



COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY



MEETING AGENDA

COO-BSK ADVISORY BOARD/GOVERNANCE GROUP

April 26, 2024, 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

In Person: 4200 S. Othello St., Suite 117, Seattle

Zoom: [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 861 6031 1210

Passcode: 588781

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Facilitator(s)</u>
9:00 am	Welcome & Connection	Matt Echohawk-Hayashi
9:10 am	Consent Agenda <i>Objectives: Review and approve today's Agenda, January 26 and March 29 Retreat Minutes</i>	Co-chairs
9:15 a	COO Staff Updates <i>Objectives: Introduction to new staff and roles</i>	Elsa Batres-Boni
9:20 am	COO Strategy Updates <i>Objectives: Leads will share Community Partnerships and Systems and Policy Change Strategy updates</i>	Elsa Batres-Boni Shannon Small Jose Camacho-Martinez
10:00	Governance Group Workplan <i>Objectives: Workgroups Report</i>	Co-Chairs
10:35 am	Co-chair Structure and Director Hiring <i>Objectives: Discussion and nominations of new Cochairs</i>	Co-Chairs
10:45 am	Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan Update <i>Objective: Update on GG participation</i>	Co-Chairs
11:00 am	Adjourn	Matt Echohawk-Hayashi

COO-BSK Advisory Board/Governance Group Members

Bilan Aden
Lydia Assefa-Dawson
Michael Brown
Kris Hermanns
Carlos Jimenez
Cilia Jurdy

Elsa Batres-Boni
Patience Malaba
Sandhya Nakhasi
Gloria Ramirez
Sili Savusa
Joy Sebe
Michael Seiwerrath

Dae Shogren
Yordanos Teferi
Matias Valenzuela
Jackie Vaughn
Agaiotupu Viena
Joon-Ho Yu

COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY GOVERNANCE GROUNDING

RESULTS STATEMENT

Create greater health, social, economic and racial equity in King County so that all people thrive and prosper, regardless of race or place.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Consistently demonstrate the values of equity, respect and partnership.
- Ensure low-income communities and communities of color affected by inequities develop and own the solutions.
- Advocate for and change institutional policies and processes to support equity goals.
- Encourage investments (both funding and in-kind resources) in long-term community capacity building and in systems, policy and practice changes that lead to greater racial and economic equity throughout King County.
- Catalyze alignment of funding streams and partner across issues and sectors to seek preventive strategies that address root causes of today's inequities.
- Be transparent and show how data and community expertise inform initiative strategies.
- Continuously learn, improve and share work publicly.
- Focus on geographic communities with the greatest needs, while simultaneously sharing lessons learned and building relationships across King County – *We are one King County.*

VALUES

We commit to guide Communities of Opportunity using these values:

Equity: work intentionally to eliminate racial, ethnic, socio-economic and geographic disparities in health and well-being

Process Equity: an inclusive, fair and open process

Community Engagement: authentic community engagement that involves listening to and understanding the unique histories of communities

Driven by quantitative and qualitative data: Data will track and report progress, as well as support given for promising and evidence-based practices

Innovation: Recognize that change involves risk and value an adaptive approach that views failure as an important part of the learning process

COO Governance Group Meeting Notes

Friday, Mar 29, 2024 (9 – 11 AM)

Hybrid – UW Community Engagement & Leadership Education Center + Zoom

In-person: Sandhya Nakhasi, Dae Shogren, Kris Hermanns, Joy Sebe, Michael Brown, Matt EchohawkHayashi (Headwater People)

On Zoom: Blishda Lacet, Elsa Batres-Boni, Jackie Vaughn, Cilia Jurdy, Michael Seiwerath, Lydia AssefaDawson, Aaron Garcia, Gloria Ramirez, Jose Camacho, Bilan Aden, Dan Bernard, Sally Gillis, Tera Chea, Yordanos Teferi, Martha Guerrero (Spanish Interpreter) Catherine (Interpreter), Crystal Grosshuesch (Headwater People - *notetaker*)

Meeting began at 9:10 AM PST.

The group discussed the hiring process for the permanent COO Director Position. They also touched on the importance of strategic partnerships and community engagement in advancing the COO's goals. Speakers highlighted the need for a clear understanding of community partners' expectations and the potential for labor unions to play a key role in this area. Additionally, they discussed succession planning and maintaining continuity in the organization, including updates on staffing structure and next steps for the workgroup. Finally, they discussed various strategies for engaging the community in King County's equity and social justice work, including creating a clear and concise campaign to educate partners about the work and its impact.

Action Items

- Send out sign-up sheet for COO director hiring subcommittees.
- Email Blishda by **April 9th** if interested in volunteering for hiring subcommittees. Rank preferences if interested in multiple roles.
- Follow up with Phylis on timeline and opportunities for GG to provide input on Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan.
- Bring summary of King County's relevant strategic plans to GG for transparency and input.
- Establish working group for Goal 1 (partnerships), Goal 2 (institutional partnerships), and Goal 3 (feedback on initiatives).
- Working groups to decide on first tasks and report back at next GG meeting on **April 26th**.

- Consider changing GG meeting time to **10am-12pm** and encourage in-person participation.
- Announce next set of co-chairs by April 26th GG meeting. Volunteers, please contact Matt and Michael S.
 - matthew@headwaterpeople.com
 - mseiwerath@seedseattle.org

Outline

Hiring process and meeting minutes approval.

- Sandhya discussed agenda items including hiring process updates and governance group work plans.
- January 26 meeting minutes and March 1 Retreat minutes approved.

Hiring process for a career service position.

- King County plans to revise job description and supplemental questions for a career service position, then post the position for at least two weeks for feedback.
- Internal candidates are preferred, but job postings are kept short to avoid bias.

Hiring process for a King County position.

- Blishda explains the hiring process for a position within King County, highlighting the need for revising the job description and developing supplemental questions.
- The process involves engaging with Human Resources Division to ensure questions are appropriate and legal.
- Blishda explains the interview process for a position, including reviewing applications, conducting an anti-bias training, and making recommendations for top candidates.
- The interview panel typically consists of 4 people, and the process takes around an hour and a half per candidate.

Hiring the permanent COO Director.

- Interview process for the permanent COO Director position to begin in two weeks, with two rounds of interviews and a meet and greet with community partners.
- Blishda requests volunteers to review job postings, interview panels, or help with interview questions, but clarifies that each person can only hold one role.
- Michael B encourages volunteers to step in and participate in the interview process.

Strategic plan and staffing updates at Seattle Foundation.

- Seattle Foundation has finalized its strategic plan, which will deepen its impact and evolve its business model without changing its grantmaking priorities.

- The organization is hiring a permanent Chief Impact Officer and a Director of Policy and Civic Action to support its staffing updates and continue its work in the community.
- Sally Gillis provides updates on the strategic plan and staffing changes at Seattle Foundation, including the appointment of a new Chief Impact Officer and two directors.
- Sally appreciates the kind emails from grantees and commits to keeping them updated on future staff changes.

Agenda items and co-chair structure for a meeting.

- Dae pivots agenda to discuss co-chair structure for committee.

Co-chair roles and next steps for COO.

- Sandhya and Dae discuss their roles as co-chairs of COO, including setting the agenda, supporting the retreat, and facilitating ongoing support for staff members and initiatives.
- Highlights of Matt's role as a continual thread in the co-chair process, including his involvement in reviewing the presentation on the co-chair schedule.
- Co-chairs discuss potential challenges and opportunities for continuity in leadership transition.
- Developing a work plan and continuing the next body of work is a priority for the group.
- Michael S expresses interest in the next round of co-chairs.
- Next meeting (April 26) the new co-chairs will be announced that will start the beginning of May.
- Groups report out on their progress.

Group 1

Original Goal: Present COO's model with other funders and decision-makers and bring them on board

Members: Bilan, Michael S, Yordanos, Jackie, Joon-Ho, José, Sandy

Group 2

Original Goal: Facilitate strategic partnerships with institutions and funded partner organizations

Members: Lydia, Joy, Cilia, Catherine, Dan

Group 3

Original Goal: Provide feedback and advice to general King County and Public Health Community

Engagement programs

Members: Matias, Gloria, Aaron, Roxana, Robin

Group 4

Original Goal: General support of COO and GG's work

Members: Michael B, Sili, Sally Whitney, Shannon

Improving participation and engagement in a remote work group.

- Dae suggests shifting meetings to encourage in-person participation, with snacks and beverages to foster community.
- Co-chairs take on maintenance of ongoing strategic planning work.

Strategic partnerships and power mapping for social impact.

- Committee formation is key to facilitating strategic partnerships.
- Committee member expresses regret for not having a clear goal or resource for community partners.
- Committee members discuss potential strategic partnerships with institutions and funded partners to support community engagement and power mapping.
- Matt identifies potential for partnerships with unions to address labor needs in the region.

Community engagement and public health initiatives.

- Aaron Garcia emphasizes community empowerment in public health initiatives.
- Aaron proposes a 3-part campaign to engage with systems, educate them on community requests, and empower the community in return.

Equity and social justice strategic plan.

- Discussion of King County's equity and social justice strategic plan refresh with Office of Equity, Racial and Social Justice.
- Phylis is requesting feedback on the ESJ Strategic Plan refresh, and volunteers are being asked to have a follow-up conversation with her.
- Phylis previously presented to another group and had three main questions, with a 45minute discussion.

Group engagement for transition management.

- Questions whether only Group 3 will provide feedback on Antonio's work, given their previous expectations of a workgroup with Antonio.
- Philips and her team will follow up on internal disruptions to address unexpected changes.

Aligning King County initiatives with strategic plan.

- Group seeks to codify alignment process for Seattle Foundation initiatives.
- Speakers discuss opportunities for community groups to influence King County's strategic plan, with some expressing frustration at the lack of centralized coordination.

Language access and translation support.

- Gloria highlights language access challenges in the community, including lack of support for indigenous language interpretation and translation.

Gathering information for strategic planning.

- Catherine shares her experience of not being able to interpret language axes, despite being a member of the community.
- GG seeks input on curating a digested summary of BSK implementation plan for better understanding and governance.
- King County staff requested to gather information on plans guiding strategic decisions.

Unique governance model for philanthropy.

- Group discusses what makes COO and governance distinct from other foundations, focusing on potential draw for funders.
- Jackie notes the unique aspect of Governance Group is co-strategizing with community partners.

Leveraging 10-year anniversary to recruit funders for collective impact initiative.

- Speaker 13 suggests forming a working group to educate potential partners and bring them on board with CEO's collective impact model.
- The group discusses leveraging CEO's 10-year anniversary to showcase the model and recruit new supporters.

Funding for community-led solutions.

- Marissa at Seattle Foundation may be a helpful contact for funders seeking to support community-led solutions.
- Participants discuss establishing working groups to tackle goals related to partnerships, change management, and staff engagement.
- Co-chairs recognized for their efforts; participants appreciated for their involvement.

Meeting adjourned at 11:02 AM

Next meeting: **Friday, April 26th** (9 – 11 AM)



COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS UPDATES

APRIL 26, 2024



Investment in Community

- As part of the Best Starts for Kids Levy, COO has funded **9** Community Partnerships throughout King County.
- Each contract award is for **\$855,000** split over 3 years, i.e., \$285,000 per year.
- Contract period started **January 2023** and go through **December 2025**.

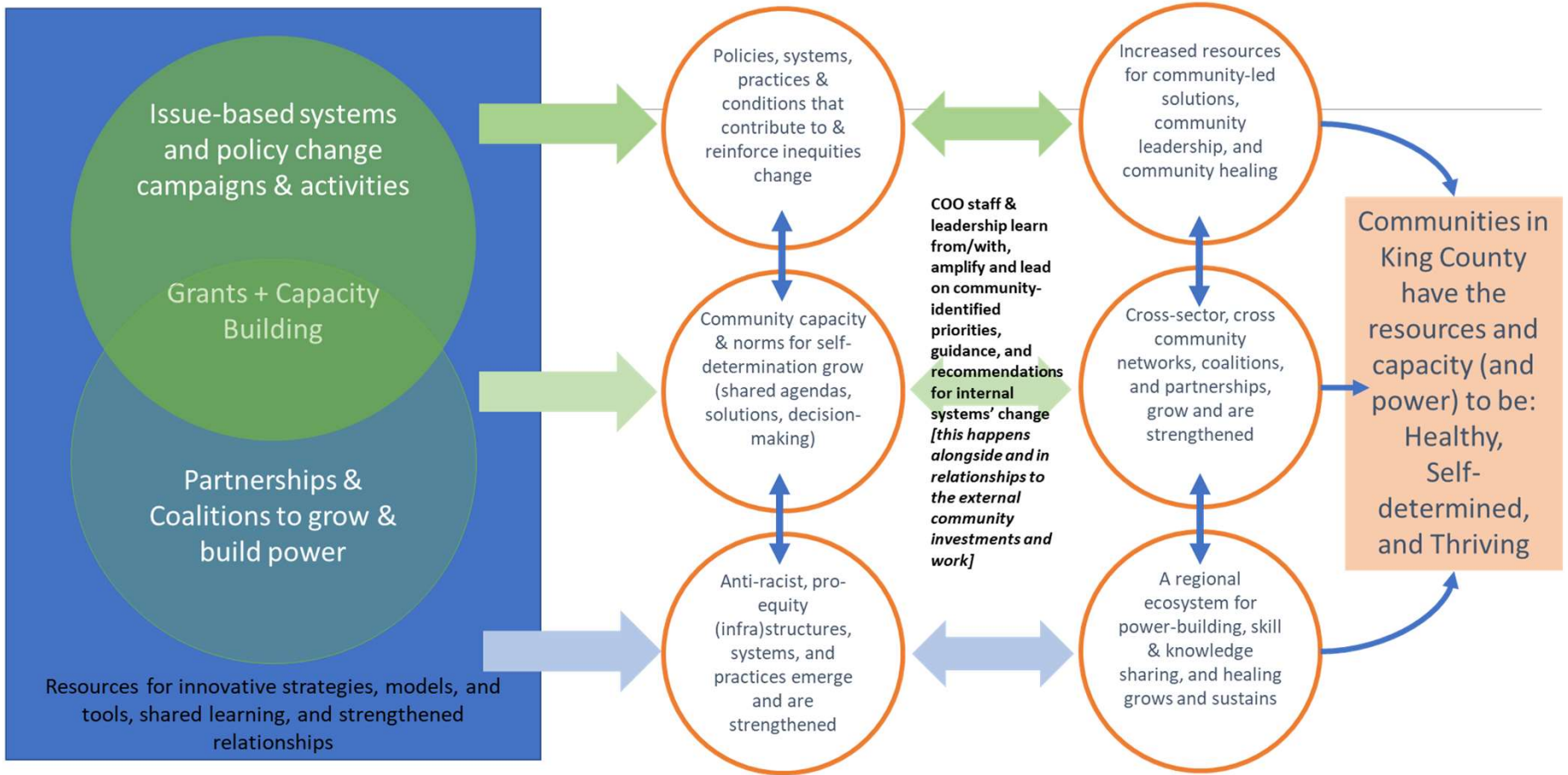
Community Partnerships

In order for, communities in King County to have the resources and capacity to be healthy, self-determined and thriving, COO invests in Place-Based and Cultural Community Partnerships.

COO investments support partnerships that are rooted in community that are building community power and are implementing strategies for structural change and improved community conditions.

All 9 Community Partnerships have shared ideas and priorities, a shared understanding, vision, and set of actions, that focus on the **root causes of inequities**, and implement strategies that contribute to better community health, safe and affordable housing, economic opportunity, and strong community connections.

Inequities in Housing, Health, Economic Opportunity, and Community Connection are rooted in racism, oppression, and othering, and are barriers to self-determination, and healthy and thriving communities for all. Communities of Opportunity (COO) supports communities' power to influence the decisions that affect them by providing financial and learning resources, and relationship-building and capacity-building opportunities that strengthen policy and systems change networks and activities.



Starting with Relationship



**BUILDING
RELATIONSHIPS**



**EQUITABLE
CONTRACTING**



**COMMUNITY
ROOTED**



**Organize &
Mobilize**

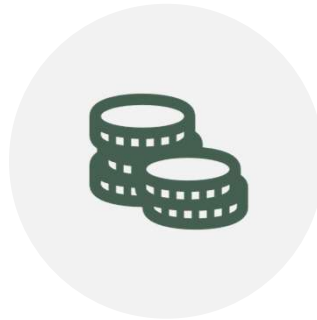
9 Funded Community Partnerships

1. Build2Lead: Legacy P.O.W.E.R Council
2. Refugee Immigrant Community Health (RICH) Program
3. Together We Heal: Addressing Root Causes of Inequity through Community-Center Healing
4. Kent Community Development Collaborative: Community Healthcare Navigation Initiative/Task Force*
5. SeaTac Airport Community Coalition (STACC) for Justice
6. Chinatown-International District (CID) Worker and Organizing Center: Building working Class, Queer, Femme Power & Presence in the CID
7. LGBTQIA+ South King County Collaborative
8. The Burien Collaborative
9. Snoqualmie Valley Human Services Coalition*

Challenges



PERSONNEL



SUSTAINABILITY



SYSTEMS



**ONGOING
SUPPORT**



**INTENTIONAL
CONNECTIONS**



PLANNING



Questions



Partnership/Project Name's	Partners
SeaTac Airport Community Coalition for Justice (STACC4J)	Beacon Hill Council (BHC) and El Centro De La Raza (ECDLR), KC Int'l Airport Community Coalition (KCIACC), Quiet Skies Puget Sound (QSPS) and 350 Aviation
Build 2 Lead: Legacy P.O.W.E.R Council	Build 2 Lead, King County Public Health Department, Virginia Mason Franciscan Health, Momentum Belonging Group, Livia Behavioral Health Services, UW Medicine Physicians Clinic, Morehouse School and Medicine (MSM), Leadership Tomorrow and Federal Way Public Schools (FWPS)
Refugee Immigrant Community Health Program (RICH) Program	Cham Refugees Community (CRC), Omar Bin Al-Khattab (OBK) Islamic Center, and Somali Cultural Center (SCC)
Together We Heal: Addressing Root Causes of Inequity through Community-Centered Healing	Freedom Project and Collective Justice
Kent Community Development Collaborative: Community Healthcare Navigation Initiative/ Task Force (CHNI/CHNT)*	Kent Community Development Collaborative, Community Network Council (CNC), Communities of Rooted Brilliance (CRB), Mother Africa (MA), and Communities In Schools of Kent (CISK)
Chinatown-International District (CID) Worker and Organizing Center: Building working class, queer, femme power & presence in the CID	Massage Parlor Outreach Project (MPOP), Chinatown International District (CID) Coalition and Puget Sound Sage
LGBTQIA+ South King County Collaborative	Queer Power Alliance (formerly known as LGBTQ Allyship), Entre Hermanos and People of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN)
The Burien Collaborative	Alimentando al Pueblo, BLK Berry, YES! Foundation, Southwest Youth and Family Services and Lake Burien Presbyterian Church
Snoqualmie Valley Human Services Coalition*	A Supportive Community for All, Acres of Diamonds, Empower Youth Network, Encompass NW, Holy Innocents Food Pantry, Helping Hands, Hopelink, Huntington Learning Center, Mt Si Senior Center, Mamma's Hands, Reclaim, Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank, Sno-Valley Senior Center, Tolt Congregational UCC Community Connections Program, Snoqualmie Valley YMCA, SVA Church

*Previously funded partnership

Partnership/Project Name's	Place	Cultural Communities
SeaTac Airport Community Coalition for Justice (STACC4J)	7 Cities near SeaTac Airport (STA): Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Normandy Park, Renton, SeaTac and Tukwila; communities under STA flight paths: Seattle, Beacon Hill and Georgetown.	Asian American & Pacific Islander, American Indian & Alaska Native, African American, African Immigrants, Hispanic/Latino, Low/lower income populations, impacted communities residing near SeaTac Airport and underneath its flight paths.
Build 2 Lead: Legacy P.O.W.E.R Council	Unincorporated South King County, Auburn, Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, SeaTac and Tukwila	Asian American & Pacific Islander, American Indian & Alaska Native, African American, African Immigrant, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQIA, Low/lower income populations
Refugee Immigrant Community Health Program (RICH) Program	Auburn, Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Rainier Valley, Renton, SeaTac, Tukwila, White Center	Asian American & Pacific Islander, African American, African Immigrants, Cham, Somali, Oromo, Low/lower income populations
Together We Heal: Addressing Root Causes of Inequity through Community-Centered Healing	Auburn, Burien, Federal Way, Kent, Rainier Valley, Renton, SeaTac, Tukwila	American Indian & Alaska Native, African American, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQIA, Low/lower income populations, Communities most impacted by the carceral system
Kent Community Development Collaborative: Community Healthcare Navigation Initiative/ Task Force (CHNI/CHNT)*	Kent	Asian American & Pacific Islanders, African American, Black, African Immigrants, Hispanic/Latino, Low/lower income populations
Chinatown-International District (CID) Worker and Organizing Center: Building working class, queer, femme power & presence in the CID	Chinatown International District, Kent, Rainier Valley, Renton, SeaTac and Tukwila	Asian American & Pacific Islanders, Immigrant workers, Low/lower income populations, Massage Parlor Workers
LGBTQIA+ South King County Collaborative	South King County: Renton, Kent, and Federal Way, Auburn, Burien, Des Moines, SeaTac, Tukwila, and Unincorporated White Center.	Asian American & Pacific Islander, American Indian & Alaska Native, African American, African Immigrants, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQIA+, Low/lower income populations
The Burien Collaborative	Burien and Highline Service Area	Asian American & Pacific Islander, African American, African Immigrants, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQIA, Low/lower income populations
Snoqualmie Valley Human Services Coalition*	Rural Snoqualmie Valley, including the communities of North Bend, Snoqualmie, Fall City, Preston, Carnation, and Duvall and the surrounding unincorporated areas.	Rural, Low/lower income populations

STACC4J

Partnership Convener: Beacon Hill Council

Partners: Beacon Hill Council, El Centro De La Raza, KC Int'l Airport Community Coalition, Quiet Skies Puget Sound and 350 Aviation

Result Areas: Health, Housing, Community Connections

Geographic Areas: Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Normandy Park, Renton, SeaTac and Tukwila; communities under STA flight paths: Seattle, Beacon Hill and Georgetown.

Cultural Communities: Asian American & Pacific Islander, American Indian & Alaska Native, African American, African Immigrants, Hispanic/Latino, Low/lower income populations, impacted communities residing near SeaTac Airport and underneath its flight paths.

Highlights: Existing steering committee members and staff are reaching communities, organizations and allied groups to join the STACC4J coalition. Their partnership's work is focused on education and organizing for their Fix the Harm campaign that addressed environmental impacts directly connected to the SeaTac Airport and its surrounding neighborhoods. The coalition held a Port of Seattle Candidate Forum as well as a community report back event to deepen connections to coalition partners and community members and inform provide updates on their work of 2023 while gathering feedback for 2024.

Build2Lead

Partnership Convener: Build 2 Lead

Partners: Build2Lead, King County Public Health Department, Virginia Mason Franciscan Health, Momentum Belonging Group, Livia Behavioral Health Services, UW Medicine Physicians Clinic, Morehouse School and Medicine (MSM), Leadership Tomorrow and Federal Way Public Schools (FWPS)

Result Areas: Health, Economic Opportunity, Community Connections

Geographic Areas: Unincorporated South King County, Auburn, Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Renton, SeaTac and Tukwila

Cultural Communities: Asian American & Pacific Islander, American Indian & Alaska Native, African American, African Immigrant, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQIA, Low/lower income populations

Highlight: B2L recently held its second Melanin and Medicine event, which brought together over 140 students and volunteers. This event was in collaboration with youth from Thomas Jefferson High School's Black Student Union and B2L P.O.W.E.R Council. Morehouse School of Medicine has been a partner in bringing in BIPOC healthcare professionals to engage with youth and continues to expand its partnership with Build2Lead and the P.O.W.E.R Council.

Refugee Immigrant Community Health Program

Partnership Convener: Cham Refugees Community

Partners: Cham Refugees Community, Omar Bin Al-Khattab Islamic Center, and Somali Cultural Center

Result Areas: Health, Economic Opportunity, Community Connections

Geographic Areas: Auburn, Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Kent, Rainier Valley, Renton, SeaTac, Tukwila, White Center

Cultural Communities: Asian American & Pacific Islander, African American, African Immigrants, Cham, Somali, Oromo, Low/lower income populations

Highlights: Organized two advocacy meetings with youth and elected officials, KC Councilmember Dave Upthegrove and Congressman Adam Smith, to discuss the mental health crisis that refugee communities face, and the lack of public funding to help their communities. Formed a stakeholder group of youths representing each partner group to meet regularly to plan and develop ideas and solutions to promote and advocate for culturally relevant solutions that support improved community health, healing, resiliency, and empowerment. Hosted more than 20 youth and family focused community events in 2023, including: a BIPOC Youth Wellness Retreat; a youth mental health leadership event; and 2 community seminars entitled "Introduction to Mental Health: Understanding the Basics" and "Understanding Mental Health in a Cultural Context"

Together We Heal

Partnership Convener: Freedom Project

Partners: Freedom Project and Collective Justice

Result Areas: Health, Housing, Community Connections

Geographic Areas: Auburn, Burien, Federal Way, Kent, Rainier Valley, Renton, SeaTac, Tukwila

Cultural Communities: American Indian & Alaska Native, African American, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQIA, Low/lower income populations, Communities most impacted by the carceral system

Highlight: The partnership held multiple virtual drop-in spaces focused on the topics of moving through grief, integrative trauma, embracing rest, and other restorative justice practices as part of a series supporting survivors of harm. The partnership began its referral pilot project working towards improving and addressing the urgent needs of community, reflecting a commitment to supporting and uplifting marginalized individuals whose basic needs, like rental assistance threaten the stability, participation and engagement in their healing work. This effort aims to contribute to the well-being of BIPOC and marginalized communities, particularly those most impacted by mass incarceration.

Kent Community Development Collaborative

Partnership Convener:

Partners: Kent Community Development Collaborative, Community Network Council, Communities of Rooted Brilliance, Mother Africa, and Communities In Schools of Kent

Result Areas: Health, Economic Opportunity, Community Connections

Geographic Areas: Kent

Cultural Communities: Asian American & Pacific Islanders, African American, Black, African Immigrants, Hispanic/Latino, Low/lower income populations

Highlights: The Kent Community Development Collaborative continues to work with partners to advocate for the needs of the community including topics like guaranteed basic income, opportunities related to the Crisis Care Center Levy, discussions related to the Bipartisan Military Mental Health Taskforce, community priorities regarding environmental and climate impacts of the King County International Airport, broadband deployment and digital equity for Washington State Native & Indigenous Communities. Members of the collaborative sit on the Equitable Recovery and Reconciliation Alliance (ERRA) Workforce Development Workgroup in support of the workforce development work the partnership is doing in Kent.

Chinatown- International District Worker and Organizing Center

Partnership Convener: Massage Parlor
Outreach Project

Partners: Massage Parlor Outreach
Project (MPOP), Chinatown
International District (CID) Coalition
and Puget Sound Sage

Result Areas: Health, Housing,
Community Connections

Geographic Areas: Chinatown International District, Kent, Rainier Valley, Renton, SeaTac and Tukwila

Cultural Communities: Asian American & Pacific Islanders, Immigrant workers, Low/lower income populations, Massage Parlor Workers

Highlights: The partnership has hosted a series of workshops and celebrations in the CID. They successfully opened the worker and organizing center as described in their proposal. The partnership has expanded their outreach beyond the massage parlor workers who are usually engaged with the worker center to other workers in South King County; it's been a meaningful opportunity to build trusting relationships and mobilize others in order to offer leadership development opportunities and provide political education including series on workers' rights which has been offered at the worker and organizing center.

LGBTQIA+ South King County Collaborative

Partnership Convener: Queer Power Alliance (formerly known as LGBTQ Allyship)

Partners: Queer Power Alliance, Entre Hermanos and People of Color Against AIDS Network (POCAAN)

Result Areas: Health, Housing, Economic Opportunity, Community Connections

Geographic Areas: South King County: Renton, Kent, and Federal Way, Auburn, Burien, Des Moines, SeaTac, Tukwila, and Unincorporated White Center.

Cultural Communities: Asian American & Pacific Islander, American Indian & Alaska Native, African American, African Immigrants, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQIA+, Low/lower income populations

Highlight: The Collaborative has successfully onboarded six Community Advisory members identifying as LGBTQIA+ BIPOC. It took a lot of intentional work and trust-building to ensure that the representation matches the communities that have yet to be represented in the past. They have continued to meet and are planning for their community landscape analysis, which will include community listening sessions, focus groups, surveys, etc. They held a retreat with the collaborative and advisory members to support the vision of 2024 and 2025.

The Burien Collaborative

Partnership Convener: Lake Burien Presbyterian

Partners: Lake Burien Presbyterian Church, Alimentando al Pueblo, BLK Berry, YES! Foundation, Southwest Youth and Family Services

Result Areas: Health, Community Connections

Geographic Areas: Burien and Highline Service Area

Cultural Communities: Asian American & Pacific Islander, African American, African Immigrants, Hispanic/Latino, LGBTQIA, Low/lower income populations

Highlight: The Collaborative has created cross-agency opportunities and resources to support the desires and needs of communities and service providers in the city of Burien. The partnership supported youth from 3 different high schools within the Highline school district who wanted to create an event for deeper community connections and belonging titled “Culture On Tour.” This event was led by students and organizations from the collaborative who shared resources and information about the partnership's efforts and student’s diverse backgrounds to build community, they had about 200 people show up throughout the event. They continue to create information and resource sharing opportunities and events for members of their community.

Snoqualmie Valley Human Services Coalition

Partnership Convener: A Supportive
Community for All

Partners: A Supportive Community for
All, Acres of Diamonds, Empower
Youth Network, Encompass NW, Holy
Innocents Food Pantry, Helping Hands,
Hopelink, Huntington Learning Center,
Mt Si Senior Center, Mamma's Hands,
Reclaim, Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank,
Sno-Valley Senior Center, Tolt
Congregational UCC Community
Connections Program, Snoqualmie
Valley YMCA, SVA Church

Result Areas: Health, Housing,
Community Connections

Geographic Areas: Rural Snoqualmie Valley, including the communities of North Bend, Snoqualmie, Fall City, Preston, Carnation, and Duvall and the surrounding unincorporated areas.

Cultural Communities: Isolated Rural, Low/lower income populations

Highlights: In 2023 the SVHSC Referral & Navigation Program received 133 referrals for 98 people, which connected partners provided clients 223 services. The Coalition established baseline training for navigation program partners on DEI, confidentiality and ethics, clinical skills, and technical skills for Julota (software) so all partners, regardless of size and budget, have access to learning opportunities that enable them to better serve community members. COO grant helped partnership secure an additional \$225,000 in leverage grant funds for some coalition partners.

Systems and Policy Change

2023 - 2024

What is Systems and Policy Change

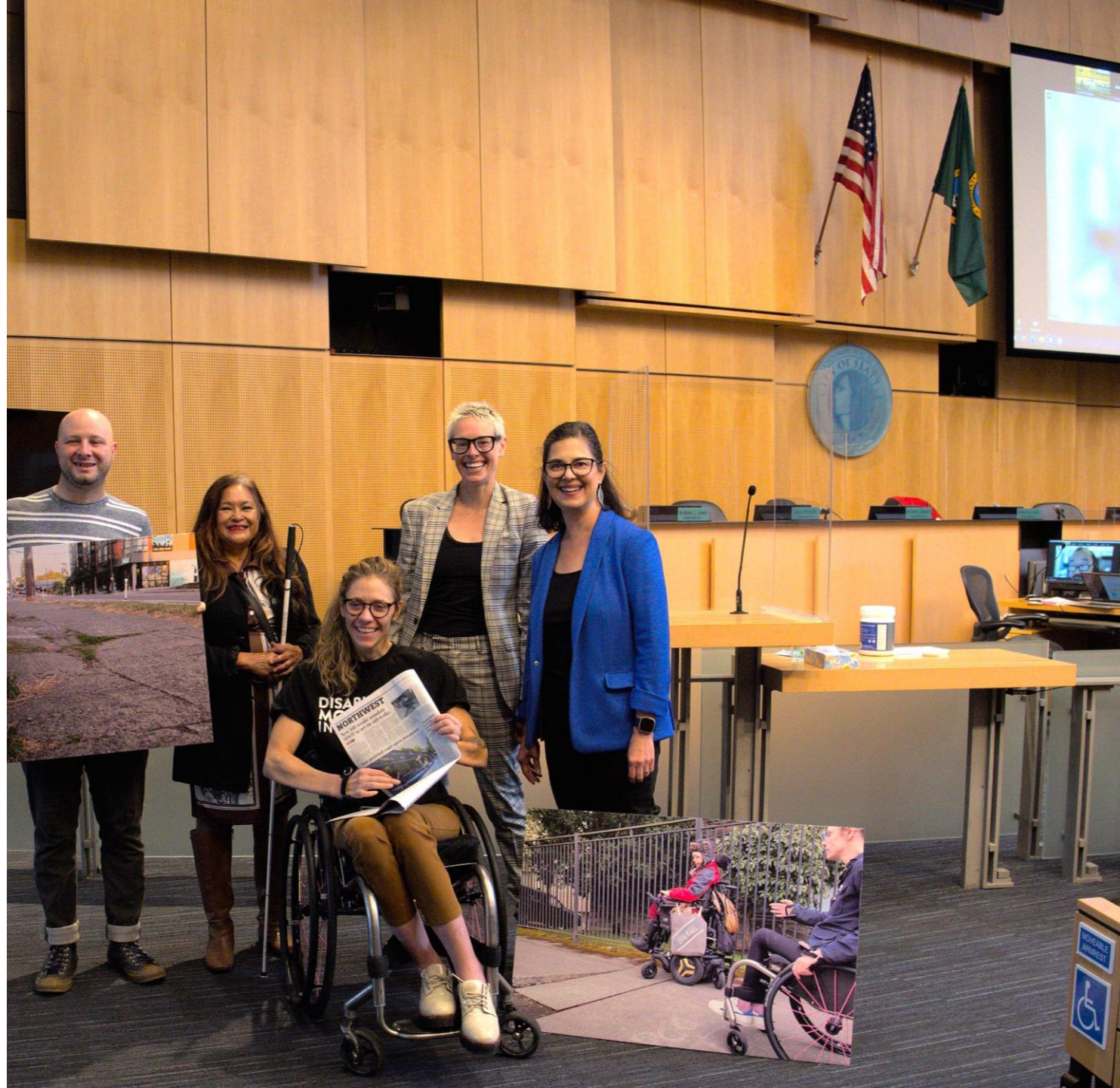
The Systems and Policy Change work invests in organizations that are using policy to bring about systems change. Their process can include designing, influencing or protecting policy.

Themes

- Partners stressed the importance of community perspectives and leadership to advance their efforts for sustainable, equitable policy, systems and environmental changes.
- Partners reported that developing and strengthening relationships with community members and other key stakeholders was crucial to establishing a strong foundation for their policy work.
- Several partners reported on ways youth leaders heard the needs of young people in the community and translated that into activities and systems changes to support belonging and well-being in the community.
- Many partners reported on the importance of COO/BSK funding to increase organizational capacity to support strategic community engagement and structural equity change work.

"With COO funding, we have built upon [our] existing staff capacity by adding a full-time staff organizer to the program to more effectively reach and support our constituents and meet our two-year goals, as well as our long-term goals for systemic and policy change. Greater staff capacity has been more necessary as we continue to recover from the pandemic, engage in time intensive, effective work to develop targeted outreach strategies and grow community relationships over time."

- Disability Rights Washington



Progress

- COO partners championed the creation and amendment of eight policies
 - SIHB, SURGE, IAWW, SPAN, DRW, FEEST, Chief Seattle Club & Look2Justice
 - *Example:* SPAN's work on HB 1260 saw the removal of the requirement that people with disabilities repay the state what they have received in support from the ABD program once they qualify for federal support from Social Security – Disability. This is an important win allowing people with disabilities to keep more of their cash assistance.
- At the end of 2023 thirteen partners were already in the process of creating new programs and advocating for legislative priorities that further the core goals of their COO work
 - *Example:* Crescent City Collaborative was in the process of creating a pilot for community organizations to collaborate to provide BIPOC small business with low to no cost loans.
- 2023 was also the culmination of work for some partners and saw the success of several ideas.
 - *Example:* WAISN'S Health Equity for Immigrants' campaign successfully secured \$45 million investment from the Washington legislature for Medicaid expansion and extend access to Apple Health Care starting in 2024 leading to subsidies in healthcare.

Challenges

- Almost all grantees noted limited staff capacity, retention, ability to fill roles and providing a livable wage as areas of concern.
- Due to the long-term nature of systems change work, burnout and trauma across communities is also troubling as grantees want to ensure community members can participate in this work while protecting their wellbeing.
- Several grantees also elevated political dynamics as challenges to their work. The lack of creative solutions and bureaucracy has made it difficult for community members to connect with decision makers.
- The elections signaled big changes in the political landscape, forcing grantees to start building relationships from scratch with incoming city council members.

Grantee Perspective

"In 2023, the challenges we encountered in our work with the King County Comprehensive Plan update Equity Workgroup were multifaceted and complex. Our primary challenge was ensuring the diverse voices and needs of BIPOC communities in [impacted regions] were effectively represented and integrated into the policy-making process. This task was particularly demanding as it involved aligning a range of diverse perspectives with broader policy goals."

- Staff Member, White Center Community Development Association

Requested Support

- Almost all groups requested various types of training related to professional development for staff, training to increase community engagement in policy efforts, and participatory action research training.
- They also elevated a need for increased connection amongst COO partners and connection to other funders.

Policy Learning Circles

Goals

- Create a safe space for COO SPC partners to meet and share their policy change process (who they partner with, how they approach challenges, who they want to partner with in the future etc).
- Hold sessions that are both structured yet flexible where participants suggest programming and lead sessions.
- Develop a regular cadence for partners to share their Policy priorities and legislative goals.
- Support partners in building relationships and collaborating.

