

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact:

Laura Gronek

(770) 293-0080

Laura.gronek@jumpsparkatl.org



## **JumpSpark Invests in Atlanta Jewish Community Through \$260,000+ In Spark Grants**

ATLANTA, GA –JumpSpark has awarded more than \$266,000 in Spark Grant funding to six organizations working to expand programming for Jewish teens in Atlanta. A new grant program in 2019, Spark Grants allow JumpSpark to invest in the Jewish teen space in Atlanta through large-scale strategic grants. Renewable up to three years to support long-term program growth, these grants will create and fund new programs and initiatives, support programmatic growth, and rethink existing models of teen engagement.

“In the fast-paced, demanding world teens live in today, the Jewish community must focus its resources to create diverse entry points to lifelong Jewish learning and community engagement,” says Kelly Cohen, JumpSpark Director.

After a discovery period in 2018 to understand the needs of Atlanta’s teen ecosystem – including teens, families of teens, and Jewish professionals that work with teens – and a pilot grantmaking cycle of \$1,000 awards, JumpSpark opened a request for proposals that support community infrastructure growth, create new points of engagement, provide high-level Jewish learning, and foster collaboration and community-building opportunities in Atlanta.

The 2019 recipients are:

- **Creating Connected Communities** – \$39,000 to expand the successful *Leadership Development Program*.

- **In the City Camps** – \$45,000 to expand *Camp Mogul business camp* for middle school students.
- **Jewish Kids Groups** – \$36,850 to launch the *Learner-Leader-Teacher Development Academy*.
- **Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta** – \$70,000 to sponsor the VOX ATL-run *Maccabi Star Reporter* program and catalyze participation in the Atlanta-hosted 2019 Maccabi games into expanded year-round programming for teen athletes.
- **SOJOURN** – \$25,000 to pilot the *Tum Tum* program, a safe space for Jewish LGBTQ+ identified teens and allies to share, learn, and connect.
- **Union for Reform Judaism** – \$70,000 to launch the *Teen Engagement Internship program*, a year-round leadership and engagement model successfully piloted by the URJ's Northeast Teen Collective.

JumpSpark is a proud partner and innovation initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta. CEO Eric Robbins said, “The Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta is proud to drive this important initiative that is making incredible impact and investment in our teen community!”

As an invested partner, JumpSpark looks forward to building these programs with recipients and creating more opportunities for a vibrant Jewish life in Atlanta.

**JumpSpark**, Atlanta’s initiative for Jewish teen engagement, connects and invests in the community to create more meaningful and defining moments for Jewish teens in Atlanta. Serving teens, their parents, and educators that work with teens, JumpSpark offers empowering teen programs, Navigating Parenthood workshops, professional development, and grants. JumpSpark is supported as an innovation initiative of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, by the Jim Joseph Foundation, and by generous donors in the community. [jumpsparkatl.org](http://jumpsparkatl.org).

###