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# **Southeast Seattle Education Coalition (SESEC)**

## **Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Report**

(July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017)

### **History and Mission**

SESEC was founded in 2012, by community leaders in response to a growing concern about low academic achievement, poorly performing schools and increasing parental dissatisfaction with their children's schools. Dedicated to improving educational opportunities for SE Seattle students, SESEC is the lead advocacy organization of a coalition whose mission is *"to work to rally communities of color and allies to improve SE Seattle schools so that all students succeed and all families are empowered."*

Our coalition is comprised of representatives from local community based organizations (CBOs), families, school administrations, government agencies and concerned residents. Together, they work on behalf of over 10,000 students (over 80% of whom are students of color and approximately 70% are low income) that attend 22 Seattle Public Schools in SE Seattle.

SESEC advocates for systemic change that addresses the achievement and opportunity gaps faced by SE Seattle students. We build relationships among SE Seattle community and non-profit leaders, Seattle Public Schools and the City of Seattle to affect a stronger voice for underrepresented communities.

### **Demographic Service Area**

SESEC's geographic service area is generally regarded as Seattle's Rainier Valley and Beacon Hill. This is considered the most racially, culturally, linguistically and economically-diverse region of Seattle. Based on American Community Survey, 2009-2013, SE Seattle has a population of 120,022 residents. Of SE Seattle residents, 69.1% are considered non-white and 25.5% live below the Federal Poverty Level.

SE Seattle also contains the highest risk factors for poor academic performance as measured by low test scores and graduation rates. These risk factors includes the highest concentration of Title 1 schools in Seattle; high free and reduced lunch rates; low earning rates for approximately 25-40% of the residents; high rates (30%) of residents who speak a language other than English; and English Language Learner (ELL) rates of up to 45%, where the district average is 11%.

### **Community-driven Objectives**

In January 2015, SESEC hosted a Community Summit to discuss the organization's objectives. Over seventy SE Seattle community residents, parents/caregivers, educators and non-profit leaders met to develop the key priorities on which SESEC would focus. The community-driven strategic priorities adopted for SESEC are: (1) Promote high quality early learning; (2) Change school culture through policy change and authentic parent/caregiver engagement; (3) Cultivate and grow personal relationships with CBOs who are trusted advocates, and families and schools; and (4) Strengthen community involvement and voices heard by policymakers.

## **Fiscal Year Accomplishments**

In FY16, SESEC accomplished the following within each of its key strategic priorities.

### **Priority #1: Promote high quality early learning**

- Played an integral role in coordinating advocacy efforts resulting in Seattle Public Schools approval of four pre-K classes for the academic school year 2016-17.
- In August 2016, SESEC, in collaboration with the Rainier Beach Action Coalition's Back2School Bash, hosted its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Kindergarten Kick-off with over 1,000 children, parents and guardian participating.
- Erin Okuno, Executive Director, was a City Council-appointment on the City of Seattle's Families and Education Levy and Seattle Preschool Program oversight committee.

### **Priority #2: Change school culture through policy change and authentic parent/caregiver engagement**

- Seattle Public Schools Budget—\$20m was restored from 'levy cliff' closing. No teacher cuts, but building cuts are still being made, impacting areas such as admin, assistant principals, etc. The Seattle School Board has also opted to spend \$5m on new English Language Arts textbooks.

### **Priority #3: Cultivate and grow personal relationships with CBOs who are trusted advocates, and families and schools**

- On an ongoing basis, SESEC hosts monthly and ad hoc meetings of its membership. Through discussions and ongoing interactions, stronger and more honest relationships are developed that have led to more collaborative projects among SE Seattle non-profits organizations.
- Partnered with Chinese Information Service Center (CISC) parents and University of Washington's College of Education to follow up on the Family Engagement Survey. Using the survey results as the basis of conversation CISC parents developed requests for Seattle Public Schools, City of Seattle, Seattle Education Association, and shared with the Governor's Office of the Education Ombuds to talk about their experiences as limited English speaking parents in Seattle Public Schools. As a result, several schools have made adjustments or done more outreach to families of color in their schools.

### **Priority #4: Strengthen community involvement and voices heard by policymakers**

- Mindful of 'the middle ground'—SESEC worked with OneAmerica, Neighborhood House, and UW's College of Education, School of Law, and School of Social Work to leverage UW resources to meet on-the-ground needs.
- Effectively engaged SE Seattle community to advocate for a new 2-tiered Bell Times for 2017-18 school year, while also advocating against the use of Families and Education Levy funds for busing to accomplish the Bell Times changes. The Seattle City Council allocated \$2.3 million in funds other than Levy monies to accomplish this change.

- Launched 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cohorts in SESEC's *Advocacy and Policy Cohort (APC)* to train community leaders and parents on educational policy development, effective advocacy and leadership skills with a racial equity lens. A total of 23 individuals enrolled in the cohorts with 14 participants being people of color, 4 were parents and 19 worked in various community non-profits.
- Two participants from SESEC's APC Cohort were accepted on Seattle Public Schools' Family Engagement Committee.
- Two articles were published written in the South Seattle Emerald written by APC graduates.

<https://southseattleemerald.com/2017/07/07/contributing-to-inequity-white-parents-must-act-to-change-seattle-public-schools-opportunity-gap/>

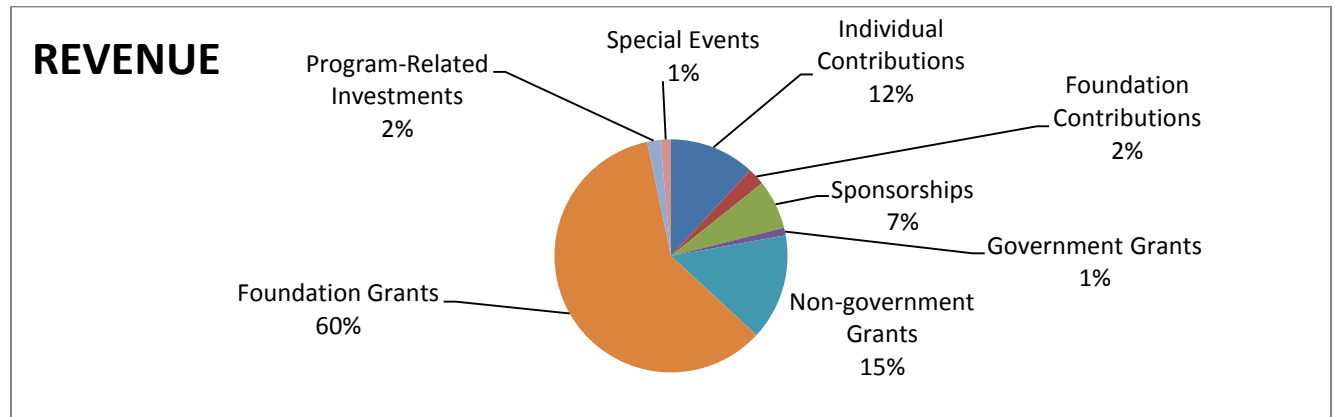
<https://southseattleemerald.com/2017/04/25/what-ethnic-studies-means-to-me/>

- Co-hosted with Rainier Valley Corps and United Way of King County the *2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Grantmaker-Grantee Exchange* bringing together community members and philanthropist to network and learn from each other.
- Served on the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction's Race and Ethnicity Student Data task force looking at and making recommendations for the way race and ethnicity data is collected statewide.
- In collaboration with League of Educating Voters (LEV) and Coalition of Immigrants Refugees and Communities of Color (CIRCC), SESEC hosted a forum for candidates for the position of Superintendent of Public Instruction. Event was attended by 6 candidates and 100 community members.
- Hosted SESEC's 2016-17 Community Summit. Introduced SESEC's *Equity and Equality in Education (EEE) Project* to over 70 community participants. Recruited community members on the project's planning committee and obtained consensus from the participants on project format and key issues for the Speakers Forums.

## **Financials (unaudited)**

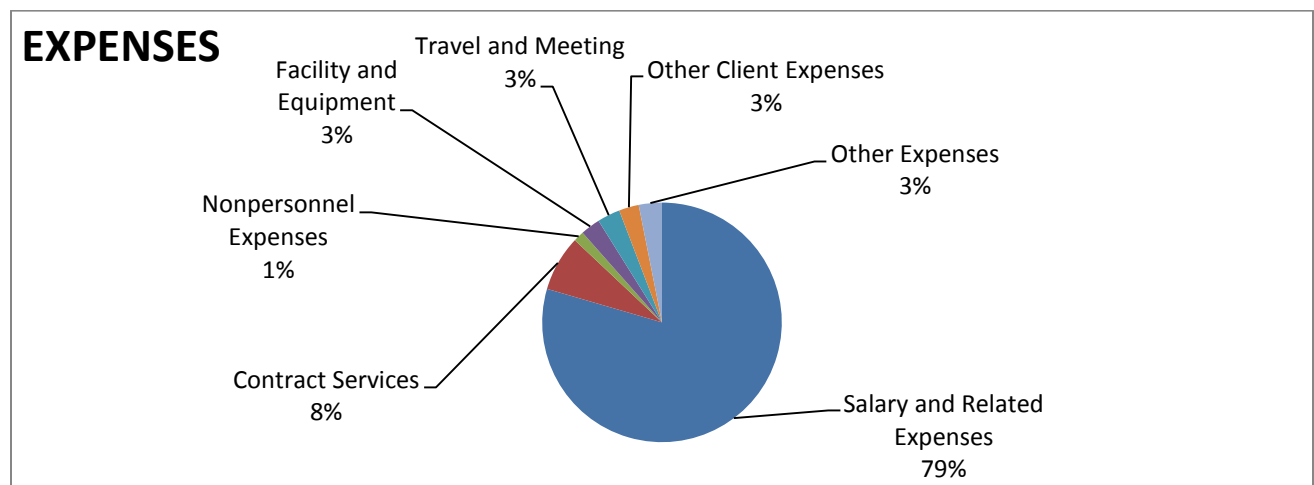
### **Revenue**

Individual Contributions	20192
Foundation Contributions	4078
Sponsorships	11611
Government Grants	1800
Non-government Grants	25000
Foundation Grants	101701
Program-Related Investments	3085
Special Events	<u>2500</u>
	169967



### **Expenses**

Salary and Related Expenses	118676
Contract Services	11214
Non-personnel Expenses	2143
Facility and Equipment	3950
Travel and Meeting	4598
Other Client Expenses	4011
Other Expenses	<u>4662</u>
	149254



## **Major Funders and Sponsors**

SESEC is grateful for the support we receive from the following foundations, businesses, organizations and major donors through grants, sponsorships, contracts and program-related investments.

*Agora Fund  
Amy Heuton  
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation  
Brooke Williams  
Colleen Oliver  
Equity Matters  
Erin Okuno  
Fidelity Charitable  
Janet Levinger and Will Poole  
Jonathan Kauffman  
LEV Foundation  
Lexi Keeler  
Grace Wang and Marcus Dover  
Michael Flor and Elisa Del Rosario  
MomsRising  
Muckleshoot Tribal Charities  
Norcliffe Foundation  
Philanthropy NW  
Puget Sound Educational Service District  
Quixote Foundation  
Raikes Foundation  
Robert Chin Foundation  
Seattle Education Association  
Schwab Charitable Fund (Wolson/Black)  
The Seattle Foundation  
Seattle Giving Group  
Sheri and Les Biller Family Foundation  
Social Venture Partners - Seattle  
Stephan Blanford  
The Boeing Company  
Umpqua Bank  
United Way of King County  
University of Washington  
Vu Le  
Washington Dental Service Foundation  
Washington State Charter Schools*

*...and over a hundred donations from individuals who support SESEC's mission, purpose and projects.*