

Office of Planning and  
Community Development (OPCD)

# Equitable Development Initiative (EDI)

*Together we can leverage our collective resources to create communities of opportunity for everyone, regardless of race or means.*

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# Project Profile – Lake City Collective

Lake City Collective is a minority-led, grassroots non-profit organization doing advocacy-in-action work on issues that primarily affect BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) communities.



*A mural by Seattle artist Romel Belleza (Ilocano, Tlingit and Dishchii Bikoh N'Dee) on the asphalt of a “Stay Healthy” street in the Little Brook neighborhood of Lake City.*

# Project Profile – Lake City Collective

## Funding / Project Status:

- Total funding to date through EDI = \$1.297 million (Capacity + Capital)
- Status: Site acquisition complete and currently in development phase, actively seeking funds and soon launching a capital campaign.

## Purpose / Impact:

- With the support of a diverse board of directors, LCC is working to build a multicultural resilience center / hub run by the organization, founded by and for frontline communities.
- Lake City Collective works on a community stewardship model to increase local communities' ability to be self-determining.
- They seek to expand services that meet the needs of BIPOC community members and families north of the ship canal, where the majority is eligible to receive government assistance.

## Intended Outcome:

- Create a permanent homebase in Seattle's Little Brook neighborhood.
- Foster a stable connection and sense of pride to the area that in turn would prevent displacement.
- Create a community envisioned gathering space for people of diverse backgrounds and all ages to connect, organize, share resources, and create systems of support.
- Build capacity and create opportunities to empower BIPOC communities to be stewards of their own environment.
- Establish partnerships that would preserve existing affordable housing sites in the neighborhood and improve living conditions.
- Build strong relationships across City departments to build infrastructure, resilience, workforce development, and economic opportunity in low-access to opportunity areas.



# Project Profile – yəhaw' Indigenous Creatives Collective

yəhaw' Indigenous Creatives Collective is a community of intertribal Indigenous artists rematriating 1.5 acres of land in South Seattle, on Coast Salish territories. yəhaw' is working towards a future where all Indigenous creatives can thrive side-by-side.



*“The Creator has left the sky too low. We are going to have to do something about it, and how can we do that when we do not have a common language? ...We can all learn one word, that is all we need. That word is yəhaw' - that means to proceed, to go forward, to do it.” — Vi taqʷšəblu Hilbert (Upper Skagit) in her telling of Lifting the Sky*

# Project Profile – yəhaw' Indigenous Creatives Collective

## Funding:

- Total funding to date through EDI = \$ 2.07 million (Capacity + Capital)
- Status: Phased development that secured 1.5-acres of land in South Seattle, including a 1,200 SF home, programming has begun, next steps include site consideration of site improvement and development needs

## Purpose / Context:

- The Land Rematriation project works to provide community-led arts and food programming for Indigenous and broader BIPOC populations that improves well-being through art-making, community building, and equitable creative opportunities for personal and professional growth
- Founded in 2017 to fill a crucial gap in our city's cultural landscape.
- As of 2021, yəhaw' entered a new phase as their own 501(c)3 nonprofit

## Intended Outcome:

- Acquire land within Seattle as part of the Land Rematriation project.
- Give those with broken relationships to the earth chances to experience food and water sovereignty through sustainable, repetitive contact.
- Create radically inclusive, trust-based arts opportunities for creatives at every stage of their careers, always paying a fair wage.
- Provide services, opportunities, and programming that foster relationship-building and mentorship opportunities to support continued creative development.
  - Such as exhibitions, installations, performances, residencies, markets, publications, grants, and other community-led projects
- Center the voices of women, Two Spirit, and young people.



# Project Profile – Estelita’s Library Freedom Cultural Center

Estelita’s Library is a social justice library, bookstore, and cultural hub dedicated to fostering community connections, sharing knowledge, and promoting a love of reading.



# Project Profile – Estelita’s Library Freedom Cultural Center

## Funding:

- Total funding through EDI = \$2.6 million (Capacity + Capital)
- Funding supports acquiring and developing property to expand.
- Status: Pre-acquisition due diligence, environmental assessment, development planning.

## Purpose:

- Estelita’s Freedom Cultural Center aims to uplift marginalized communities and expand services, community space, and library programming to benefit Beacon Hill and all of Seattle.
- The library and online bookstore focus on social justice, ethnic studies, and liberation movements.
- Establish a permanent home base in Beacon Hill after displacement due to development.
- Design and build the space through inclusive, community-centered process that uplifts BIPOC community voices.
- Expand land capacity for future affordable housing and preserve existing affordable housing for current tenants.

## Intended Outcomes:

- Create and preserve a dynamic, multi-use space that affirms culture, community, and fosters sharing knowledge.
- Provide opportunities for historically marginalized groups already displaced to return, stay, and be a part a thriving and vibrant community.
- Offer low- and no- cost space to community orgs, families, groups, and others to foster inclusion, connection, and belonging.
- Host accessible community events and programming where people can come together, raise their voices, and inspire each other.
- Partner with social good and community entities such as Sawhorse Revolution (youth-centered design and building), La Union Studio (cultural space design and construction), and Beacon Business Alliance to complete the project.
- Expand land capacity for future affordable housing and preserve existing affordable housing for current tenants.
- Address environmental contamination and improve community health and safety neighborhood conditions.
- Build on local cultural assets, ensure equitable access to all neighborhoods, and advance economic mobility and opportunity.



An aerial photograph of a city, heavily tinted with a green color. The image shows a dense urban landscape with numerous buildings and streets. In the center-left of the image, the word "Questions?" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. To the left of the text, there is a thin vertical orange line. The overall atmosphere is somewhat hazy, suggesting a distant or elevated perspective.

Questions?

OPCD