Moving **Together.** For Our Shared **Future.**
Our connection with people and our community defines Byrd Barr Place. It is how we started, and it will be our priority for decades to come.

At Byrd Barr Place, we envision strong abundant communities, where all people have access to the basic human needs necessary to propel their health, well-being and prosperity.

As a Black-led organization rooted within Seattle’s Centric District, we are poised to expand and build on our 55-year legacy of social service and racial and economic justice, committed to our founding purpose: **Helping people help themselves.**
Historically, the Central District has been Seattle’s most ethnically and racially diverse neighborhood. Jewish residents first lived in the Central District, followed by Japanese Americans, then the Black community.

During the civil rights movement, community and faith leaders who were Black, Jewish and from other marginalized groups united to launch the Central Area Motivation Program or CAMP to build self-sufficiency, economic mobility and civic engagement.

It was the first community-inspired program in the country to receive funding from the Office of Economic Opportunity, and today holds the distinction of being the oldest surviving independent agency.

A Black-led organization rooted in Seattle's Central District.
Expanding on our 55 years of service and justice.

More than 55 years later, we’re just as committed to our work of providing essential services — food, shelter, warmth and financial tools — for neighbors to build stability and self-sufficiency. We also advocate for equitable opportunity statewide.

However, this past year, our neighbors have faced unbelievable challenges. The Covid-19 pandemic, economic recession and overdue reckoning with racial injustice have not affected people equally. Black, Indigenous and other people of color bear the brunt of these compounding crises.

In January of 2020, before the pandemic arrived, we supplied housing, food, energy and financial assistance to 500 households every week. One year later, we’re scrambling to serve 1,100 households per week, many of whom are seeking services for the first time. And, demand is only increasing each month.
Byrd Barr Place moved into the City of Seattle’s Firehouse No. 23 in 1968. At the time, the Central District was 70 percent Black residents. In 2018, it was just 14 percent.

We, along with a number of other community organizations, including Rise Together, Africatown, Community Roots Housing and Southwest Youth and Family Services, are working together to combat the rapid displacement happening in our neighborhood due to gentrification.

This historic building, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is not only vital for the services it provides, but as a cultural home celebrating Black heritage and as a community gathering place for the Central District.
Byrd Barr Place has deep roots in the Central District, with the Black community, as well as other ethnic and cultural groups — Chinese, Vietnamese, Latino, Russian, Ethiopian — who are part of our neighborhood. For over 55 years, we’ve shown up every day to create an equitable future for all.

Now, our 113-year-old building is challenging our ability to meet the growing needs of our community. Systems such as electrical, mechanical and plumbing have reached the end of their life.

Our building renovation brings with it new and exciting opportunities to reimagine the next 55 years of serving communities.
Making the building more accessible to all.

- Installing an elevator lift.
- Improving safety through seismic retrofits in case of an earthquake.
- Upgrading HVAC, plumbing, fire suppression and electrical systems to bring them up to code.
Creating a grocery store experience in our food bank.

- Treating people with the dignity and respect they deserve.
- Shifting to a market model that improves the flow and client experience.
- Adding new shelving and stocking systems for food storage.
Expanding gathering spaces for our community.

- Creating a welcoming entryway.
- Providing meeting space for neighborhood groups and nonprofits serving people with low incomes and people of color.
- Including art and interpretive displays that celebrate local history.
Our work started in earnest 10 years ago as we lobbied the City to turn over the deed of the building to Byrd Barr Place. This was a critical step to ensure the organization stayed in its historic building and also unlocked our ability to secure critical funding sources.

The unforeseen demands of the Covid-19 pandemic challenged our fundraising as we pivoted much of our focus to respond to the urgent needs of our community — more than doubling the people we serve each week. We also saw many funders focus on emergency needs too, slowing our progress on capital fundraising.

The culmination of a 10-year campaign.

- **January 2014**: Advocacy, planning and community listening began
- **October 2020**: Byrd Barr Place received the deed to Firestation 23
- **January 2021**: $1.8M in New Market Tax Credits secured
- **May 2021**: 100% of project funds required at start of construction
- **June 2021**: $1.45M Building Communities Funds expire if not spent
An opportunity to address philanthropic redlining.

Byrd Barr Place has experienced the same barriers of underinvestment faced by many Black-led organizations, an issue known as “philanthropic redlining.”

The National Center for Responsive Philanthropy found, “the combined funding to Black communities is 1% of all community foundation funding while the combined population is 15%, representing an underfunding of $2 billion.”

A report by Echoing Green and The Bridgespan Group found that Black-led organizations had 45% less revenue and had 91% less unrestricted net assets than white-led organizations.
The moment is now: Help unlock the possibilities!

Of our $12.1 million capital fund goal, we’ve successfully raised $8.9 million.

**We need your help today to raise the final $3.2 million.**

The Building Communities Funding grant secured in 2015 is at risk of expiring if not spent by June, and the New Market Tax Credits we secured require that we have 100% of project funds in hand at the start of construction, condensing our window for fundraising even further.

**We are looking to your generous support to get us over the finish line.**
Individual, foundation, corporate and government partners have committed vital funds for the building renovation campaign. **Your gift will leverage these investments to support Byrd Barr Place’s vision for the future.**

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“Byrd Barr Place has been a part of my family’s history and the **tapestry of this community.** I’m glad to see it being invested in for the long term.”

—Natasha, Byrd Barr Place Client

Together, we can shore up our community’s long-term health as we meet the pressing and immediate needs of our clients, neighbors and partners.

The committed support of Seattle’s philanthropists, neighbors and the community is an affirmation of the long and illustrious history of Byrd Barr Place’s positive impact.

**Let’s move the legacy of Byrd Barr Place forward, together.**
Upholding the values of Roberta Byrd Barr.

Our name honors Roberta Byrd Barr, a powerful civil rights leader, educator and journalist, who helped forge the path to a self-determined future for Black people and all who have been systematically marginalized.

Roberta’s straight talk about race and poverty and her fearless advocacy inspired a generation. And, it inspires our work every day. She embodied values that are the foundation of Byrd Barr Place: truth, community, equity, excellence and resiliency. We look forward to honoring Roberta’s legacy for decades to come.
Thank you!

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