lab and 20 years of innovation, thanks to the generosity and vision of the James M. Cox Foundation," said Lisa Lovallo, Cox Market Vice President for Southern Arizona". Every child deserves the opportunity to dream big, and as a longstanding partner of Roy Drachman Clubhouse, Cox remains committed to providing Tucson the resources our community needs to help build a better future for the next generation."

"Cox is committed to ensuring our youth are connected at school, at home and at Boys & Girls Clubs where many gather after the bell rings," said Lisa Lovallo. Cox remains committed to providing the resources the Club and our community need to help build a better future for the next generation."

### **What's Next**

Cox and Boys & Girls Clubs of America will soon announce an exciting interactive campaign to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the labs right here in Tucson.

In addition, Cox continues to make great strides in expanding broadband access in Tucson. Through community partnerships with organizations like Boys & Girls Clubs, Connect2Compete (C2C) and CARES Act funding, Cox is moving the needle on bridging the digital divide for families and students across the communities it serves.

### **About Cox Communications**

Cox Communications is committed to creating meaningful moments of human connection through technology. As the largest private broadband company in America, we operate fiber-powered networks in more than 30 states, providing connections and advanced managed IT and cloud services for nearly seven million homes and businesses nationwide. We're dedicated to empowering others to build a better future and celebrate diverse products, people, suppliers, communities and the characteristics that make each one unique. Cox Communications is the largest division of Cox Enterprises, a family-owned business founded in 1898 by Governor James M. Cox.

The commercial division of Cox Communications, Cox Business, provides a broad commercial solutions portfolio, including advanced managed IT, cloud and fiber-based network solutions that support connected environments, unique hospitality experiences and diverse applications for

nearly 370,000 businesses nationwide. For more information, please visit [www.coxbusiness.com](http://www.coxbusiness.com).

### **About The James M. Cox Foundation**

The James M. Cox Foundation is named in honor of Cox Enterprises' founder and provides funding for capital campaigns and special projects in communities where the company operates. James M. Cox was Ohio's first three-term governor and the 1920 Democratic nominee for president of the United States.

The Foundation concentrates its community support in several areas, including conservation and environment; early childhood education; empowering families and individuals for success; and health.

### **About Boys & Girls Clubs of America**

For more than 160 years, Boys & Girls Clubs of America ([BGCA.org](http://BGCA.org)) has provided a safe place for kids and teens to learn and grow. Clubs offer caring adult mentors, fun and friendship, and high-impact youth development programs on a daily basis during critical non-school hours. Boys & Girls Clubs programming promotes academic success, good character and leadership, and healthy lifestyles. Over 5,400 Clubs serve more than 3 million young people through Club membership and community outreach. Clubs are located in cities, towns, public housing and on Native lands throughout the country, and serve military families in BGCA-affiliated Youth Centers on U.S. military installations worldwide. The national headquarters is located in Atlanta. Learn more about Boys & Girls Clubs of America on [Facebook](#) and [X](#).