



Annual Report

2021

PREPARED BY
DATA & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

About

Grounding Principles

The WCCDA is committed to ensuring long-term equity and social justice through systems change for the benefit of the White Center community. We hold our obligation to sovereign tribal nations and the citizens/descendants of those sovereign tribal nations living in White Center and throughout King County. The WCCDA works to eradicate poverty, eliminate racism and build a vibrant diverse community.

Our Mission

Our mission is to work towards to eradicate poverty and build a vibrant economically diverse community.

Our Vision

We envision a community of diverse, empowered, and connected residents coming together as stewards of the land, the people, and the natural assets of White Center.

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Executive Message

2021 was a hell of a year for White Center.

The work was different, creativity was the necessity, and compassion was used as a guide as well as a value. We were able to do what we do because we believe in this community that always steps into their own leadership instructs our work. The WCCDA is extremely honored to be in person to support the work throughout the impact of the pandemic. On top of this, our business district recently went through a series of critical fires and the business owners mobilized and put together a list of demands that they would need so their businesses can thrive and continue to be here. The Rental Assistance work in partnership with King County was evidence that the struggle is real, for many of the families not only in White Center but throughout King County. We're extremely reliant and appreciative of the partnerships that we have with White Center residents and community, local government, funders and generous donors who collectively have shown their commitment to the work in a variety of ways.

So we're going to go into 2022 revitalized and hopeful! We are humbled to see the heart of the community every day as part of the WCCDA's existence. Thank you all for the love and continued support. It really does take a village to do the work in a way that centers humanity. Thank you!

Sili Savusa, WCCDA Executive Director



Overview

The WCCDA had an active year of direct service than ever before! We've received grants that helped us get PPE, diapers, and other necessities for our families and businesses.

WE SERVED
1,626
COMMUNITY
INDIVIDUALS

WE SERVED
290
FAMILIES/
HOUSEHOLDS

WE SERVED
50
SMALL FAMILY
BUSINESSES

We hosted six events throughout the year bringing our community together to celebrate our work with youth, families, and local businesses. Our ongoing projects include securing more funding for our HUB project and supporting the recovery of our businesses impacted by the fires during the summer. We continued our support to families with financial assistance and COVID-related resources, including connecting families to King County's rental assistance program.

We also continued to support bringing community voices to the North Highline White Center Subarea project through conversations and surveys. In 2021, we welcomed 3 new members into our team: a Finance Manager, a Marketing & Outreach Specialist, and a COVID Navigator. With additional support from our staff, we were able to widen our outreach, connection, and support to our community.

Community Building

Community HUB & Housing

Despite the many barriers and challenges for communities like White Center to build, our vision to create a place of Hope, Unity, and Belonging where working families can find affordable housing along with essential services that nurture their stability and create greater opportunity is on its way to becoming a reality. As we continue to engage the community and partners in developing and shaping the work, the design phase for the project has wrapped up. In May, over 50 members of our community joined us and our partners - SWYFS, Healthpoint, YES! Foundation, FEEST, and Community Roots - to learn more about the development of the HUB. In 2021, We celebrated our success in having raised \$6.7M toward the community HUB!



"Our vision for equitable development is grounded in the principles of community stewardship of land which transforms land into a shared resource that generates community prosperity. Land is a resource to be shared and cared for, used to heal and transform the legacies and ongoing impacts of colonization, genocide, and racism."

Aaron Garcia
Hub Project Manager

Community Building

LGBTQIA Youth Leadership

Our LGBTQIA+ Youth Leadership Program has been providing a safe and supportive space of learning for our LGBTQ+ youth since 2019. This year, our youth leaders took some much-needed time to focus their learning through:

- Exploring self-care practices and building positive well-being
- Deeply examining their identities and how their intersecting identities affect their daily lives and interpersonal relationships

Make It R.A.I.N Club

In 2021, we launched the 'Make It R.A.I.N.' Club to increase our support for our LGBTQIA youth. The 'R.A.I.N.' acronym stands for 'Real, All-Inclusive, and No Limits.' This program encapsulates all of our LGBTQ+ programming including our internship and our signature event! This year we organized our first Queer N' Teen event. 30 of our youth came out to celebrate their identity, learn about some key moments in the history of the LGBTQ fight for rights, and build solidarity through individual expression and creating art together.



Economic Development

Economic Recovery

Our economic development team continued to provide support to our WC businesses in recovery. Together, White Center, Skyway, and Vashon communities organized & demanded council for economic development funding for unincorporated BIPOC communities. An allocation of \$5.25M was made to KCs unincorporated areas. The CDA also provided small grants to 12 merchants, a total of \$13,125, to support recovery.

Subarea Planning

After nearly two decades, King County initiated a new subarea planning process for WC. Progress has been slow with a lack of community inclusion. Through many conversations held in prior phases of subarea planning, the CDA compiled a community needs list and vision statement. Translated in multiple languages - Somali, Vietnamese, Spanish, and Khmer, we reached back out to our community of parents, leaders, and youths for one-on-one and group conversations. In addition to building and having our community prioritize our needs, these conversations also created space for our community to build a more in-depth understanding of the subarea planning process itself.



Economic Development

Fires Still Raging: Community Action

A state of emergency was declared by our community after a series of 5 fire events happened within four months. Our 11 beloved businesses were immediately impacted and devastated: Huong Xua Deli, John's Hair and Nails Salon, The Boxing Gym Westside, La Tipica Oaxaquena, Nuggi Boba, The Locker Room, Ben Schreck workshop, Dottie's Doublewide, Rat City Tat2, Bizzarro Italian Café, Full Tilt, and The Lumber Yard. After inaction from our government, we launched a White Center Fire Response to call for action. 887 community members signed the petition, supporting our demand for:

1. Investment of an additional \$175,000 per year into community security
2. \$2M of emergency relief funding directly to affected businesses for rebuilding
3. An automatic minimum of \$25K assistance is provided to businesses without minimal insurance coverage
4. A task force dedicated to providing assistance to affected businesses
5. Build transparency and accountability with the sheriff's department
6. Funding for a position to fill vacant properties in WC

Government officials responded, but our community continues to be faced with systemic challenges in recovery. With community, the WCCDA is continuing to push for economic equity and institutional accountability, holding up community voices and tracking progress and setbacks.

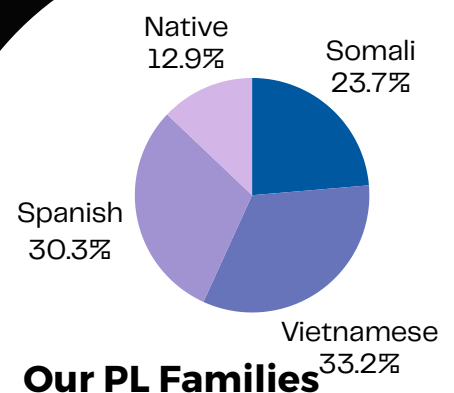
Family Development

Family Connections

Our family development team holds our direct connection to the community and how we respond to our community needs, including how we support our community through COVID. With partnering organizations, we supported 105 families, with \$1,058,586 in rental assistance in 2021. We also supported 53 White Center families with a total of \$25,750 of direct cash assistance and 50 Latinx families with 1-time funding of \$1,000 Washington COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund. Our team supported COVID vaccination events, giving out COVID test kits & PPE, as well as connecting families to other basic needs such as food, utility assistance, health information, etc.

Play & Learn

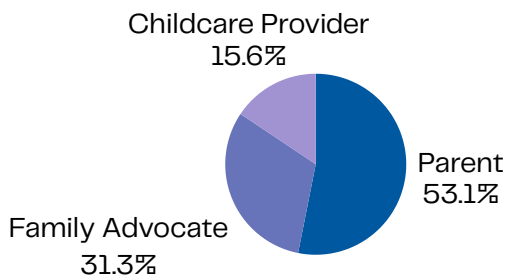
Instead of facilitating in-person PL group sessions, we continued to provide our ongoing support to our caregivers with children from 0-5 years of age and their families through 487 individual virtual & in-person meetings. We connected families to baby supplies, learning activities, COVID-related resources, and mental health support. Our families came together at the end of the year to celebrate at WinterFest with food, fun, and games!



Family Development

Children's Coalition

In 2021, we formed a coalition of 30 community members of parents and child care providers. For 6 months, the coalition shared their stories and co-designed a community-wide survey to better understand our community's child care needs and challenges. We asked our families and providers, what is working or not working for them, what is important to them, how has COVID impacted them, and what changes they think need to happen. As a result of our conversations and data gathering, we learned that, for the child care system to work, it needs to be affordable, accessible, and high-quality. Families should be able to choose whom to provide care for their children without sacrificing one over the other. And providers should have equitable pay and training and resources to support their programming. The coalition came up with a list of recommendations, and we hope to continue to support our community in sharing their stories and advocating for changes to be implemented.



Coalition Members



Finances

Audited 2021 Numbers

Assets: \$1,197,163

Liabilities: \$103,507

*Net Assets: \$1,093,656

SUPPORT & EXPENSES

Revenue: \$1,969,0930

Total expenses:

\$1,628,933

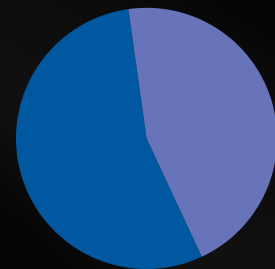
Program \$1,243,044

Administrative \$385,823

Fundraising \$66

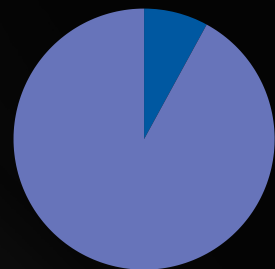
Change in Net Assets: 340,160.00

Revenue



Expenses

Liabilities



Assets

**The CDA received a few grants that were paid upfront for grant periods that overlap between 2021 and 2022, resulting in a positive change in net assets in 2021.*

Our Partners

Arts Corps
Africatown Community Land Trust
Black Community Impact Alliance
Byrd Barr Place
CAPACD
CCAW
Cham Refugees Community
Chase
Child Care Resources
City of Seattle
Coalition for Drug Free Youth
Communities Rise
Community Roots Housing
Comunidad Latina Vashon
Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center
Educare - PSESD
Education for All
ERRA
FEEST
GenPride
Healthpoint
HealthierHere
Highline Public Schools
Highline College
Khmer community of Seattle King County
King County Department of Local Services
King County Communities of Opportunity
King County Best Starts for Kids
King County Metro
King County Library System
King County Parks

King County Housing Authority
King County Equity Now
La Roxay Productions
Lake Burien Presbyterian Church
Lambert House
LEAD
Liberated Village
Magic Cabinet
Neighborhood House
NDC
OSPI
Para Los Ninos
Partners In Employment
Prosperity Now
Public Health - Seattle & King County
Puget Sound Sage
Seattle Chamber of Commerce
Seattle Foundation
Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation
SKL Architects
Skyway Coalition
South Seattle College
Southwest Youth and Family Services
Technology Access Foundation (TAF)
Tiny Trees Preschool
Trusted Advocates
Village of HOPE
WA COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund
WA Department of Commerce
WestSide Baby
White Center Food Bank
White Center Pride
Yes! Foundation
YWCA

We thank our current partners for continuing to uplift our community.

Our 2021 Timeline

The CDA is grateful to our community and partners for all the amazing work we have accomplished together in 2021. Here's a quick snapshot of our collaborated work together!

WC Children's Coalition

Starting in January, the CDA brought a group of 30 community leaders, parents, & child care providers together for 6 months to share our stories and co-design and conduct a community-wide survey to help us better understand our community's child care needs, preferences, and challenges.



WC Business Partner with LEAD

In partnership with our businesses, the LEAD program begins its roll-out in WC to provide harm reduction-based intensive case management to unhoused individuals experiencing behavioral health challenges and/or income instability.



WC Business Alliance GoFundMe

Our BIPOC & allied businesses raised \$5K on GoFundMe to support our 17 businesses affected by burglary & broken windows.

\$5.25M for Economic Recovery

Together, White Center, Skyway, and Vashon communities organized & demanded council for economic development funding for unincorporated BIPOC communities. An allocation of \$5.25M was made KCs unincorporated areas.

Queer N' Teen

Our LGBTQIA+ youth leaders organized a fun event for youth to learn through history, express themselves, celebrate their identity, and build solidarity through creating art together.

January



LGBTQIA Youth Leadership

Winter quarter, our group of 14 youth leaders took some much-needed time & explored ways to practice self-care & build positive well-being during COVID.

March

COVID Vaccination

Partnering with HSD, Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, & QFC, the CDA hosted a 2-day pop vaccine clinic & provided vaccination to 910 community members.



April

LGBTQIA Youth Leadership

Spring quarter, our 9 youth leaders took a dive into how their identities affect their daily lives and interpersonal relationships.

May

WC HUB & Homes Open House

Over 50 members of our community joined us on Zostill Iom to hear about the developments of our HUB housing project from our design team, SKL, and our partners - SWYFS, Healthpoint, YES! Foundation, FEEST, and Community Roots.



June

Refresh

Community leader, Mark Ufkes, led 65 volunteers in completing 15 clean-up projects & 200 hours of community service in WC!

Cooling Site

We supported KC in outreach and staffing of the cooling site when King County reached extreme heat at the end of June.

Community Forum/Subarea Planning

July through November, we engaged our community in various conversations/surveys around the North Highline subarea planning process, community needs & priorities, map amendments, & anti-displacement policies & strategies

Promise Celebration

Our back-to-school celebration with the WC community was in person again this year full of fun activities, music & dance, food, and vaccination.



Fires Still Raging: Community Action

With the lack of support from the government to our businesses affected by the continuous fires in the White Center business core, we launched a campaign & collected 861 signatures of support which led to the federal disaster declaration for White Center, a \$2M emergency relief funding, \$175,000 of overtime funds for late-night patrols from KCSO, increase transparency & support for patrol in the business district, & hiring of an Economic Recovery Specialist.

Seattle Aquarium

In partnership with Seattle Aquarium, we distributed 200 donated tickets to our families.



Winter Celebration & Vaccination

After a year of supporting our Play & Learn families remotely, 200 parents/caregivers and children came together to celebrate the end of the year with food, games, and gifts. In partnership with Public Health - Seattle & King County, we also provided vaccination to over 30 community members.

July



August

Make It Rain Club/LGBTQ+ Club

To increase support for our youth, we started a club group called Make it Rain for our queer and trans youth to spend more time together and build relationships. As school begins in person again, we also continued our partnership with EHS to support students in the LGBTQ+ club.

September

HEPA Filters

In partnerships with KC, we delivered HEPA filters to 41 of our Family Friend Neighbor (FFN) caregivers.



October

HUB & Housing Community Notice

We are in the process of requesting the variance and conditional use permits. Ground-breaking should be happening in the next year! We were happy to share the news with 170 families in the surrounding area through a mailer update.

November

Storefront Remembrance

Community members joined us in walking-tour through the commercial core, visiting and remembering the 11 stores affected by the fires.



December

Thank you!

Staff

Eir Cheeka, Native Family Advocate
Elsa Benavides, Spanish Early Learning Connector
Caisha Ali, Somali Early Learning Connector
Tam Nguyen, Vietnamese Early Learning Connector
Nasro Ugas, COVID Navigator

Aaron Garcia, HUB Project Manager
Sarey Savy, LGBTQIA+ Community Builder

Helen Shor-Wong, Economic Development Manager
Mia McFarland, Economic Development Coordinator
Omari Taylor, Community Organizer

Dao Tran, Data & Evaluation Manager
Quynh Trinh, Marketing & Outreach Specialist
Julia Bautista, Administrative Manager
Sili Savusa, Executive Director
Spencer Lau, Finance Manager

Board of Directors

Pat Allen, Member
Chris Brown, Secretary
KaLehua KaApana, President
Rosalyn Kagy, Member

Tanya Powers, Member
Dominique Sagiao, Member
Courtland Schaffer, Treasurer
Pat Thompson, President