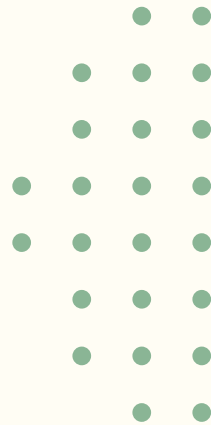


ANNUAL REPORT

2023



White Center Community
Development Association

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This report was assembled by Quynh Trinh, Marketing and Communications Manager, Jenny Sun, WCCDA Intern, and the Staff of WCCDA.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

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.

Our Mission

We are working 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.

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

White Center continues to show up with resilience, creativity, and leadership. In 2023, the White Center Community Development Association (WCCDA) remained committed to walking alongside our neighbors, ensuring that our work is always led by and for the people who call White Center home.

Disparities persist, but so does our community's strength. WCCDA has upheld our anti-racist approach to building a thriving White Center, keeping residents, young leaders, businesses, and community groups at the center of every decision. Our relationships and partnerships ground us, guiding our work in accountable and authentic ways—especially when we come together.

This year, we marked our 21st anniversary with a gala. The theme, *Adulting Ain't Easy*, couldn't be more fitting—this work isn't easy, but I wouldn't trade it for anything. On October 6, we gathered at the South Seattle College's Jerry Brockey Center to celebrate our collective journey—through challenges, triumphs, and transformation. Hosted by the incredible Aleksa Manila, the night was filled with heartfelt speeches, performances, and my farewell as Executive Director.

Throughout 2023, we deepened community engagement through new and legacy events. Our BOO! Halloween event at the Evergreen pool and free movie nights have been growing, offering families joyful, accessible experiences to connect to one another. Longstanding traditions, like the Back to School event (formerly Promise Celebration), continue to equip youth with school supplies and resources, ensuring they start the year strong and supported.

MESSAGE FROM OUR E.D. CONTINUED

We also expanded our economic development team and, in partnership with Comunidad Latina de Vashon and Skyway Coalition launched ‘United for a Community-Led Economy’ (UCLE)—an initiative prioritizing BIPOC wealth creation, policy change, and long-term well-being. Through advocacy, collaboration, and direct support, UCLE is laying the foundation for a more equitable economic future in unincorporated areas like White Center, Skyway, and Vashon.

Another milestone this year was the progress on the HUB project. With groundbreaking set for next year, this effort—conceived over two decades ago—reinforces why community voices matter.

As I transition into my next chapter with the Pacific Islander Community Association of WA, I do so with deep gratitude. White Center has given me invaluable lessons in leadership, unwavering love, and a profound belief in what is possible when a community leads the way. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this journey. This work belongs to the people of White Center, and with Aaron’s leadership, I know the future is bright.

With appreciation, PEACE CDA!
Sili Savusa



WCCDA BY THE NUMBERS



80 Make It Rain Club participants

191 BOO! Halloween in WC friends and families celebrated Fall in costumes, discovering resources, and enjoying indoor and outdoor activities

1000 students received supplies in the Back to School Celebration that included pencils, pens, backpacks, notebooks, and more supplies



120 Total Participants in the four Health in the Garden Series at the Shark Garden!

27 Avg Movie-Goers at our Monthly Nights at Evergreen Pool



36+ pet babies received care or got future appointments in a pop Vet Clinic Collaboration Event with Seattle Vet Outreach

1000+

Visitors were able to be immersed in the WC Business District during our collaboration at the White Center Block Party event featuring cultural performances



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

We empower businesses by connecting them to resources, education, and mentorship in collaboration with local organizations, with a focus on community needs. Through workshops, networking events, and support for block parties and larger gatherings, we foster belonging, pride, and community-based innovation, working together to sustain BIPOC businesses and honor shared spaces.



ECON DEV HIGHLIGHTS

In 2023, we focused on strengthening our relationships with the White Center business community and continued our ongoing support.

**We met with 68 merchants,
22 of which were new relationships.**



We continued fire response efforts and rebuilding of businesses, approximately \$200,000 was allocated to support 40 white center businesses in storefront improvements, technical assistance, partnership opportunities, information and resources, lease agreement assistance, legal services, commercial space planning, and business coaching.

The CDA supported the White Center Block Party in August, centering White Center entrepreneurs, businesses, and performers with over 1000 participants in attendance.



Freestyle Hip Hop
Choreography Battle!



Bouncy house was
always busy!



Khmer Performance by Youth
Performers!

ECON DEV CONTINUED

To advance economic and local business development, the WCCDA, Skyway Coalition, and Comunidad Latina de Vashon collaborated on the creation of the 'United for a Community Led Economy' (UCLE). It expanded our Economic Development team by adding key roles to support the White Center business community. This includes folks to work on business support, workforce development, and property owner support.



The baskets of work that UCLE uses as their pathway to a thriving community.



Team attended a Placemaking Convening in Oregon.



With this strengthened team, the WCCDA continued to enhance the legacy, building wealth, and well-being of local businesses. We have also focused on promoting financial literacy for local youth, and begin to develop programs and processes that will shape Economic Development initiatives in the coming year.

FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Our department supports early learners, young adults, and families in White Center by providing navigation and access to resources, leadership opportunities, and community-building spaces. Through culturally responsive and intergenerational programming, we create opportunities for families to learn, grow, and connect with each other.



FAM DEV HIGHLIGHTS

WCCDA's Play and Learn program continued to be a cornerstone for early learning and caregiver support. With over **300 hours** of weekly Play and Learn sessions- that's about **137 sessions** held throughout the year of ongoing opportunities to engage in educational play in safe and supportive spaces!

While in-person group gatherings were limiting our attention to everyone, our team stayed deeply connected with families of young children, offering **487 one-on-one check-ins with caregivers/ individuals, including virtually.**



These personalized visits helped us provide tailored support, from sharing learning activities and mental health resources to delivering essential baby supplies and up-to-date COVID-related information. We closed out the year with WinterFest, a joyful community celebration filled with food, fun, and games—a reminder of the power of connection and collective care.



P&L Celebrations always have variety of cultural foods!



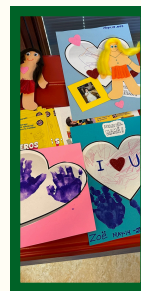
Family P&L goes on a field trip!



Child receiving supplies from our table!

FAM DEV CONTINUED

Families also got their hands in the soil through our Health in the Garden series at the Burien Shark Garden, where **120 participants** explored how to grow culturally relevant vegetables, learned harvesting techniques, and cooked delicious meals together. These gatherings nurtured both bodies and relationships, offering a vibrant space to reconnect with cultural roots and with one another.



Different
Family
Events
throughout
2023!



And in the spirit of readiness and community support, our Back to School Celebration with KCHA, Boys & Girls Club, College Success Foundation, Amerigroup, and Krusteaz welcomed **1,000 participants**, ensuring students were equipped with essentials like backpacks, pencils, pens, notebooks, and more. The excitement and gratitude in the air were unmistakable as families gathered to kick off the school year prepared and uplifted.

Through every workshop, home visit, and community event, we are proud to walk alongside families, co-creating a stronger, healthier, and more connected White Center.

THE HUB PROJECT

The Hope, Unity, and Belonging (HUB) project team spent the year building capacity to understand what the pre-design development meant. We were able to guide our architects, Sundberg Kennedy Ly-Au Young Architects (SidexSide) and general contractor Marpac Construction, WCCDA was able to incorporate notes into their design that were from the White Center residents.



“Building buildings means building capacity.”

- Aaron Garcia, Former HUB Project Manager



The HUB team was able to identify New Markets Tax Credits lenders and investors. We fulfilled 75% of our capital campaign goal! We are excited to break ground in 2024!

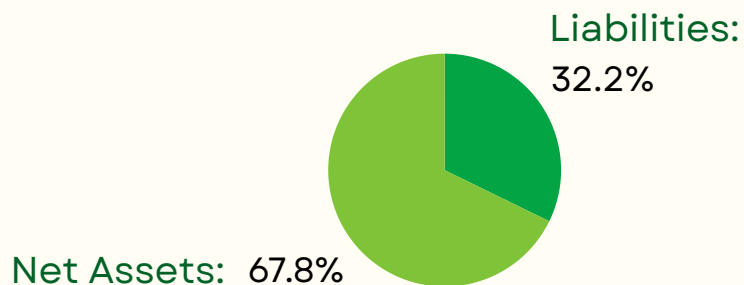


Total Funding Needed

\$35 mill

WCCDA & FINANCIALS

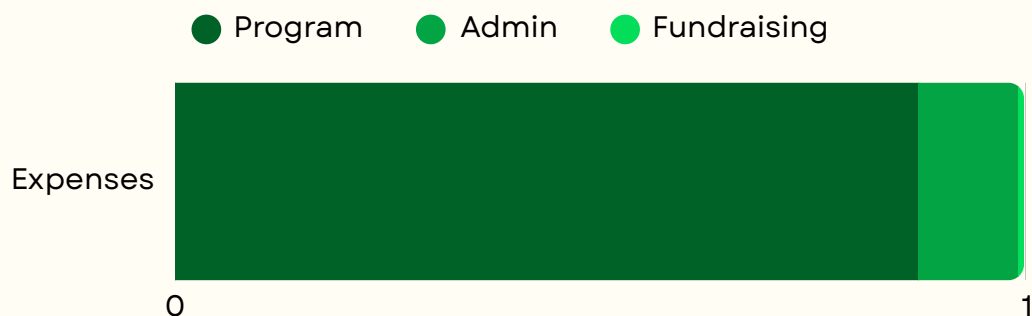
Assets	\$2,225,395
Liabilities	\$717,026
Net Assets	\$1,508,369



Revenue	\$3,443,633
Expenses	\$3,246,394

Program	\$2,840,433
Administrative	\$380,397
Fundraising	\$25,554

Change in Net Assets	\$97,239
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STAFF

Administrative Team

Aaron Garcia, Executive Director

Spencer Lau, Finance Manager

Quynh Trinh, Marketing & Communication Manager

Economic Development Team

Helen Shor-Wong, Economic Development Manager

Stephen Williams-Ortega, Economic Organizer: Creative Placemaking

Jose Ortuzar, Economic Organizer: Business Support

Thearina, Economic Organizer: Career Connector

Oanh Tran, Business and Property Owner Support

Family Development Team

Caisha Ali, Child Care Advocate

Julia Bautisa, Family Development Manager (Spanish)

Elsa Benavides, Early Learning Advocate (Spanish)

Nasro Ugas, Childcare Resource Connector

Tam Nguyen, Family Engagement Advocate (Vietnamese)

Sarey Savy, Community Connector

BOARD

Patricia Allen, Vice President

Chris Brown, Secretary

KaLehua KaApana, President

Roslyn Kagy, Member

Tanya Powers, Member

Dominique Sagiao, Member

Courtland Schafer, Treasurer

Patricia Thompson, Member

END OF REPORT



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THANK YOU TO OUR COLLABORATORS

Alimentando al Pueblo

Amerigroup

Arts Corps

Africatown Community Land Trust

Black Community Impact Alliance

Boys & Girls Club King County

Byrd Barr Place

CAPACD

CCAW

Cham Refugees Community

Chase

Child Care Resources

City of Seattle

Coalition for Drug Free Youth

College Success Foundation

Communities Rise

Community Roots Housing

Comunidad Latina Vashon

Duwamish Longhouse and

Cultural Center

Educare - PSESD Education for All

ERRA

Evergreen Aquatic Center

Evergreen High School

Family Ways

FEEST

GenPride

Healthpoint

HealthierHere

Highline Public Schools

Highline College

Inamaka Family Program

Kaiser Permanente

Khmer community of Seattle

King County

KC Department of Local

Services

KC Communities of

Opportunity

KC Best Starts for Kids

KC Metro

KC Library System

KC Parks

KC Housing Authority

KC Equity Now

La Roxay Productions

Lake Burien Presbyterian Church

Lambert House

LEAD

Liberated Village

Magic Cabinet

Na'ah Illahee Fund

Neighborhood House

Nepantla Cultural Arts & Art Gallery

NDC

Operation Warm

OSPI

Para Los Ninos

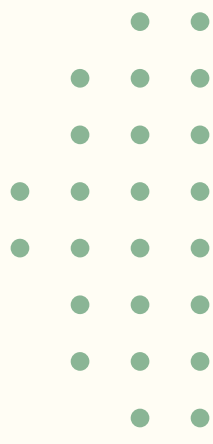
Partners In Employment

Prosperity Now

Public Health - Seattle & KC

Puget Sound Sage

ScholarFund



THANK YOU TO OUR COLLABORATORS CONT.

Seattle Chamber of Commerce

Seattle Foundation

Seattle Public Library

Seattle Vet Outreach

Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation

SKL Architects

Skyway Coalition

Southwest Youth and Family Services

Technology Access Foundation (TAF)

Tiny Trees Preschool

Trusted Advocates

Village of Hope

Voices of Tomorrow

WA COVID-19 Immigrant Relief Fund

WA Department of Commerce

WA State Dept. of Children, Youth, and Families

WestSide Baby

White Center Heights Elementary School

White Center Food Bank

Yes! Foundation

YWCA Greenbridge

