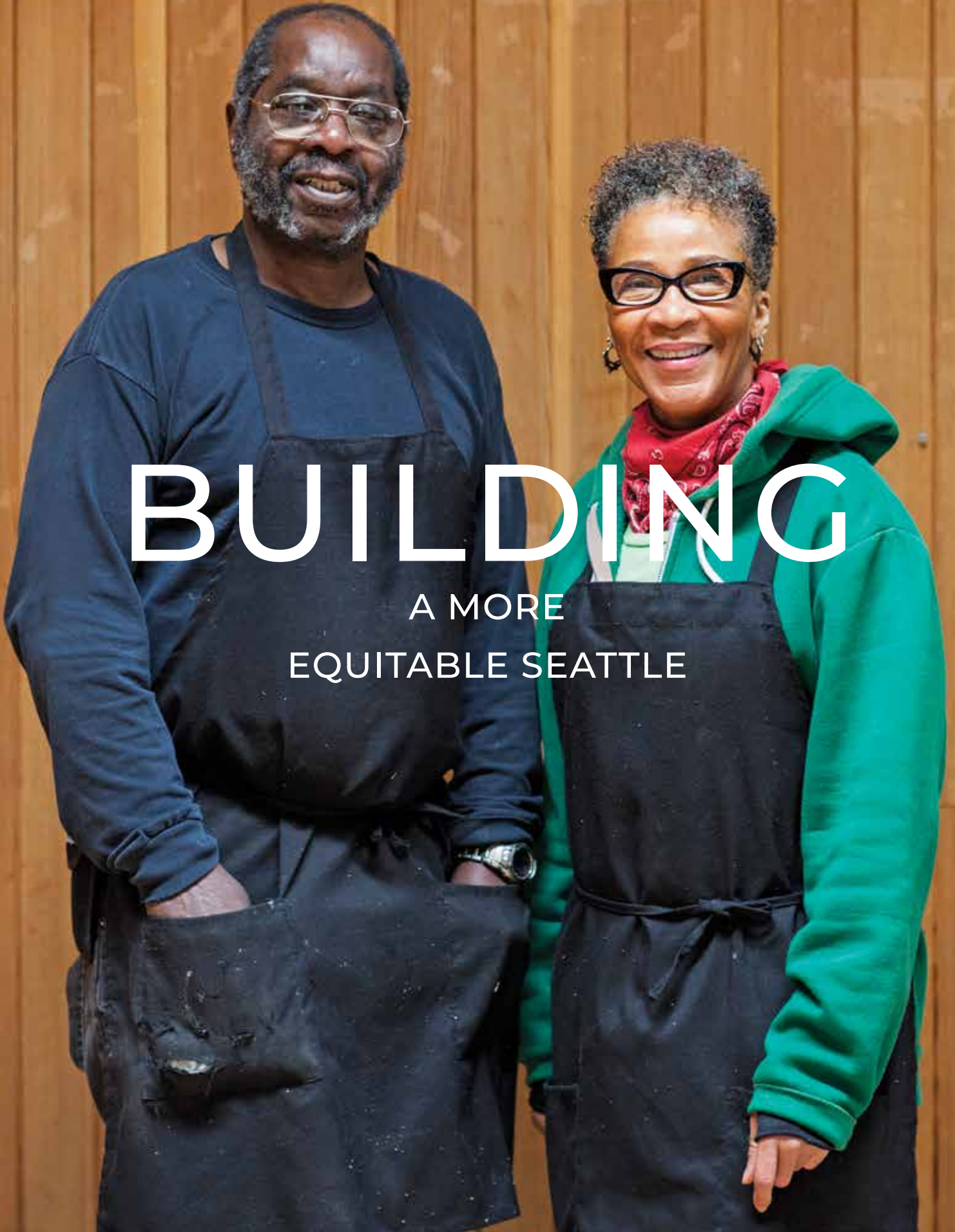


BYRD BARR PLACE  
2017-2018 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

# BUILDING

A MORE  
EQUITABLE SEATTLE



“We continue to play the vital role of providing safety-net services ... At the same time, we are capitalizing on our deep knowledge of the community to speak truth to power and effect systemic change.”

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# EQUITY

## FOR ALL

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Today we find ourselves in a rapidly changing Seattle. The city’s economic growth and renewal represent opportunity for some but also usher in loss, as gentrification displaces long-time residents. Our organization, now known as Byrd Barr Place in honor of the trailblazing civil-rights advocate Roberta Byrd Barr, continues to provide lifeline services and to foster a sense of connection for residents who have been displaced.

As our program coordinator Cid Romero puts it so well: “Change comes and always will” (see page 10). Yet we are not merely passive spectators to that change; we respond, adapt, pivot and, moreover, advocate for the change we want to see in the world.



Andrea Caupain Sanderson

In 2017, our board and leadership articulated the organization’s theory of change, positioning us to build a more equitable Seattle. We affirmed our focus on helping people to stay and thrive in the Central District, on helping residents across the city move from poverty to self-sufficiency, and on highlighting the inequities experienced by black Washingtonians. That year, we also created a three-year strategic plan, which will guide the organization’s efforts through the end of 2019.



Kevin Dawson Jr.

As this report demonstrates, we continue to play the vital role of providing safety-net services—food, shelter, warmth, and financial tools—to the most vulnerable among us. At the same time, we are capitalizing on our deep knowledge of the community to speak truth to power and effect systemic change.

In the past two years, we have modified our food bank and energy assistance programs in response to the changing needs of clients. We tackled gentrification and displacement head-on through the inclusive redevelopment of the

historic Liberty Bank Building. We worked with partner organizations to release a groundbreaking report on African American economic security in King County, spurring public dialogue and creating new opportunities for community-driven policy solutions. And we worked to diversify our funding and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organization.

Unifying our efforts is the drive to confront challenges to equity both immediate and generational, both for individual clients and in the system itself—ensuring that those in need today don’t fall through the cracks even as we advocate for a more equitable future for all.

The vision that guides us is of a strong and vibrant community, where all people have access to the basic human needs and opportunities that support their health, well-being, and prosperity and that enable them to attain their full potential. In short, equity for all.

As we look to the future, we are encouraged by the momentum that propels us forward. We invite you to join us in building a more equitable Seattle.

**ANDREA CAUPAIN SANDERSON**

CEO

**KEVIN DAWSON JR.**

BOARD PRESIDENT

## MISSION

Byrd Barr Place nurtures a more equitable Seattle through programs and advocacy that enable people to live healthier, prosperous lives.

Our programs help Seattle residents with basic human services—a warm home, food on the table, and immediate financial relief—so they can break the cycle of poverty and build self-sufficiency.

In early 2017, our board and management team sat down to plan our work for the next three years, drafting a strategy that will continue to guide our organization through the end of 2019.

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# SETTING

## COURSE

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We set out to:

### BUILD COMMUNITY

by helping to create more accessible housing and home ownership in Seattle's Central District

[Page 4](#)

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### PROVIDE A SAFETY NET

to Seattle's most vulnerable residents, by improving distribution of energy assistance and providing culturally appropriate healthy food to those in need

[Page 8](#)

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### ADVOCATE FOR EQUITY

by building awareness of the issues and inequities facing black Washingtonians

[Page 12](#)

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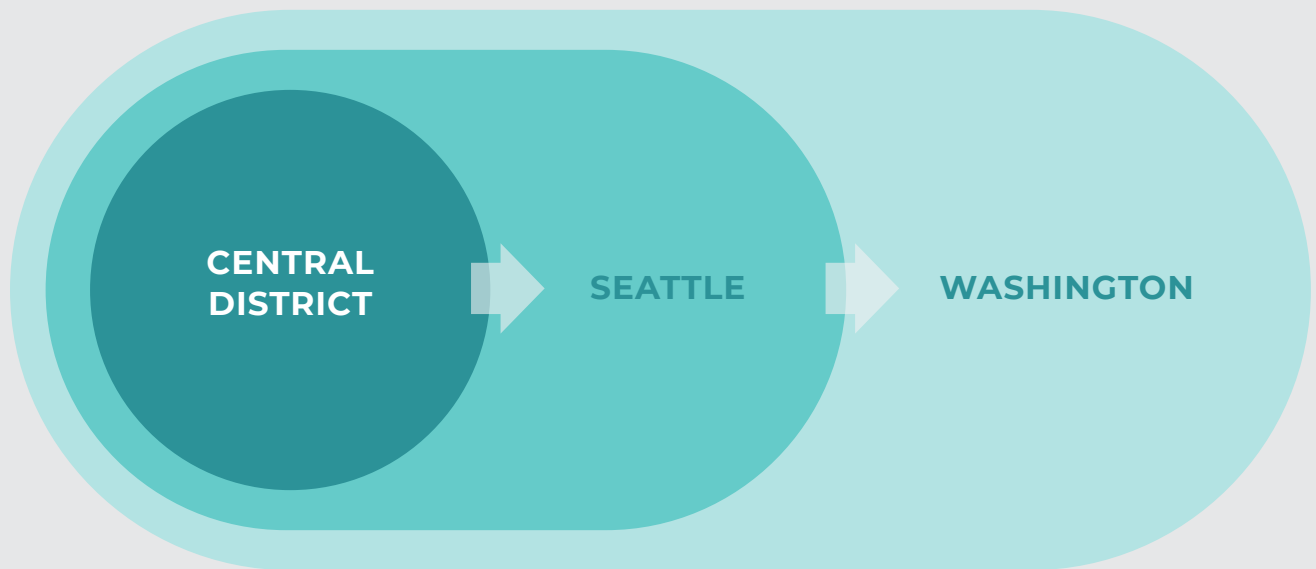
### STRENGTHEN OUR ORGANIZATION

to enable long-term sustainability

[Page 14](#)

# OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

BYRD BARR PLACE PROMOTES EQUITY FOR ALL  
THROUGH THREE INTERRELATED EFFORTS.



Help **people in the Central District** stay and thrive by



Creating affordable housing  
Bringing the community together  
to advocate for its needs



Support **Seattle residents** as they move from poverty to self-sufficiency by



Providing basic safety-net services



Help **black Washingtonians** attain intergenerational well-being by



Raising awareness of the effects of racism and inequity  
Advocating for solutions

“If there is a Chinatown in every major metropolitan city in this country, we can also have a black business district.”

VOICES RISING PARTICIPANT (SEE PAGE 12)

# BUILD COMMUNITY

For decades, Seattle’s Central District has been the heart of the African American community in King County. But over the past decade, rising prices and gentrification have forced out many long-time residents, and minority-owned businesses have been shuttered.

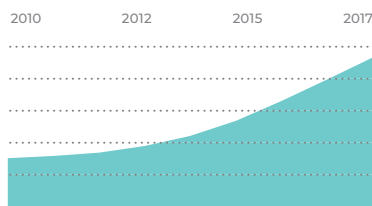
Combatting this displacement and sense of loss is a core objective of Byrd Barr Place. As an anchor community partner in developing affordable housing and supporting minority businesses in the Central District, we work with other organizations to build a future in which African Americans and low-income residents can stay and thrive in the city center.

Over the past two years, we have joined forces with complementary partner organizations to amplify our impact:

- Fostering and supporting independent and small businesses in the Central District

- Ensuring that new development adds to community character and meets local needs
- Working to bring capacity-building services to organizations by and for communities of color
- Supporting the creation of land trusts geared toward people of color in order to preserve affordable housing, mitigate gentrification, and build community wealth

The new Liberty Bank Building (see page 7) is one tangible example of this work, a landmark development that has already been hailed as a living marker of community history and resilience in the Central District



## 18.7%

Seattle’s population increase from 2010 to 2017, making it the fastest growing of the nation’s 50 largest cities



## 42%

of our clients are black, despite the gentrification and displacement that are pushing blacks out of Seattle





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# BUILD

COMMUNITY

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## THE LEGACY OF ROBERTA BYRD BARR

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In 2018, our organization became Byrd Barr Place, named in honor of Seattle civil rights leader Roberta Byrd Barr. Throughout her life, the pioneering educator and journalist—and one-time writer for this organization—promoted dialogue between Seattle’s often fractured communities.



From 1965 to 1972, she moderated the weekly television program *Face to Face*, which cultivated forthright discussion of timely and controversial topics including desegregation, feminism, and welfare. As Byrd Barr Place, we continue that dialogue, engaging with clients, peer organizations, government representatives, and the public at large in order to best provide for and advocate for the needs of our community.

By taking this new name steeped in history, we reaffirm our commitment to the values that have always defined us: compassion, equity, resilience, and unity. We honor the legacy of Roberta Byrd Barr by continuing to challenge intolerance and injustice as we work to build a more equitable Seattle.

“Roberta Byrd Barr woke up Seattle to civil rights issues, elevating the voices of the black community and the poor.”

CEO ANDREA CAUPAIN  
SANDERSON



Byrd Barr Place in the Central District



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# BUILD

COMMUNITY

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## THE LIBERTY BANK BUILDING: INVESTING IN EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT

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In 2017, Byrd Barr Place and three other long-standing community organizations—Africatown, Black Community Impact Alliance, and Capitol Hill Housing—broke ground on the new Liberty Bank Building, redeveloped on the site of the first minority-owned bank west of the Mississippi.

Founded in May 1968, Liberty Bank represented a community response to redlining and disinvestment in Central Seattle. Today, the redevelopment project sets a new standard for community-led investment and reaffirms the heritage, legacy, and future of the black community in the Central District.

The new building includes 115 affordable studio and one- and two-bedroom apartments, as well as affordable ground-level retail spaces for local minority-owned businesses. The project prioritized local and minority hiring during construction and secures long-term African-American ownership of the building. The architecture, as well as installations of art and historic documents, preserves the story of Liberty Bank and of the black experience in Seattle.

“Being poor is expensive. Everything that doesn’t go to paying for immediate needs goes to paying ever-growing debt.”

VOICES RISING PARTICIPANT (SEE PAGE 12)

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# PROVIDE

## A SAFETY NET

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Each year, Byrd Barr Place provides essential safety-net services to more than 20,000 Seattle residents who are struggling to make ends meet. Clients of our food bank, personal finance, housing, and energy assistance programs come from all parts of the city and all walks of life. They are our Central District neighbors, immigrants and refugees, the disabled and the elderly.

Our staff and volunteers embrace a human-services model of care: Our clients come first. Over the past two years, this has meant new thinking about how to deliver both energy assistance and food.

### ENERGY ASSISTANCE ONLINE

As a local administrator of the federal Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, Byrd Barr Place helps Seattle residents keep the lights and the heat on. Historically, applying for the program required an in-person appointment at our Central District office. But for many, that requirement was an overwhelming obstacle. “Many low-income families are working two or more jobs to stay afloat, and they don’t have the time or transportation to travel across the city during the week to apply,” says CEO Andrea Caupain Sanderson. “We had to completely rethink how we reach them.”

In September 2018, Byrd Barr Place, in partnership with Seattle University graduate students, rolled out Energy Assistance Online—a first-of-its-kind app that streamlines the application process and makes it accessible to clients city-wide.

In addition to yielding a significant increase in applications—especially from outlying areas—the app has reduced the turnaround time for approval and payout, meaning clients in crisis get help faster.

We continue to improve the technology to allow returning clients to easily access their account information and to make processing more efficient. Our goal is to make the program—and the services—available to anyone with access to a smartphone or computer.

### FOOD BANK

Byrd Barr Place has long provided food to those in need. But today, our food bank looks a bit different than in the past, resembling a grocery store where clients choose from displays stocked with healthy foods and non-grocery essentials. This new client-choice model not only honors clients’ self-determination but also cuts down on wasted food, meaning there is more to go around.

To improve the quality and variety of our offerings, we have cultivated and deepened our relationships with food growers and local grocers, as well as expanded our selection of cultural staples to remain relevant to our changing clientele.

To better serve some of our elderly clients and others who are homebound with temporary or permanent disabilities, we have also expanded our services to provide weekly delivery to nearby residents. Our brick-and-mortar food bank remains open three days a week to anyone in need.



In 2018, Byrd Barr  
Place provided more  
than 52,000 bags  
of food to Seattle  
residents



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# COMMUNITY

## PROFILES

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"Time and time again,  
I witness proof that Byrd Barr  
Place is greater than the sum  
of its parts."

CID ROMERO

### CID ROMERO

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

It was Byrd Barr Place's historic architecture that first drew Cid Romero to the organization in 2017. Strolling by, he was intrigued by the 1909 firehouse with the red doors; once he learned about the organization, he wanted in.

The thirty-year-old program coordinator began working at Byrd Barr Place shortly thereafter, bringing his intellectual curiosity and tenacity to bear to make sure the Energy Assistance Team has the tools, resources, and systems it needs to function at its best. Cid took the lead in building out Energy Assistance Online (see page 8), undertaking countless hours of self-directed study in coding, data management, and business process management when he saw the need. "I am a firm believer in tending to the parts of the garden within reach," he says.

Cid knows a thing or two about systems and processes; he also knows that when the right systems are in place, results can exceed expectations: "Time and time again, I witness proof that Byrd Barr Place is greater than the sum of its parts," he says. "Nothing is more inspiring than the harmonized efforts of such a diverse group of individuals."

As for the future, "change comes and always will," says Cid. But Byrd Barr Place is "a source of light and sustenance, both figuratively and literally," for Central Seattle. And, he says, "light and sustenance will forever be valuable to the community."

"I wanted to  
volunteer, because  
my experience here  
was so positive,  
and I wanted  
to give back."

JACQUELINE VICENT



# COMMUNITY

## PROFILES

### JACQUELINE VICENT

CLIENT AND VOLUNTEER

When sixty-year-old Jacqueline Vicent first needed help from Byrd Barr Place about ten years ago, she almost didn't get it.

Her electricity bills were high, and her power was in danger of being shut off. "I was panicking," she says. "I took the bus up here, but I got here just after they closed, and it was raining outside, and I was about to break down in tears." Then Chief Operations Officer Leon Garnett came to the door. "[He] let me in, and took my paperwork, and helped me. And I'm so grateful to him."

Jacqueline, who has lived in Seattle for some 25 years, also made use of the food bank. Since then, her circumstances have fluctuated; one year, health issues and the drive to finish her doctorate took her to Wisconsin to live with family.

When Jacqueline returned to Seattle, she says she wanted to come back to the food bank, but not just for the help: "I wanted to volunteer, because my experience here was so positive, and I wanted to give back." Now Jacqueline can regularly be found greeting clients and documenting their numbers and neighborhoods for reporting and funding purposes—"to let people know how much we're needed here."

She's proud to give back, she says, but doing so is partly selfish: "Everyone that comes through here, I mean, you give a little positive, they give it back. It feels good to be here, not only with the clients but the people who work here. We're like a family."



### MAUREEN JOHNSTON

DONOR AND VOLUNTEER

Maureen Johnston doesn't mince words. For the donor and volunteer, Byrd Barr Place is important "because of what's going on now. Especially now." Back when the organization was founded, things were different: "When Johnson was president, we had a war on poverty. Now we have a war on the poor."

The seventy-one-year-old began volunteering in 2012, registering clients to vote—encouraging them to exercise their civil rights. But mostly, she says, "I just try to listen to them and see how they're doing. And over the years I've gotten to know a lot of people, and they've become like old friends."

She knows what it's like to be in their shoes: When she was a young single mother in the 1970s, she was struggling, with no support from her ex-husband or parents. She felt stigmatized; when she applied for welfare, "it was humiliating," she says.

Maureen's hope is that we get back to caring about other people and address the issues of poverty and homelessness in our communities. "We can't just keep sweeping it under the rug," she says.

What we need is more compassion, she says. That—and dedication—are what she admires most in staff and the other volunteers. Byrd Barr "is a place where you just don't come for food," she says. "You can come for counseling, rental assistance, energy assistance, and ... you can just talk to people."

Caring for others is what sets Byrd Barr Place apart: "That's what every organization should be like," she says. "This place is the star."

"When Johnson was president, we had a war on poverty. Now we have a war on the poor."

MAUREEN JOHNSTON

“There has been and [still] exists an alarming financial economic disparity that began at the point of slavery.”

VOICES RISING PARTICIPANT

# ADVOCATE FOR EQUITY

Since our founding in 1964, Byrd Barr Place has distinguished itself as a leader in advancing equity for people of color. Today we continue to raise awareness of the effects of racism and inequity on the black community and to advocate for solutions that will create a more equitable future for all Washingtonians.

As an important part of these efforts, Byrd Barr Place leads the Seattle Community of Practice, a collaboration of community organizations working to address specific challenges and opportunities for African Americans, including access to and quality of education, housing, jobs, and health care. In 2015, we released our first report, *Creating an Equitable Future in Washington State*, focused on economic, political, and social barriers to progress.

In 2017 we delved deeper into the economic security issues explored in the first report, releasing *Voices Rising: African American Economic Security in King County* (see text at right).

To address the challenges identified in these reports, Byrd Barr Place and the Seattle Community of Practice are working with community members and partners to:

- Identify innovative social service models across the country and apply best practices to our own services
- Engage the community in developing a unified African American agenda to realize our collective goals
- Support the creation of a land trust as a legal tool to combat gentrification and the loss of place for African Americans in Seattle and King County

## VOICES RISING: AFRICAN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SECURITY IN KING COUNTY



*Voices Rising* is the second in a series of reports created by Byrd Barr Place and the Seattle Community of Practice intended to encourage public dialogue and contribute to community-driven policy solutions. Published in 2017, it combines statistical analysis with personal reflections to present a powerful picture of the systemic and individual barriers to economic security for African Americans in King County.

The report examines themes of racism and inequity that conspire to limit opportunities, including implicit bias, the legacy of slavery, gentrification, and unequal access to education. It recommends better coordination to allow the African American community to realize its full impact in bringing about intergenerational well-being for black Washingtonians.

# 2245

The year black families will amass the same wealth as white families today if average wealth continues to grow at the same pace as over the past three decades.



“Enabling the long-term sustainability and resilience of our organization underpins everything we do.”

BOARD PRESIDENT KEVIN DAWSON JR.

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# STRENGTHEN

## OUR ORGANIZATION

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Over the past two years, we have continued on the path to long-term sustainability. We worked to further diversify our funding, began putting infrastructure in place to help us build our cash reserves, and completed a successful rebranding as Byrd Barr Place.

We continued efforts to secure ownership of our historic building, which has been home to the organization for more than 40 years, to raise funds to bring the 1909 firehouse into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and to enable renovations for seismic retrofitting. We successfully petitioned to be added to the Rise Together Capital Campaign, which helps raise support to create affordable homes and commercial spaces and to renovate facilities such as ours for organizations

in Capitol Hill, the Central District, and White Center. The campaign is a model for effective resource sharing and nonprofit collaboration.

### DIVERSIFYING OUR FUNDING

Byrd Barr Place continues to diversify our income sources and increasingly relies on private support. In 2018 we instituted a fiscal sustainability committee to focus on the development of creative funding strategies.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

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### DONATE

Donate at our website or contact us to discuss a personalized giving plan.

### CONTRIBUTE IN-KIND DONATIONS

We gratefully accept nonexpired food, baby items, and toiletries for our food bank clients, as well as much-needed essentials that can be purchased from our Amazon Wish List.

### SHOP FOR GOOD

**AmazonSmile** When you shop online at smile.amazon.com and select us as your charity of choice, AmazonSmile Foundation donates 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products.

**Fred Meyer** Each quarter, Fred Meyer makes a donation to Byrd Barr Place based on the cumulative spending of customers linked to us through the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program.

**Central Co-op** Round up your bill to the nearest dollar, and your change helps us purchase fresh dairy and produce for our food bank.

### VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are a vital part of our efforts. We provide many opportunities to contribute in meaningful and gratifying ways suited to volunteers' skills, experience, and availability.





Byrd Barr Place extends special thanks to the following supporters committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

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# DONORS

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## SEATTLE FOUNDATION

Seattle Foundation strengthens the health and vitality of our community by connecting generous people with well-informed philanthropic strategies. Seattle Foundation commits to creating a positive and inclusive community where all have equitable access to fundamental human rights and the benefits of a healthy community.

The foundation has provided general operating funds and supported Byrd Barr Place's health research, leadership development, and community engagement in the Central District.

## NORTHWEST AREA FOUNDATION

The mission of the Northwest Area Foundation is to support efforts by the people, organizations, and communities of our eight-state region to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable prosperity

The foundation funded Byrd Barr Place's work to redesign and relaunch its financial education curriculum and to develop a community engagement model that provides practical support for African Americans in Seattle and King County.

## W. K. KELLOGG FOUNDATION

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation supports children, families, and communities as they strengthen and create conditions that propel vulnerable children to achieve success as individuals and as contributors to the larger community and society.

The foundation funded a collaborative project providing capacity-building and strategic-planning opportunities to African-American led organizations, ultimately leading to new asset-building programs and services for black families in Seattle and King County.

## 2018 DONORS

Alaska US  
Capital One  
Clarity Five LLC  
Fales Foundation  
Garneau-Nicon Family Foundation  
Group Health Community Fund  
Kaiser Foundation Health Plan  
Key Bank  
Matson Foundation  
Medina Foundation  
Moccasin Lake Foundation  
New Seasons Market  
Non-Profit Assistance Center  
Norcliffe Foundation  
Pacific Hospital PDA  
Premera Blue Cross  
Puget Sound Energy  
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation  
Safeco Insurance Fund  
Seattle Foundation  
Sprague Israel Giles, Inc.  
Tulalip Tribes  
United Way of King County  
US Bank  
Washington Federal Foundation

## 2017 DONORS

Alaska US  
American Family insurance  
Beni Hassan Temple No. 64  
Capital One  
Delta Model Grant  
Elizabeth Lynn Foundation  
Fairway Independent Mortgage  
Local Initiative Support Corp.  
Matson Foundation  
Moccasin Lake Foundation  
Medina Foundation  
Norcliffe Foundation  
Northwest Area Foundation  
Progreso Latino Progress Alliance  
Pacific Hospital PDA  
Puget Sound Energy  
Safeco Insurance Fund  
Seattle Foundation  
Tulalip Tribes  
United Way of King County  
US Bank  
W.K. Kellogg Foundation  
Washington Federal Foundation  
Wells Fargo Bank

61%

of 2018 donors increased their giving over the previous year.

“We have built a strong foundation for future growth and continue to focus on diversifying our revenue through private support and creative funding strategies.”

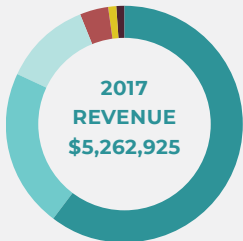
CEO ANDREA CAUPAIN SANDERSON

# FINANCIALS

At Byrd Barr Place, we focus on maximizing every dollar not only to provide safety-net services day in and day out but to end inequity once and for all.



- 63% Government grants and contract awards
- 23% Donated goods
- 8% Contributions
- 5% Donated rent
- 1% Other income
- 0% Investment income (loss)
- 0% Donated services



- 61% Government grants and contract awards
- 21% Donated goods
- 12% Contributions
- 4% Donated rent
- 1% Other income
- 1% Investment income
- 0% Donated services



- Program services: 89%
- 60% Energy assistance
- 21% Food bank
- 8% Other programs
- Other total: 11%
- 8% Management and general
- 3% Fundraising



- Program services: 88%
- 61% Energy assistance
- 21% Food bank
- 6% Other programs
- Other total: 12%
- 10% Management and general
- 2% Fundraising

ASSETS	2018	2017
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 224,023	\$ 166,394
Restricted cash	35,747	54,946
Certificates of deposit		110,993
Investments	279,856	293,039
Grants and contract awards receivable	331,294	196,735
Contributions receivable	99,757	214,900
Prepaid expenses and other assets	6,541	3,001
Total current assets	977,218	1,040,008
Property and equipment, net	51,410	22,477
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,028,628</b>	<b>\$ 1,062,485</b>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	2018	2017
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	\$ 405,751	\$ 286,775
Accrued payroll and related expenses	70,962	80,544
Line of credit	99,944	100,000
Deferred revenue		4,950
Current portion of capital leases payable	9,527	2,800
Total current liabilities	586,184	475,069
Capital leases payable, net of current portion	26,749	6,692
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>612,933</b>	<b>481,761</b>
Net assets		
Without donor restrictions	198,612	291,851
With donor restrictions	217,083	288,873
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>415,695</b>	<b>580,724</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 1,028,628</b>	<b>\$ 1,062,485</b>



722 18th Ave  
Seattle, WA 98122

(206) 812-4940  
[byrbarrplace.org](http://byrbarrplace.org)

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All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.