



SEATTLE

2024 COMMUNITY REPORT



GIVE • LEARN • ACT
Stories of Community-Led Change

SOCIAL VENTURE PARTNERS SEATTLE

At SVP Seattle, we reimagine philanthropy by centering Black, Brown, Indigenous, and other Communities of Color to build a just and equitable King County.

We are a cross-race, cross-class, and cross-culture community committed to giving, learning, and acting in support of community-led change. By embracing an inclusive and transformative approach to philanthropy, we ensure that those closest to the challenges lead the solutions.

A LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

DEAR FRIENDS,

As we reflect on this past year, we are filled with gratitude for the impact we have built together at SVP Seattle.

This year, we deepened our commitment to centering community-led solutions, growing partnerships, and driving meaningful, lasting change. Through initiatives like our first-ever Climate Justice Grantmaking Collaborative, expanded corporate partnerships, and transformative learning experiences, we demonstrated what's possible when philanthropy centers the voices and leadership of those closest to the issues.

Looking ahead, our new three-year strategic plan sets ambitious goals:

- Double the number of Partners in our network
- Expand support for grantees by 200%
- Grow volunteer engagement by 400%

We are excited to continue this journey with all of you. Together, we are transforming philanthropy for a more just and equitable future.



With gratitude,
EMIKO ATHERTON
Executive Director



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR



Launched two new philanthropy cohorts focused on Climate Justice and Education Equity



Provided funding and capacity-building to five new nonprofits while continuing support for seven ongoing nonprofit partners



Developed innovative corporate engagement programs to activate employees in philanthropy



Engaged over 200 people in learning and community-building events



Advocated alongside community partners for systemic change

Board of Directors 2023-2024

JOHN CLEMENTS
Treasurer

KALIKA CURRY
Board Member

MAURICE DEYA
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JORDAN GOLDWARG
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DAVID HABIB
Secretary

RUBY LOVE
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Board Member

GREGORY WHITING
Board Member

REIMAGINING PHILANTHROPY FOR COMMUNITY-LED CHANGE

At SVP Seattle, we believe philanthropy must be inclusive—led by those closest to the issues; collaborative—centering community-driven partnerships; and bold—breaking traditional funding models. This means shifting power to communities, providing unrestricted, trust-based funding, and building authentic relationships to drive systemic change.

REIMAGINING PHILANTHROPY: The Climate Justice Grantmaking Collaborative



By
**TERRELL
ENGMANN**
Co-Founder,
Basilica Bio

SVP Seattle has created something special—a space where people from all backgrounds come together around a shared vision for collective impact.

Too often, traditional philanthropy feels disconnected from the communities it's meant to serve.

But from the start, SVP and Basilica Bio were aligned in our belief that philanthropy must shift power to grassroots organizations and focus on building real relationships—not just writing checks.

This collaborative was different because it wasn't just about giving money; it was about rethinking philanthropy entirely. SVP Partners came in ready to learn, listen, and engage deeply with climate justice issues in King County. They didn't just fund a project—they built partnerships rooted in trust and shared learning.

One of the biggest takeaways? Who actually gets funded. The vast majority of philanthropic dollars do not go to organizations led by People of Color—even though these communities are most impacted by climate injustice. That's a fundamental failure of traditional giving.

This collaborative didn't just fund an organization—it changed the way we think about philanthropy. And that's the kind of change that lasts.

CO-CREATING PARTNERSHIPS IN PHILANTHROPY

In 2023, SVP Seattle and Basilica Bio launched the Climate Justice Grantmaking Collaborative, bringing together SVP Partners, community leaders, and climate justice experts to co-create a new model for giving. Over seven months, the cohort built an innovative grantmaking process that:

- Removed barriers for grassroots organizations
- Centered learning before funding decisions
- Prioritized equity in funding distribution

After a collaborative process, the cohort awarded \$75,000 in unrestricted funding and capacity-building support to 350 Seattle, a grassroots organization leading climate activism and centering marginalized voices in climate solutions.

Building a New Paradigm for Corporate Giving

At **SVP Seattle**, we believe corporate philanthropy should be more than just writing checks—it should be about **direct engagement, learning, and meaningful partnerships with community organizations**.



This year, we expanded our **Amazon Fellows Program**, providing employees with hands-on opportunities to **volunteer, learn, and collaborate with nonprofit leaders driving change**.

Through this program,

employees moved beyond traditional giving models to build **real relationships** with the organizations they support.

- **Piloted a national expansion**, bringing in **20 new cohort members** with the potential for further growth
- **Deepened engagement** between corporate employees and grassroots nonprofits
- **Strengthened partnerships** that drive long-term, community-led impact

By **reimagining corporate giving**, we are building a model where businesses and employees actively contribute to **systemic change, equity, and justice**.



“Through partnerships like this, we can build the community power needed to tackle the climate crisis alongside the intersecting issues it impacts. We look forward to the new relationships and campaigns we get to build through this partnership with SVP.”

SHEMONA MORENA,
Executive Director,
350 Seattle

STRENGTHENING LONGSTANDING RELATIONSHIPS

SVP Seattle continued supporting Black, Indigenous, and People of Color-led nonprofits through funding, volunteer expertise, and capacity-building.

350 Seattle – 350seattle.org

350 Seattle played a key role in the successful Prop 1A campaign to fund green social housing in Seattle, bringing a climate justice lens through outreach, art, and organizing.

Basilica Bio – basilicabio.org

Basilica Bio expanded its programming in 2024 by launching a second youth leadership cohort, completing its environmental health equity curriculum, and co-leading the inaugural Climate Justice Grantmaking Collaborative with SVP Seattle.

CHOOSE 180 – choose180.org

In 2024, CHOOSE 180 served 448 participants, completed 70 court diversion workshops, expanded into two school districts, and welcomed new Executive Director Nneka Payne.

Communities In Schools of Greater King County – ciskingcounty.org

Following a merger, CIS of Greater King County supported 39 schools across five districts, providing case management to 963 students and school-wide services to over 15,000.

Dignity for Divas – dignityfordivas.org

Dignity for Divas supported over 4,300 individuals in 2024 through housing, wellness, and family programs—including 256 Welcome Home Kits and support for 360 moms and children.

EarthGen – earthgenwa.org

EarthGen developed eight new K–12 science units rooted in culturally responsive teaching, supporting students—especially migrant, multilingual, and Native youth—across Washington.

Look, Listen + Learn TV – looklistenandlearn.org

LL+L celebrated a major milestone by launching a weekly PBS broadcast with KBTC, earning the Governor’s Arts Award, and hiring its first Executive Director.

Refugee Artisan Initiative – refugeesarts.org

RAI launched its Mobile Mending Program in 2024, hosting 10 public mending fairs that created work opportunities for artisans and gave new life to used garments.

SPEB – speb.org

SPEB advanced community-led advocacy by offering Advocacy 101 trainings and supporting families and youth to launch local projects and engage directly with elected officials.

STEM Paths Innovation Network (SPIN) – stempaths.org

In 2024, SPIN secured investment to begin planning The LAB, a permanent makerspace and STEM hub in Kent designed to expand access and opportunity for women and students of color.



“SVP’s thought partnership has been invaluable—helping us with strategy, budgeting, and market development. Their support has allowed us to serve more refugee and immigrant women over the years.”

MING-MING TUNG-EDELMAN,
Executive Director, Refugee Artisan Initiative

LEARNING TO LET GO: Trust, Uncertainty, and the Power of Community



By
**BRENTON
HUANG**

One of the most powerful lessons I took away from the Climate Justice Cohort was the value of **trust-based giving**—letting go of the idea that funders know best and instead trusting communities to guide how resources are used. It was a mindset shift for me,

and one that I've started applying in my personal giving and volunteer work.

There was a moment in the cohort when we were trying to decide how to allocate

the funding, and the decision wasn't clear. Every organization we considered was doing incredible work. It would've been easy to get stuck in analysis—but instead, we **moved forward together**, knowing that taking action was better than waiting for a perfect answer.

This experience also reminded me that **philanthropy is about so much more than money**. It's about showing up, listening, advocating, and building real relationships. When we center community knowledge and prioritize authentic connection, the impact becomes deeper and more sustainable.

FROM FELLOWSHIP TO LEADERSHIP: A Journey of Deeper Impact



By
**ZIBA
KABOLI-
GERBRANDS**

Ziba first connected with SVP Seattle through the **Amazon Fellows Program**. She was paired with **Refugee Artisan Initiative (RAI)** and immediately got to work—helping raise **\$40,000 in unrestricted funding** to support RAI's mission of empowering refugee

and immigrant women through artisan-based entrepreneurship.

Ziba's time in the fellowship was eye-opening. "I really immersed myself in

a world I didn't know well," she shared. "Once I understood how nonprofits operate—their constraints, their goals, and what helps them thrive—I was in a much better position to add value."

But the fellowship became more than just a project. After seeing the power of RAI's work and getting a closer look at the unique challenges nonprofits face, Ziba realized she wanted to go even deeper. Working with SVP gave her the skills to do so in a way that centers the nonprofits we serve. Today, she serves on RAI's **Board of Directors**, helping lead fundraising efforts for their annual gala—RAI's largest event of the year.

BREAKING THE RULES OF TRADITIONAL PHILANTHROPY



At our Annual Celebration, we gathered over 100 partners and nonprofit leaders to discuss how to challenge the status quo in philanthropy.

- Learning from changemakers about breaking “fake” philanthropy rules
- Building community connections to drive action
- Committing to bold, equity-centered giving



SCAN TO WATCH A VIDEO FROM THE EVENT



Advancing Wealth Equity and Economic Justice

Through the Poverty & Wealth Equity Learning Series, 50+ participants explored:

- How racial wealth gaps were created
- Policy solutions for economic justice
- Advocacy strategies to shift power



“We cannot address economic disparities without directly confronting racial injustices in philanthropy.”

ANNE E. PRICE,
Wealth Equity Expert



Photo credit: Lisa Merrill, Merrill Images

ADVOCATING FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

At SVP Seattle, we believe advocacy is a key part of philanthropy.



Statewide Advocacy for Education & Equity

- In February 2024, SVP Seattle joined the **Children's Alliance for "Have a Heart for Kids" Advocacy Day** in Olympia, advocating for policies supporting Washington's underserved children.
- **Over 20 Partners** contacted or met with elected representatives to push for critical funding and legislative changes



Building Skills for Policy Engagement

- SVP Partner Terri Cole led training sessions on how to **understand, track, and advocate for policy changes** at the state level.

CREATING SPACE FOR CONNECTION

At SVP Seattle, our greatest strength is our people. We build and grow a community that can give, learn, and act together.

- **Chew on This Dinners** – Led by **Julie Pham**, these dinners created space for Partners to share stories, reflect on giving, and build deeper relationships.
- **Brainerd Fellows Dinner** – Hosted by **Gregory Whiting** and **Kevin Proctor**, this dinner celebrated the legacy of the Brainerd Fellows program, bringing together past Fellows—once emerging leaders, now established changemakers—to reconnect, reflect, and continue their leadership journeys in community.
- **VillageSVP Gatherings** – Connected SVP Partners with community leaders through virtual sessions led by **Jason Sears**.



CHECK
OUT OUR
PARTNERS

BUILDING COMMUNITY, BUILDING CHANGE: My Journey with SVP Seattle



By
JULIE PHAM
SVP Partner

In 2011, when Janet Levinger first introduced me to Social Venture Partners Seattle, I was immediately drawn in. The venture philanthropy model drew me in, but what really intrigued me was the community—a group of high-achieving, lifelong learners who wanted to make a positive impact in our region.

As a long-time part of the SVP community, I've seen very different chapters of SVP. However, what's stayed consistent is that SVP is, at its heart, a place where humble learners come together to make positive investments in our community.

This is not just a giving circle, it's a place to build community and generosity - SVP has expanded how I think about philanthropy

and helped me find out that I can be a philanthropist myself.

Through my contributions to SVP, I've seen first-hand the power of supporting community-led change and met people who are still friends, including my partner of 10 years.

I'm so proud of seeing the impact of our investees - Washington is the first state to legalize human composting and outdoor, nature-based preschools and child care programs and they got their start by participating in Fast Pitch and being SVP investees and partners.

Now I provide a place for our community to share, connect, and grow by hosting Chew On This dinners for SVP. I hope people will sign up for one of the Chew on This dinners this year and join me in a space where partners come together for open, honest conversations about the work ahead.

THE FUTURE OF SVP SEATTLE

2024-2027 STRATEGIC GOALS



DOUBLE OUR PARTNERS – Expanding our community of justice-focused philanthropists



INCREASE OUR GRANTEES BY 200% – Investing in more organizations driving equitable change



EXPAND VOLUNTEER SUPPORT BY 400% – Deepening engagement across King County

“The power of this network isn’t just in what we can give—it’s in how we show up, listen, and work together to create lasting change. Philanthropy isn’t just about giving—it’s about showing up, listening, and working together. That’s what SVP Seattle is about.”

JULIE PHAM,
SVP Partner

Join Us in Reimagining Philanthropy

Together, we can shift power, build relationships, and create lasting change.



GIVE

svpseattle.org/donate



JOIN

svpseattle.org/become-a-partner



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