

# WGCCI

WILLIAM GROSE  
CENTER FOR  
CULTURAL  
INNOVATION



BLACK  
COMMUNITY  
IMPACT  
ALLIANCE



# WILLIAM GROSE

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- Pioneer
- Entrepreneur
- Developer
- Community Builder

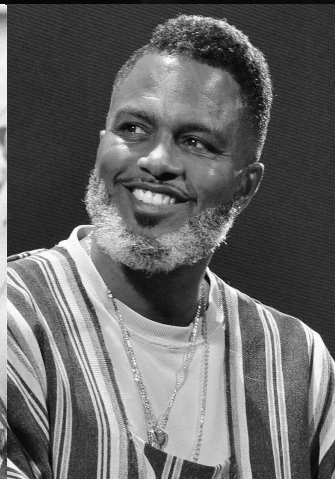




# RICH HISTORY

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- Creators
- Makers
- Innovators
- Entrepreneurs



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- #1 State Economy (WalletHub 2017)
  - #1 investment and development market in the country Urban Land Institute (2018)
  - #1 City in U.S. to find a job (WalletHub, 2015)
  - #1 Fastest-growing big city in the US (US Census Bureau)
  - #1 Highest job growth for small business in the US (Pachex/HIS Small Business Jobs Index)
  - #2 Best city for recent college graduates (Nerdwallet.com)
  - #2 Best city for high-tech growth (Jones Land LaSalle)
  - #5 Best US cities for tech startups (Entrepreneur.com)



# PROBLEM

## Seattle's Vanishing Black Community

November 12, 2014 at 11:16 PM

### As Seattle gets richer, the city's black households get poorer

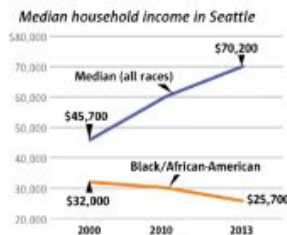
Posted by [Gene Balk](#)

It may feel like boom times in Seattle, but at least one group is being left out: the city's black residents.

While Seattle's median household income soared to an all-time high of \$70,200 last year, wages for blacks nose-dived to \$25,700 — a 13.5 percent drop from 2012. Among the 50 largest U.S. cities, Seattle now has the ninth lowest income for black households.

Seattle, which has the largest black community in the Pacific Northwest, also lags the country as a whole. Nationally, black households have more income — 35 percent higher than Seattle.

#### Declining income for blacks in Seattle

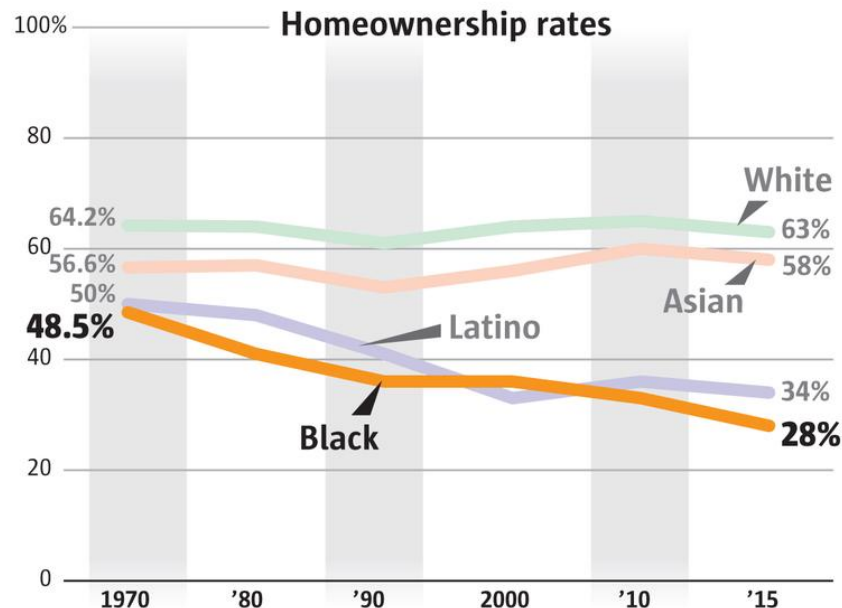


NOTE: Numbers not adjusted for inflation.  
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

[Click to enlarge](#)

### Growing racial gap in homeownership

Homeownership rates in King County for blacks and Latinos have declined sharply since 1970, but have remained relatively stable for whites and Asians.



Sources: U.S. Census and IPUMS-USA

MARK NOWLIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

# PROBLEM

## Seattle income by race

White households have the highest median income in Seattle, and more than double that of black households.

Median household income, 2018



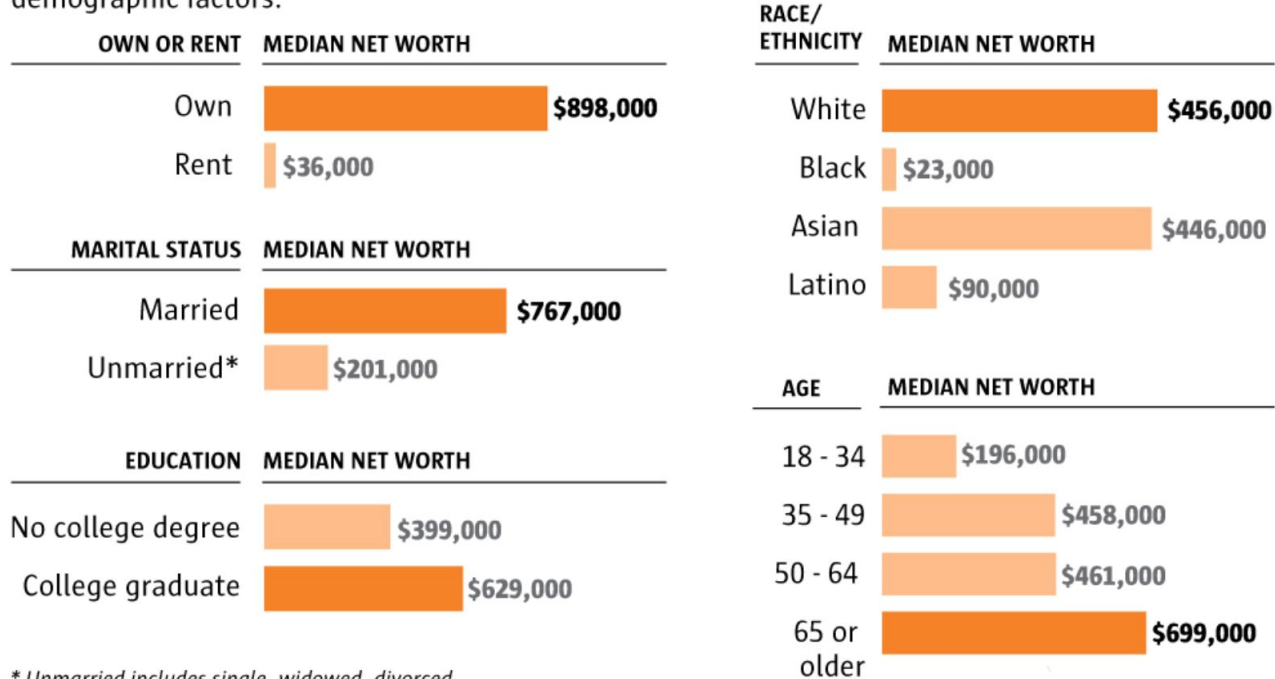
Source: U.S. Census

JAMES ABUNDIS / THE SEATTLE TIMES

# PROBLEM

## Seattle's net-worth gap

The median household net worth varies greatly depending on home ownership, race and other demographic factors.



\* Unmarried includes single, widowed, divorced

Source: Acxiom NetWorth Gold/Nielsen

MARK NOWLIN / THE SEATTLE TIMES



A young Black boy is the central focus of the image, resting his head on his hand over a stack of books. He is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students in a classroom setting. The overall tone is educational and focused.

## PROBLEM

Lack of education, skills and job opportunities

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- Education not preparing youth for knowledge based industry sectors or entrepreneurship
- Many Black owned businesses lacking up to date business development knowledge and access to capital
- Barriers to employment for community members re entering from incarceration
- 40% of jobs predicted to be replaced by automation
- Immigrant specific barriers to job market
- Current solutions are fragmented
- COVID-19 disproportionate impacts on the Black Community



# PROBLEM

Black owned startups and lack thereof

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- Income Inequality - not participating in knowledge based startup economy thus community being displaced
- only 1 percent of VC-funded startup founders are Black (CB Insights' data from 2010 on VC investments in the U.S.)
- Startups led by Black Women received 0.2 percent of venture funding from 2012 through 2014.
- According to Forbes Black Net Worth 2053 - \$0 to -\$20,000
- COVID-19 disproportionately affecting Black employment and entrepreneurship.

# COMMUNITY LISTENING

Gathering community input

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- Hack The CD
- Black Seattle 2035/Imagine Africatown
- Black Dot
- 23rd Ave Action Plan
- Central Area Commercial Revitalization Plan
- Historic Central Area Arts & Cultural District



OPPORTUNITY

AFRICATOWN

ENTERPRISE

CO-WORKING

AFRICATOWN  
MEDIA



# OPPORTUNITY

Fire Station 6

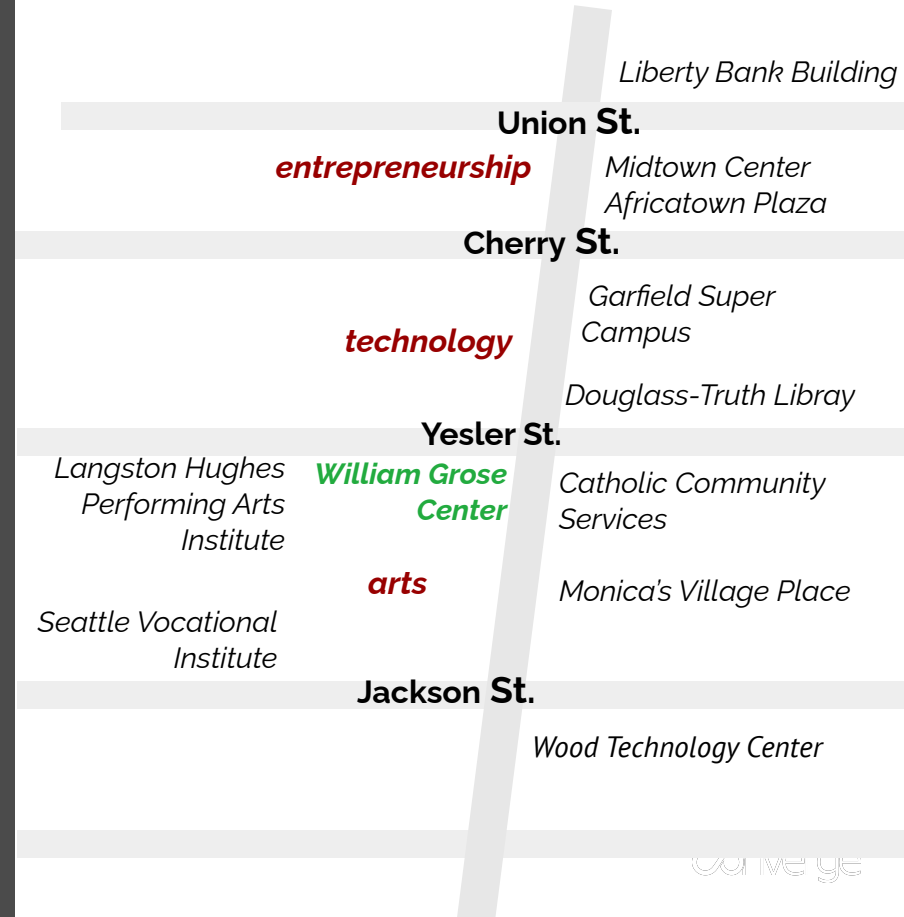
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*“Imagine a team of two 12 year-old co-founders using a sewing machine and 3D printer to design a hoodie that is laced with wearable technology; or a high school senior stopping by The Grose Center to get assistance from volunteer Amazon employees to create an app for her band's new mixtape.”*

# OPPORTUNITY

Cultural Innovation zone

- Unique global destination
- Connected physical, intellectual, and cultural assets
- Public-private partnerships
- Pathways to innovation economy clusters



# OPPORTUNITY

Establishing a path to succeed

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# OPPORTUNITY

Fire Station 6

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The William Grose Center for Cultural Innovation will be a prime hub for cultural innovation that is already taking place in the Central District. Historically, the Central District has been home to cultural icons such as Jimi Hendrix, Quincy Jones, Ernestine Anderson, Ray Charles and Mecca clothing line founder, Tony Shellman, among many others. The future looks just as creative and needs resources and investment to create opportunities for this generation.

# SOLUTION

William Grose Center for Cultural Innovation

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- Culture
- Community
- Innovation
- Technology
- Enterprise

# SOLUTION

One stop shop for business development

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The one stop shop:

- Pathways to education, employment and entrepreneurship
- Space for small-businesses to incubate and pilot their business ideas
- Space(s) for regular meetings, networking and community culture building around technology, enterprise and empowerment
- Consulting and facilitation to support acquisition of venture capital and B2B partnerships



# WHO WILL WGC SERVE?

One stop shop for business development in the Seattle Black community with focus on:

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- Youth & Young Adults
- Creatives
- Micro- entrepreneurs
- Existing businesses
- Technologists
- Community Builders
- Unemployed/Underemployed
- Immigrants & Refugees
- Previously incarcerated

# WORKS

Towards WGCCCI Vision

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Black Dot

Young Geniuses

COVID-19 Recovery

Creative Careers Incubator

Hack Africatown

CommuniversiTY





# GET INVOLVED

- Advisors
- Strategic Partners
- Business Coaches
- Tech Mentors
- Fundraising