



# Annual Report

2021

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PREPARED BY

**DATA & COMMUNICATIONS TEAM**

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# 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 now is to 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. We are working to eradicate poverty and build a vibrant economically diverse community.

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425-276-9747  
info@wccda.org  
wccda.org  
605 SW 108th Street  
Seattle, WA 98146

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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



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# 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 to 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

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# 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 build their 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.



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# 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 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 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 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.



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# Economic Development

## Fires Still Raging: Community Action

A state of emergency was declared by our community after a series of 5 fire events happening 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 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 provided to businesses without minimal insurance coverage
4. A taskforce dedicated to providing assistance to affected businesses
5. Build transparency and accountability with 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 set backs.

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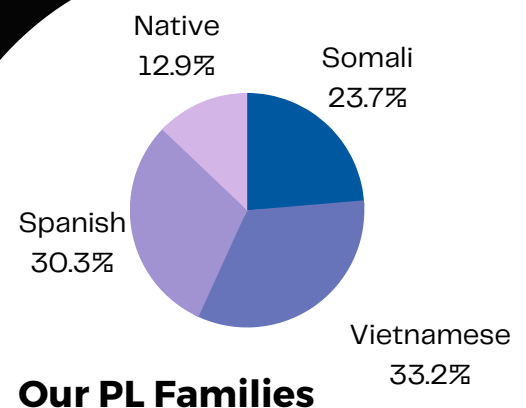
# Family Development

## Family Connections

Our family development team holds our direct connection to community and how we respond to our community need, including our 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

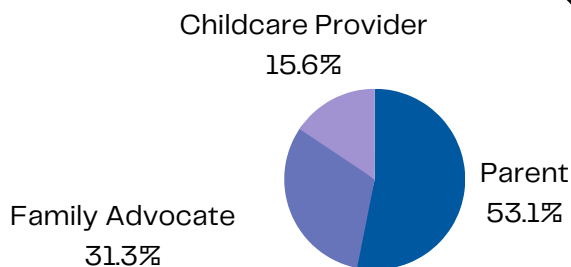
Instead of facilitating in-person PL group sessions, we continued to provide our ongoing support to our caregivers with children from 0-5 years of age and their families through 487 individual virtual & in-person meetings. We connected families to baby supplies, learning activities, COVID-related resources 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 from our conversations and datagathering, 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 be 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 their stories and advocate for changes to be implemented.



**Coalition Members**



# Finances

## Audited 2021 Numbers

Assets: \$1,197,163  
Liabilities: \$103,507  
**\*Net Assets: \$1,093,656**

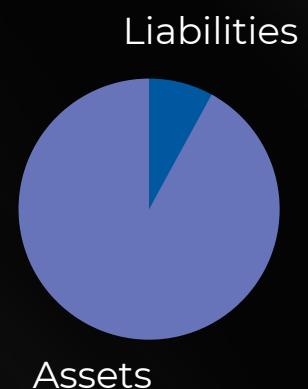
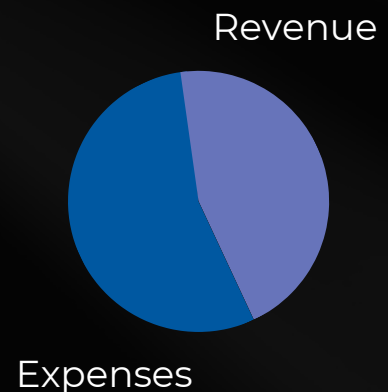
### SUPPORT & EXPENSES

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**



*\*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.*

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# 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.

DATA MANAGER PRESENTS

# 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.

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.

## 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.

March



## 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.

July

## 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.

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.



## HEPA Filters

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

September



## 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.

October



## LGBTQIA Youth Leadership

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

April



## WC Business Alliance GoFundMe

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

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.

November

## Seattle Aquarium

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



December

## 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.



## \$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.

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.

## 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.

## Storefront Remembrance

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



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# 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  
Roselyn Kagy, Member

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