



# Partnerships for an Equitable Future

Working together to combat structural and institutional racism and reduce inequities.



## A CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

FALL 2023

### WHY PARTNER?

Achieving our goals for racial justice depends on understanding where we may have harmed or have caused harm—either through action or inaction. That’s why, at United Way of King County, we’re doing things differently. We work side by side with community organizations to:

- Listen and learn from the wisdom and experience of communities
- Share our access to power
- Amplify priorities identified by historically underserved communities
- Provide a forum for organizations to connect with each other
- Engage in participatory grantmaking, which cedes decision-making power for funding to the communities impacted by the funding decisions

All of our work is guided by racial justice, and we invite you to join us in combating structural and institutional racism to reduce inequities—it’s what will help us build an equitable future where all people thrive.

#### *What’s participatory grantmaking?*

It’s not a tactic or one-off strategy; it is a power-shifting ethos that cuts across every aspect of the institutions’ activities, policies, programs, and behaviors. Proven benefits include:

- Stronger relationships with communities and grantees
- Greater networking and collaboration opportunities
- Improved knowledge about the grantmaking process
- Greater flexibility and innovation in grantmaking



Our partnerships include:

**BLACK COMMUNITY BUILDING COLLECTIVE:** Black leaders know their communities best. We bring a coalition of 14 Black-led organizations together to determine how our funding will be directed to support the equitable recovery and long-term viability of King County’s Black community.

United Way has committed **\$4.5M** to local, Black-led organizations to invest in the community as they see fit.



The support through [Black Community Building Collective] funding has allowed me to increase my staff, and it’s led to the launch of multiple programs.”

— **Marshaun Barber**, Reclaiming Our Greatness founder

**INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES FUND:** Despite being among the communities with the greatest basic needs, only 0.23% of philanthropic funds are awarded to Native-led nonprofits. This fund, launched by United Way in 2020, hands decision-making power back to King County’s Indigenous communities through 12-member Seattle Urban Native Nonprofits.

**RACIAL EQUITY COALITION:** Communities of color are best suited to support youth of color in all aspects of life—including education. The 14 organizations in the Racial Equity Coalition (REC) create communities of belonging for youth of color, offering after-school programs that celebrate their cultural identities and equip them with the tools to stay engaged in school.

United Way has committed **\$3M** to local, Native-led organizations to invest where the need is the greatest.

**99%** of REC program participants reported feeling more positive about their cultural identities as a result of participation!

## OPPORTUNITY

A more equitable society can lead to greater social stability and long-term business sustainability. Your partnership will enable us to invest in more communities of color-led organizations who know their communities best. It’ll help us to start undoing the systemic racism that has created inequities in our societies—in all the places where our employees live, work, and raise their families.

As a thank you, we’ll acknowledge your company alongside other game-changers in our newsletters, blog posts, social media platforms, our website, and other marketing materials.



## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

We’d love to hear from you about your interest in combating structural and institutional racism and reducing inequities through our partnerships. For more information about this investment and its impact, please contact **Annie Ayers** at [aayers@uwkc.org](mailto:aayers@uwkc.org) or **206.461.3720**.

