KING COUNTY EQUITY NOW

ABOUT KCEN

We are a pro-Black advocacy and policy organizing nonprofit focused on developing liberated Black communities that own and control the resources and systems that impact Black lives.

Black-led, Black-centered, and birthed out of a deep legacy of Black organizing in Martin Luther King Jr. County, Washington State.





WHY WE DO OUR WORK

HOW WE DO OUR WORK

Anti-Black racism remains America's biggest threat to democracy.

In furtherance of our mission and vision, we:

Craft city, county, and state policy solutions

Execute power-building, equity-driven campaigns

Conduct and facilitate Black-centered research

Organize with Black community and allies

Create Black-centered media

Spotlight and fight anti-Black racism

Partner with Black political representation

WHAT WE DO

At King County Equity Now, our mission is to close the racial wealth divide.

Our vision is liberated Black communities that own and control the resources and systems that impact Black lives.



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OUR CAMPAIGNS

BENU HOMES

We served as the lead advocacy organization to protect an entire block in Washington's most historic Black neighborhood, the Central District, from development into market rate apartments. We then helped steward the successful acquisition of the block by Black community ownership, including helping to secure the \$14 million for purchase.

Additionally, we helped successfully advocate for the site to be used in the short-term as the first Black-owned and Black-led shelter of-scale in Washington State.

The site just opened and will provide a safe, secure home for 150 of our neighbors experiencing homelessness.











BLACK RESEARCH

We are building a Black community centered research institute that returns power and control back to the Black community.

Our research is facilitated, structured, and conducted by and for Black peoples.

COMMUNITY RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Learning from our incarcerated community

Building peace and safety

Closing racial wealth gap

Creating thriving Black health

Eliminating education racial disparities



RESEARCH INTENT

Engage community to uncover how COVID, amidst racial injustice, and economic pandemics, has impacted our incarcerated community members and their families.





RESEARCH OBJECTIVES | INTENTIONALITY

Strengthen ties to and within affected families and Black community

Facilitate relationship building amongst and between those on the inside and on the outside to ensure connections towards healing

Engage community to uncover how COVID, amidst racial injustice, and economic pandemics, has impacted our incarcerated community members and their support networks.

Foster ongoing and future advocacy work





RESEARCH FOCUS & APPROACH

Incarcerated Community

Lift voices that aren't heard

Overlooked community, severely impacted by triple pandemic

Community accountability:
Do right by the community, with
the community



REACH OUT to community leaders/agents



ENSURE community voices are heard and valued



EXAMINE

institutional and

inter-institutional aspects

of cultural racism



UNDERSTAND racial historical legacy



IDENTIFY racial disparities



TIMELINE

2021

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPT

OCT

NOV

DEC

JANUARY

2022

Research Planning KCEN and community feedback: what would be most helpful? **Survey development**

Community engagement and recruiting with those having lived experience with incarceration

Data collection

Data collection

Data analysis

Use high-level feedback to support KCEN legislative asks in partnership

Define programs, campaigns, and events on how to best show up for the commun



RESEARCH OUTCOMES

Encourage policy advocacy support

Refine strategies to advance Black equity

Broaden and deepen reach and impact of the work

Create accessible pathways





WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE FOR US

Better inform and empower advocacy and development

Strengthened existing and new community relationships within community

Long-term, implement widespread equity solutions (policy change, etc.)





SURVEY PROMPTS

PART 1

Center incarcerated
Black community
members in our ongoing
community outreach

- Do you believe information, data, and research can help advance equity?
- 2. Please select the top 5 issue areas you think KCEN should focus on for information, data, and research
- 3. Why are the issue areas you chose most important to you?
- 4. In an ideal scenario, what would successfully addressing these issue areas look like to you?



SURVEY PROMPTS

PART 2

Ask questions specific to the experiences and perspectives of incarcerated community members and their families

- How did the triple pandemic of racism, COVID-19, and an economic recession impact your support system (friends, family, loved ones, or community)?
- 2. If the triple pandemic of racism,
 COVID-19, and an economic recession
 hurt or negatively impacted your
 support system, is the damaged caused
 to your support system repairable?
- 3. What other factors affect the connection with your support system?



SURVEY PROMPTS

PART 3

Leaving room for community members to share what they see as important

- What does support look like to you during the continuing triple pandemic (racism, economic recession, and COVID)?
- Is there anything we need to know but have not asked? Please use the space on the blank page attached to expand on any questions above or add information we have not asked about.



BIT.LY/KCENLEARNSURVEY



Learning From Community Survey

Who We Are

King County Equity Now (KCEN) is a strong pro-Black advocacy and policy institution focused on realizing measurable markers of equity for Washington State's Black community. We build collective power, uplift and co-create transformative solutions. We are Black-led, Black-centered, and birthed out of a deep legacy of Black organizing in Seattle, Martin Luther King Jr. County of Washington.

Our mission at KCEN is to create a new normal rooted in equity. Our work centers on improving the everyday, on-the-ground lived experiences of Black people.

Our strength comes from the longstanding relationships we are building. These relationships include those of our community who are incarcerated. We see uplifting the talent and brilliance of our incarcerated community as key to successfully building a thriving Black community in Washington.

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QUESTIONS?

