

# Seattle Neighborhood Group ANNUAL REPORT

2021



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#### **Our Mission**

The Seattle Neighborhood Group (SNG) educates, organizes and collaborates with residents, businesses, government entities and other organizations to create safe communities through equitable engagement, with a focus on underserved populations.



#### **Our Vision**

Seattle Neighborhood Group envisions crime-free communities where people work together to solve problems, children play without fear and businesses thrive.



### **Core Values**

Seattle Neighborhood Group's role as a leader in community safety requires all persons involved with Seattle Neighborhood Group to assume the responsibility of maintaining the public's trust. To fulfill this obligation to the community and ourselves, our Core Values provide the foundation on which we base our actions and decisions.



### Integrity

We act with the highest level of accountability, we provide fair, accurate and honest disclosure of information, and we treat all individuals in a fair and responsible manner, inspiring the highest level of trust within our communities.



#### **Inclusiveness**

We embrace diversity. We understand that Seattle Neighborhood Group is strong as an organization because of the respect, dignity, and value we give to all individuals, and because we aspire to involve people from all segments of our communities in every aspect of our work.



#### **Teamwork and Communication**

We value teamwork. We believe building trust among each other produces the best results. We believe that when we promote and practice effective communication, we will build an even stronger team that will make a difference in our community and the people we serve.



### **Community Collaboration**

We successfully impact the challenges facing our communities through our spirit of collaboration. We are successful conveners, bringing together and working with the community to accomplish common goals. We consider the development of volunteer leadership a critical component of service to our communities.



# **Public Safety in South Park**

Our South Park Public Safety Coordinator, Dennis Diaz, continued to partner with various organizations and community leaders to support public safety in the South Park neighborhood. Seattle Neighborhood Group collaborated with the African American Health Board and Gathering Roots to support COVID-19 Vaccination Pop-Ups.

We also continued to collaborate on Neighborhood Food Relief Initiatives with Urban Fresh Food Farm Collective by distributing boxes of food to the community and preparing meals for over 180 seniors in the area.

Seattle Neighborhood Group helped rebuild the River City SkatePark and participated in the grand opening. Other activities in South Park included providing safety assessments to small businesses, producing and distributing the South Roots newsletter, and participating in the monthly community clean-ups providing food and beverages from local restaurants.



▲ River City SkatePark grand opening



Community members along with South Park Public Safety Coordinator, Dennis Diaz (in green hat).



▲ SNG staff at River City SkatePark grand opening



**▲** Community members cleaning the skate park.

# Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth



▲ Community members at the Barbershop Chat and Chew

Seattle Neighborhood Group has provided coordination support for the Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth initiative for over a decade. This innovative, community-led, place-based, and evidence-informed initiative supports the implementation of non-arrest interventions to address violence against youth in the Rainier Beach neighborhood.

In 2021, Seattle Neighborhood Group conducted two Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessments in the Rainier Beach neighborhood. We also conducted a Community CPTED Workshop partnering with Rainier Beach Action Coalition and Moms Demand Action. Additionally, Seattle Neighborhood Group partnered with Urban Artworks and local youth to create a mural at one of the "pearls" in the neighborhood where there has been extensive crime. Other community events included a Tree Love event helping to clean part of the neighborhood and a Barbershop Chat and Chew, which made space for honest conversations about gun violence and safety.



▲ Mural celebration with Urban Artworks artists, youth artists, and SNG Project Manager Cathie Wilmore (in yellow hat).



▲ Youth artist standing in front of the mural



▲ Community members at the mural celebration

# East African Community Outreach & Crime Prevention



▲ East African seniors at Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands

The coronavirus pandemic has been especially hard on BIPOC communities as well as elders. Our longtime Coordinator, Michael Neguse, partnered with many organizations, including Horn of Africa Services, Yesler and Northgate Community Centers, Tilth Alliance, and Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands, to continue supporting these vulnerable populations.

As more people vaccinated against COVID-19, more opportunities opened for gathering in-person. More East African elders started attending the senior program again, which helped combat the isolation many elders faced. Through the East African senior program, elders received culturally appropriate food, hygiene supplies, and a safe place for community events and programming in Northgate, Yesler, and at the Rainier Beach Urban Farm & Wetlands each week. They also learned about personal safety and how to protect themselves against crimes such as fraud and identity theft.



Traditional East African Coffee Ceremony during FarmFest



### **IMPACT!**

### Safe Schools Student Leadership Conference

The IMPACT Safe Schools Student Leadership Conference was virtual again this year. With the continued concern about the coronavirus and emerging variants, it was prudent to hold the conference online again.

For this year's conference, Seattle Neighborhood Group partnered with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Sound Discipline, Seattle Police Department, and Bishop Blanchet High School. The student advisory council again chose the theme of mental health and suicide prevention. There was much conversation with students on adjusting to in-person learning after doing remote learning for more than a year.



I think the most valuable information I received from the conference is the personal stories. I learned not just about ways to cope but ways that actual real people personally find helpful in times of distress.

- High School student at Lakeside

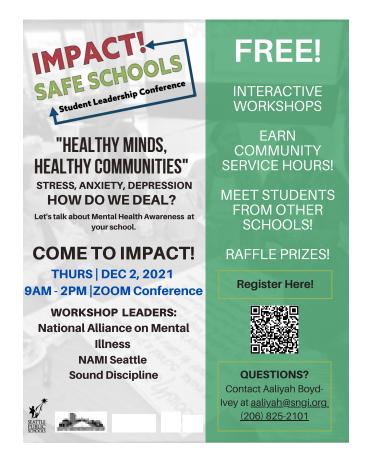




I plan to bring back all the information I learned today to start those conversations about mental health and start an advocacy group.

High School student at Seattle
 Waldorf High School

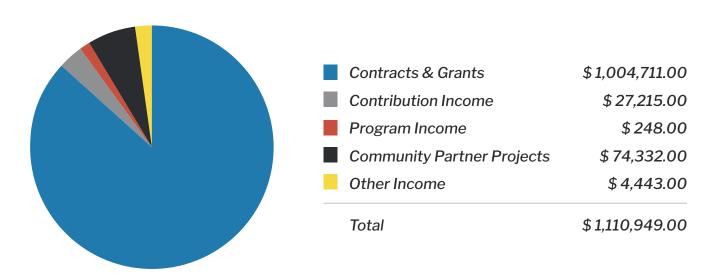




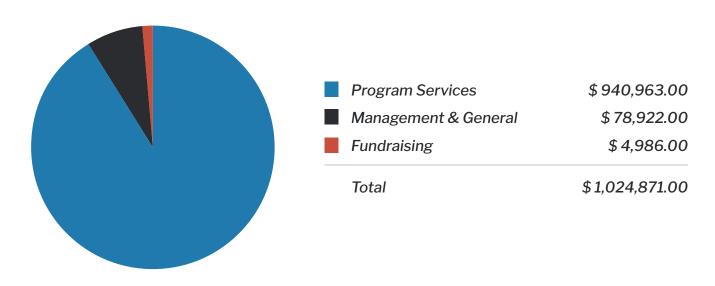


## **Financials**

### **Total 2021 Revenue**



### **Total 2021 Expenses**



# A Message from the **Executive Director**

After surviving months of a crippling global pandemic, the beginning of 2021 brought new hope as the COVID-19 vaccine became available. At Seattle Neighborhood Group, we worked with community leaders, other nonprofit organizations, and city departments to help get people vaccinated against this deadly virus. We pivoted to meet the changing needs of our community which varied from food scarcity to increased risks of theft and graffiti to isolation and, in some cases, the death of a loved one.

Through this challenging year, our team focused on connecting people to resources and sharing the skills and knowledge necessary to live and thrive in a safe environment. We continued to help neighborhoods have safer and more fun public spaces and programs. We continued to build authentic relationships and partnerships with community members, organizations, and city departments.

As I wrap up the first full year of my tenure as executive director, I am incredibly proud of our team and what we have accomplished this year. As we move into a post-pandemic world, I am confident that Seattle Neighborhood Group will continue to play a pivotal role in reimagining public safety in our community. Thank you for your continued support and care for our community.

In Partnership,

Thomasina Schmitt

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Executive Director



### **Meet the Team**

### SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Abigail Chandler

Tienney Milnor

Board Co-Chair

Board Co-Chair

Sokha Danh Vice-Chair
Beth Steinhaus Treasurer
Claire Bellefleur Secretary

Manny Apostol Board member
Andra Maughan Board member
Dan Wiseman Board member

### SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP STAFF

Michael Neguse Southeast & East African Program Coordinator

Cathie Wilmore Rainier Beach: A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth Project Manager

Dennis Diaz South Park Public Safety Coordinator

Aaliyah Boyd-Ivey Project Coordinator

