

From: [Janette Ambauen](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Request for support
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:39:21 PM

Dear Councilmembers - I'm writing to ask you to please support Councilmember Girmay Zahilay's budget amendment proposal - the Community-Driven Fund for Housing, Homelessness Response, and Behavioral Health. This amendment would reserve \$30,000,000 to establish a program that awards grants to organizations that provide housing or behavioral health services in response to homelessness that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In effect, this amendment would allow King County to support community-based organizations in their existing housing and behavioral health projects, especially organizations that are run by people who reflect the demographics most disproportionately impacted. This is crucial because community-driven efforts that provide culturally responsive care are the most effective forms of care, especially if the goal is racial justice.

Thank you,

*Janette Ambauen
9820 23rd Avenue NW
Seattle WA 98117
District 36*

From: [Alisa Lee](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Public comment: request for competitive funding for anti-asian hate work
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 6:56:42 PM

Dear Budget and Fiscal Management Committee,

I am writing to you on behalf of a number of community organizations. Having reviewed the most recent Budget and Fiscal Management committee meeting [agenda](#), we have concerns that our groups are not able to apply for anti-hate funding. I am reaching out to ask that the Council increase its funding for anti-hate and bias work. With that increase, we request that the Office of Equity and Social Justice ensure some of the funding be available through a competitive process.

A great deal of anti-hate work is being done by nonprofits and organizations throughout the county. On March 21st, 2021 at the anti-hate rally in Renton, King County Executive Dow Constantine [pledged](#) \$5 million to OESJ for anti-hate work. Unfortunately, the current plan to distribute the \$5 million doesn't apply to organizations like ours at this time. While 1 million is pledged for ethnic media and 1.5 million is slated to be given to the Coalition on Hate and Bias, a number of groups are left out. The Coalition and ethnic media are doing important work, but there are also other community organizations that need funding to continue to address anti-Asian racism and violence.

With over 542 attacks being recorded as of last March, Washington State has had the 2nd highest number of anti-asian hate crimes in the nation. Now more than ever, our communities need support. We've been actively working against the hate that has plagued our community as we've faced repeated attacks. While we don't want funding to be taken away from our allies in the Coalition or from ethnic media, it would be great if we could receive consideration for our own funds.

There are many groups who have been doing anti-hate work since the pandemic started. Asian and Pacific Islander Americans for Civic Empowerment submits this statement with OCA Asian Pacific Advocates of Greater Seattle, the Japanese American Citizens League - Seattle Chapter and Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance - Seattle Chapter, just to name a few. Many more organizations are also working against AAPI hate, but not all could be reached over the last few days as this just came to our attention.

Thank you for your consideration,

APACEvotes, OCA-GS, JACL Seattle and APALA Seattle

From: [Julia Curns-Welch](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 4/20/21 Budget Committee meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 3:20:57 PM

Dear folks,

I joined the April 20th Budget and Fiscal Management Committee, but via livestream because of the number of folks on Zoom.

I'd like to submit a comment, in support of the ordinance detailing funding for arts & cultural organizations. As was shared by many individuals - we were among the first to close and will be the last to re-open. The impacts to our sector are astronomical - it's more than organizations needing to fund operations... it's entire livelihoods, skills, and identity as artists that were seemingly erased overnight. It will take years to rebuild from this, and our sector has experienced an incredible trauma that will persist for a long time. Funding artists and cultural workers, organizations, and supporting new endeavors like the Harbor Island film stage bring an important infusion of needed support and will help to start rebuilding trust and hope in our arts & culture ecosystem.

Second, with the requests for additional officers or police presence near the King County Courthouse, I encourage the council to look for community-based alternatives that can help workers feel safe. As we've seen from Charleena Lyles, the protests last summer, and many many other instances - SPD presence does not guarantee safety and often has further escalated situations causing great bodily harm, collective trauma, and a growing sense of fear and mistrust, disproportionately affecting communities of color. I urge you to support alternatives to "increased show of force" and creative/collaborative ways to help King County Courthouse workers feel safe. The resident organizations (and Seattle Arts & Culture for Anti-Racism) at Seattle Center may be a helpful starting point in how other entities have creatively addressed similar issues through an anti-racist lens.

Thank you,

Julia Curns-Welch

White Center resident (District 8)
Seattle Opera staff member (District 4)

--

Julia Curns-Welch (she/her)

julia.curns@gmail.com

(m) 773.885.7961

From: [Billy Hetherington](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Support of Appropriation 4 in Ordinance 2021-0155
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:36:31 PM

Afternoon Councilmembers,

I wanted to take a moment to speak in support of Appropriation 4 in Ordinance 2021-0155 that is Agenda item 5 in the 5/12 Budget Committee meeting.

Within this Appropriation there is money set aside for development and funding of apprenticeship and local hire programs within the priority hire zip codes.

First of all, I wanted to thank this council for everything they have done with the passage of priority hire and even last year allocating money to two school districts in the county to promote a multi-craft trades based curriculum. Workforce development in the construction trades has been done on a high level through our state approved apprenticeship programs but promotion of such programs has been lacking for decades in our schools.

As we move into a new federal administration, the talk lately has all centered around infrastructure. Federal and even State infrastructure packages are in the works as the building and construction trades look to diversify our workforce through programs like Priority Hire. Making an investment into these communities is going to incentivize cities in these zip codes to make the same commitment that this council made just a few years ago.

In discussion around the region, the need, want and desire is there to go into these underserved communities and provide these residents a career that gives them the ability to take care of themselves and their family.

I'm proud of my 20+ years of service to Laborers Local Union 242 and equally proud of the commitment this council has made to lifting up those in these areas to hopefully have the same experience that i've had!

--

Billy Hetherington

Political Director

206.441.0470 (Office)

206.552.3284 (Cell)

22323 Pacific Hwy. S.

Des Moines, WA 98198



From: [Beth Hintz](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Support \$5.5M Unincorporated King County BIPOC Alliance Economic Development and \$30M Fund for Housing and Behavioral Health
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:40:38 AM

Dear King County Councilmembers:

As a resident of Skyway, I'm writing today in solidarity with Black, Indigenous, People of Color community leaders and residents in Skyway and King County to urge you to prioritize and vote yes on the following two urgent asks. You must prioritize significant investment in Skyway and King County's BIPOC communities now.

1. As a pressing top priority, we demand that you vote yes on our Unincorporated King County BIPOC Alliance ask of \$5,500,500. This request is less than 1% of King County's budget. BIPOC Unincorporated King County community members of Skyway, Vashon Island and White Center have aligned to reimagine community-driven economic development. After years of studies and planning, we don't need another study that continues to delay and ignore these efforts. We have identified economic development VERY specific needs, priorities, and projects in the SWAP and other plans that have had significant input from community over the past decade+. Skyway needs investment and action and the BIPOC Alliance is our vehicle for action!

2. As a pressing top priority, we demand that you vote yes on the Community-Driven Fund for Housing, [Houselessness] Response, and Behavioral Health amendment that reserves \$30M towards holistic housing and health services for communities most affected by the pandemic. Do not delay or dilute this urgent and essential request.

These proposals and solutions are developed by and for BIPOC communities in Skyway and King County. Please listen to BIPOC communities and act now to begin to undo the systemic racism that is deeply embedded in King County's funding allocations, processes, and systems.

Thank you,

Beth Hintz

Skyway resident and board member of West Hill Community Association

From: [Lessa](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Cc: [Jon Grant](#)
Subject: Budget Hearing Meeting 04/20/21
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 12:17:40 PM

Hello, Council Members.

I was logged in for today's budget hearing and prepared to testify, but technical difficulties prevented me from participating. I want to make sure that you have received my testimony. Please see my testimony below:

My name is Pastor Henry Jenkins from the Miracle Temple Church of God and Christ. Thank you very much for your time today.

For the past 40 years, our church has assisted the homeless in our community, and I am here today to encourage and support the Low Income Housing Foundation's plans to create more Tiny House Villages.

We are excited to collaborate with LIHI and are ready and willing to offer Church-owned property in Tukwila as a new location for a Tiny House Village.

We're all aware of how desperately this type of assistance is needed, and my church is ready to rise to the occasion.

We'll need your help and support as well to accomplish this.

Homelessness is a problem that can be solved. We know we can help heal our community and provide shelter for all who need it; all we have to do is decide to do it.

We have a three-phase electrical system with five meters and a water hookup on our property, which can accommodate between 30 and 40 tiny houses. Our property already has asphalt blacktop around it, and there are enough parking stalls for 10 to 15 cars.

Please support LIHI's funding proposal to build more Tiny House Villages in King County.

Thank you for your time today.

Pastor Henry Jenkins,

God bless you,

Sent from my iPhone,
please excuse any typos.

From: [Thyda Ros](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Call to Action: Executive Constantine's COVID Supplemental Budget
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 1:09:23 AM

Dear King County Executive and Councilmembers:

In support of our Unincorporated King County BIPOC Alliance ask of \$5,500,500 we urge you to prioritize this request which is less than 1% of King County's budget. BIPOC Unincorporated King County community members of White Center, Skyway and Vashon have aligned in force to create a community-driven economic development. The BIPOC Alliance will provide a portion of the needed capacity for economic development activities. We encourage King County to heed and honor our past and current collection of research. Our communities have already contributed immense time and energy to various data collecting efforts detailing the actions and investments needed to drive forward our economic viability. We don't need another study that continues to delay and ignore these efforts. The BIPOC Alliance is our vehicle for action!

Unincorporated King County singularly encompasses the most racially diverse, low income, and English language learner populations in comparison to localities within neighboring city limits of King County. Families and small business community members have faced intense challenges to their well-being and viability. Challenges of displacement, inability to pay rent and utilities, storefronts in disrepair, negligent landlords, low-wages, job loss, chronic illness, racism and language and cultural differences that pose barriers to sustaining their well-being and economic growth. When unincorporated areas thrive, our entire county thrives.

We want community-led initiatives that are developed and implemented for us, by us to be fully funded. We share similar characteristics with our unincorporated neighbors throughout King County. As a result, it is clear that we must partner with our unincorporated neighbors to strengthen our alliance in not only identifying and serving the most vulnerable populations within these communities but also acquiring sustained resources to do so. This is the opportunity to activate and develop local innovators to create the most equitable small businesses and workforce development systems.

As members of the White Center community, with a legacy of neighborhood pride and community care, richness in our collective culture and heritage, holding one of the most diverse commercial districts in King County, I strongly urge you to support the \$5.5M Unincorporated King County BIPOC Alliance.

Thank you so much for your consideration!

Thyda Ros
Khmer Community of Seattle King County

From: [Paul Mailman](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Support the KC Harbor Island Studio and recovery funds for creative industries
Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:35:00 AM

Dear Council and Budget Committee Members,

My name is Paul Mailman , I work in the film industry as a cinematographer. All of my work is as a freelancer, moving from project to project. I cannot overstate to you, what it will mean to myself and my family's income that the County develops the Harbor Island Stage. Stages such as this can and will attract long term projects that pay family wage jobs. This will bring sustainable ongoing work not only for those already in the film industry but will grow our crew base and develop job openings for individuals who do not need a college degree to enter the industry. Film production also creates incredible economic benefit in retail, hospitality, tourism and more.

I am a member of IATSE Local #600. I ask for your support of Executive Constantine's budget for King County's film industry, and in his proposal for recovery funds for all of the Creative Industries.

Thank you.

Paul Mailman

=====

Paul Mailman | *Director of Photography*
Washington State Area Steward
International Cinematographers Guild - IATSE Local 600

206 399 1987
dp@paulmailman.com
paulmailman.com

From: [Jennifer Anderson](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Support COVID supplemental budget 2021-0155
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 4:59:08 PM

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Good afternoon Chair Kohl-Welles, Vice Chair Dembowski and Councilmembers,

On behalf of the 2600 members of the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties, like to express support for the Executive's proposed COVID-19 supplemental operating budget, scheduled for discussion in the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee tomorrow. This proposal includes an appropriation of over \$4 million to the Department of Local Services Permitting Division to significantly reduce the wait times before initial review for permit applications in the unincorporated area. This important appropriation will allow the Division to add review capacity by hiring additional staff and expanding contracts with third party consultants. This will enable them to work through the backlog of applications and bring more housing to market sooner.

As you are well aware, one of the biggest issues facing our region is housing affordability. Low supply continues to drive home prices higher, and long permitting timelines only worsen this issue. In March King County had .060 months' supply of inventory (down from 1.15 months inventory a year ago). Industry analysts consider a four to six month level as an indicator of a healthy market. You can view additional stats, including average home prices and median income in [MBAKS May 2021 Builder Bulletin](#).

We applaud the County Executive, County Council, and Division leadership for making housing a priority and allocating funds that will enable permits to be issued in a more timely and efficient manner. With the newly appropriated resources, the Permitting Division could work through the backlog of permit applications by fall. The homebuilding industry can spur economic activity, but builders need to have permits in hand and the proposed investments are vitally important to making that happen.

Thanks for your consideration of our comments. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.



Jennifer Anderson | King County Manager

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335 116th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

mbaks.com Find us on [f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [i](#)

**We aspire to be the most trusted and respected housing experts
in the Puget Sound region.**

From: [Ju Namkung](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Support for the Community-Driven Fund for Housing, Homelessness Response, and Behavioral Health
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:04:39 PM

Dear Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of my Councilmember Girmay Zahilay's budget amendment proposal for the Community-Driven Fund for Housing, Homelessness Response, and Behavioral Health. This amendment would reserve \$30 million to establish a program for grants to community-based organizations who provide housing and behavioral health services. This is an important part of supporting community-led efforts to provide care for the most disproportionately impacted communities in our county. As a member of Moms Demand Action and a King County resident whose priorities are racial justice and gun violence reduction, I strongly support this amendment, and I ask for your support as well.

Ju Namkung
Wallingford, Seattle
District 2

From: [Kwadwo Oware Jr.](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Comment: Executive's proposed \$600 million Emergency Fund
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 9:23:43 PM

Dear Members of the King County Budget and Fiscal Management Committee,

My name is Kwadwo Oware. I'm a member of the King County Immigrant and Refugee Commission. I would like to thank you all for the work you're doing for our county. It's very much appreciated.

I'm excited about the Executive's \$600 million emergency spending plan that is currently being considered by the King County Council.

Indeed, the budget makes provisions to support and uplift underserved communities, like mine, which are known to be hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis. With COVID-19 vaccines becoming more and more available in our county, one would think the most affected communities should be prioritized for vaccination. Unfortunately, that is not the case for many reasons, including access to vaccines and vaccine hesitancy.

The proposed emergency spending plan makes an appropriation of \$116.2 million for COVID-19 vaccination efforts with the intent to continue and scale up the county's mass vaccination programs through September 2021. Currently not everyone, especially those from communities like mine, who wants to get the vaccine uses the mass vaccination sites. This is due to many reasons, such as inconvenient location, lack of primary language access, transportation challenges, etc. The question then becomes how the county can successfully bring the vaccine to the doorsteps of underserved communities, while also helping to dispel COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy in those same communities.

To overcome those challenges, I propose that the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee considers allocating at least 6% of the \$116.2 million to specifically support community-based pop-up clinics run by community members and to promote multifaceted efforts, such as incentivizing the targeted population and engaging trusted community leaders to help eliminate COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy. My extensive experience working with such communities leads me to believe that a community-based approach would be more effective than what is currently being considered, i.e. medium and high volume mass vaccination sites, as we all work together to overcome this crisis.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,
Kwadwo

From: laurenowen427
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Community Driven Fund Budget Proposal
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 8:18:08 AM

Dear Councilmembers -

I am a volunteer with the Washington State Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

I'm writing to ask you to support Councilmember Girmay Zahilay's budget amendment proposal for the Community-Driven Fund for Housing, Homelessness Response, and Behavioral Health. This amendment would reserve \$30,000,000 to establish a program that awards grants to organizations that provide housing or behavioral health services in response to homelessness that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In effect, this amendment would allow King County to support community-based organizations with their existing housing and behavioral health projects, especially organizations that are run by people who reflect the demographics most disproportionately impacted.

This is crucial because community-driven efforts that provide culturally responsive care are the most effective forms of care, especially if the goals are racial justice, violence reduction and building healthy and sustainable life paths.

Thank you,

Lauren Owen
1818 Bigelow Ave N
Seattle, WA 98109
County District #4

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S8, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

From: [Kalayo Pestaño](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: In support of supplemental funding for survivors of gender-based violence
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2021 10:08:27 AM

Good morning King County Councilmembers.

I am [Kalayo Pestaño](#), Executive Co- Director of API Chaya. I called in for public comment at the budget committee meeting today, but had to leave before my turn. Our organization support survivors of sexual violence, domestic violence and human trafficking in immigrant and Asian + Pacific Islander communities, and has been a leader in violence prevention work for the last 26 years. As part of the King County Coalition to End Gender Based Violence, we support increasing funding to services for survivors of gender based violence. It has been a harrowing year for so many of us, and for those who live with domestic or sexual abuse, this quarantine has become even more dangerous. It is particularly devastating for many we serve who are also contending with the housing crisis, unemployment and economic insecurity, lack of social and mental health support and the insurmountable injustices of both the immigration and criminal legal systems.

Our advocates can only do so much when a survivor in an already precarious situation has needs that become so dire in these circumstances. It goes far beyond individual advocacy for our clients and even systems advocacy within institutions. We will continue to do that, of course, but ending gender based violence requires long term community based solutions that we must all take part in. Survivors need long term relief to secure their safety and their futures. In order for our organizations to sustain our services throughout this pandemic, we need our public officials to provide funding that will be reliable and ongoing.

Thank you.

Kalayo Pestaño (*they/ them*)

Executive Co- Director

kalayo@apichaya.org

206-467-9976

[On unceded ancestral lands of the Duwamish people](#)

www.apichaya.org



[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [Website](#)

From: [Ryan](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Sound stage.
Date: Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:35:43 AM

I, Ryan Purcell am asking you to support funding the harbor island stage facility. It will help create jobs and industry in Seattle and will be a better use for the property than what it was. Invest in the film industry and it will pay you back with decent jobs and revenue.

Thanks,

Ryan Purcell
Cinematographer.
ryanpurcelldp.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mariah DeLeo](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Cc: [Erin Adams](#); [Jamie Lee](#)
Subject: Inclusion of Restaurant Community Kitchens in ARPA Funding Package
Date: Monday, May 10, 2021 4:41:23 PM
Attachments: [Restaurant Community Kitchen Advocacy Letter - King City Council .sig copy.pdf](#)

Dear King County Council,

On behalf of Seattle Good Business Network and Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority, I would like to submit the attached letter in support of the striker amendment of Ordinance 2021-0155, Section 29, ER3 to include the following language:

"Of this appropriation, \$5,000,000 shall be expended or encumbered solely to support the food security assistance program to support communities throughout the county with residents suffering disproportionate health and economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic. The program shall provide grants to organizations to purchase, store and distribute culturally appropriate foods that might be difficult to secure through traditional stores. Culturally appropriate foods may include prepared meals purchased from restaurants or commercial kitchens that prepare culturally appropriate foods."

Both we and the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority have been managing programs that support restaurants providing free meals to community members experiencing food insecurity over the past year. This programming supports not only nutritious and culturally appropriate food assistance but also small business relief and long-term recovery support and increased employment in the hospitality industry. As 100% of our restaurant partners are BIPOC-owned and significantly staffed, and whose meal recipients are largely of the BIPOC and immigrant and refugee communities, this multi-pronged funding support is targeted toward communities that have been hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis and assists not just in relief but long-term recovery.

We are asking for up to \$2.76 million to support approximately 40 restaurants over the next year to provide a minimum of 240,000 free meals to individuals and community organizations who serve those who are food insecure. This funding would allow us to support our current partners as well as grow our programming to support those already operating community kitchens throughout King County, from our existing waitlist and by developing additional operations in unincorporated King County and other hard-hit areas. Global to Local's Food Innovation Network would be our first expansion partner, which supports both immigrant and refugee entrepreneurs and also the community who would be receiving free meals.

This funding would: 1) provide foundational support for these community kitchen programs that most restaurants intend to continue beyond the pandemic; and 2) allow restaurants the space and guaranteed income to recover while they develop additional revenue streams to support their community kitchen lines of business.

In addition, and importantly, we believe funding for restaurant community meals can be 100% reimbursable from FEMA, which would then free up those funds for later use. In February, the Biden administration [signed an executive order](#) that increases the federal cost share of FEMA assistance, including emergency food deliveries, making them 100% reimbursable to state and local governments, which accomplished the same goal that was sought in the

bipartisan [FEED Act](#) (FEMA Empowering Essential Deliveries (FEED) Act) that explicitly covered restaurants to prepare nutritious meals for vulnerable individuals.

While our partners may not be available to provide public comment in support of this programming on Wednesday, we hope you consider their signatures with the same value. In addition, we wanted to include these testimonials that I hope you find compelling regarding the depth of our programming impact.

"The work in building up local restaurants and specifically working towards food that is culturally relevant is a big part of the healing and care that can lift people up during some of the hardest times in their lives. Our families really enjoyed the meals from Salare and my team really appreciate the help." - Samm Hess, Food Services Manager, Mary's Place

"Wasat's Neighborly Needs project partners with Musang weekly to serve free nourishing meals to people facing food insecurity. With our most recent collaboration during the month of Ramadan, we served iftar meals for cultural education and to serve those in need with the Muslim community." - Kanwal Yousuf, Wasat

"We want to make sure that the foods that we are getting are nutritionally valuable for the seniors that we serve. So when you think about the route that it takes, that it's coming from the farm, and then it's going to [Musang], and then we are getting it. There is a pattern there, and we are just excited to be a part of it." - Lynda Greene, SE Seattle Senior Center

We appreciate your consideration of our request! Please feel free to follow up with any questions.

Thank you,

Mariah DeLeo

Mariah DeLeo (she/her)

Program Manager | [Good Food Economy](#)

(206) 333-2581





To the Honorable:

April 29, 2021

Councilmember Jeanne Kohl-Welles
Chair, Budget and Fiscal Management

Councilmember Rod Dembowski
Vice Chair, Budget and Fiscal Management

Councilmember Claudia Balducci
Member, Budget and Fiscal Management

Councilmember Kathy Lambert
Member, Budget and Fiscal Management

Councilmember Joe McDermott
Member, Budget and Fiscal Management

Councilmember Dave Upthegrove
Member, Budget and Fiscal Management

Councilmember Girmay Zahilay
Member, Budget and Fiscal Management

Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer

Councilmember Reagan Dunn

On behalf of Seattle Good Business Network and the Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority, we are writing to express our strong support for the allocation of American Rescue Plan COVID-19 relief and recovery funds to restaurant community kitchen programs that provide meals to food insecure King County community members.

Since October 2020, Seattle Good Business Network (SGBN) has been operating Good Food Kitchens, a food assistance, economic development, and local food resilience program that supports restaurants preparing free meals to those in need, while supporting local farms and producers and building long-term local supply chain relationships. Good Food Kitchens is currently supporting businesses and community members in Seattle and Kent. Restaurant partners include That Brown Girl Cooks!/Communion, Salare, Musang, Feed the People, and Project Feast who have been sourcing from nine King County farms to provide meals to individual community members and organizations, including Tiny House Village, Coyote Central, Urban Fresh Food Collective, Wasat, Real Change, Open Doors for Multicultural Families, Communities in Schools – Kent, Seattle Urban League, and SE Seattle Senior Center.

Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority (SCIDpda) has similarly been supporting restaurant partners in the Chinatown International District (CID) to prepare free meals for low-income CID residents in need -- an endeavor that supports two constituent populations of the CID neighborhood's vulnerable community.

These projects represent an innovative restaurant community kitchen model that has the unique ability to support multiple relief efforts at once, helping to foster a just recovery within our region that supports both the businesses and community members hardest hit by this pandemic and who are often the most vulnerable and marginalized within it. Providing funding directly to these community kitchens is a multiplier investment as these businesses in turn support local farms and other local businesses and enable the retention or rehire of workers, thereby reducing some of the need for financial assistance caused by these employment disruptions (in King County, \$0.79 of every \$1.00 spent at locally owned

restaurants is re-spent locally¹). Such an investment also empowers those whose very job it is to feed people to be able to nourish the communities they serve with high quality, nutritious and culturally appropriate food.

The potential impact of expanding this programming is significant. Similar programs have had a transformative impact in cities around the country during the pandemic, including Great Plates Delivered in CA, High Road Kitchens, Feeding Phoenix, Minnesota Central Kitchen, and Good Work Austin, to name a few, who have directed millions of dollars to save restaurants, employ restaurant workers, support local farms, and provide meals for those who are food insecure in their communities. In King County, we have identified more than 30 additional restaurants operating community kitchens. With meaningful relief and recovery funding, we could provide the same economic benefits and stimulus to our region, while simultaneously building a more resilient local food system.

In service of this priority, we would like to request dedicated funding for these independently operated, largely BIPOC-owned and staffed restaurant community kitchens. The provision of \$2.76 million towards this critical programming would support approximately 40 restaurants to prepare a minimum of 240,000 meals over 12 months. This funding can be scaled up or down, e.g., \$1.38 million would support approximately 20 restaurants to prepare 120k meals over 12 months, and \$690,000 would support 10 restaurants to provide 60k meals over 12 months. Funding at the higher level will allow us to add additional restaurant community kitchens for which we have a waiting list, which includes eight incubator restaurants within the Food Innovation Network in Tukwila that supports immigrant and refugee women entrepreneurs.

While COVID-19 vaccinations continue to rise and the prospect of businesses returning to pre-pandemic operations appear in sight, restaurants remain in crisis. As of December 2020, over 1,100 in King County have closed, 90% of those independent, with many more still on the brink. In the Seattle-metro area, leisure and hospitality employment is still down by 59,700 jobs - a full 35% - as of February 2021 compared to February 2020.² While our restaurants have shown remarkable resilience and creativity in their ability to pivot their operations, we also know that those pivots have not resulted in sufficient revenue to cover expenses over the past year, with some restaurants reporting up to a 65% decrease in revenue at a loss of tens of thousands of dollars a month.³ As significant debt has accrued, relief funding has not sufficiently met the need, including the upcoming federal Restaurant Revitalization Fund, which comprises just 23% of what was originally asked for by the Independent Restaurant Coalition nationwide. This has particularly hit communities of color, as workers of color represent 46% of the employed restaurant workforce versus 30% of the employed population in Seattle as a whole,⁴ including many undocumented workers who have been unable to access most relief funding.

Restaurant closures and sales decreases, in turn, have had a significant impact on the local economy, including local farms, producers, and other small businesses that supply restaurants with ingredients, goods, and services. In WA state, 48% of local farms saw a decrease in revenue, with the largest impacts related to restaurant closures or reduced ordering.⁵

¹ Sonntag, Viki. Why Local Linkages Matter: Findings from the Local Food Economy Study. April 2008.

² WA Employment Security Department Labor Area Summaries, [March 2021 Report](#).

³ SGBN, "[Good Food Resilience | A Listening Session: How Can We Support Local Restaurants Now?](#)"

⁴ Restaurant Opportunities Center United & Seattle, [The Great Service Divide: Occupational Segregation, Inequality, and the Promise of a Living Wage in the Seattle Restaurant Industry](#)

⁵ UW/WSU/WSDA, COVID-19 Farm Survey (2021).

Crucially, our community continues to experience an increase in need for food assistance, compounding an already existing crisis even before the pandemic. Food insecurity has more than doubled to up to 2.2 million individuals in WA state.⁶ In King County, food insecurity was experienced in 30% of households and of those, 57% had children. Of those surveyed, people of color were 1.5x more likely to be food insecure than their white counterparts, with South Seattle and South King County experiencing a higher prevalence of food insecurity than anywhere else in the county.⁷

Funding restaurant community kitchens has the potential to provide immediate and essential relief and revitalization to businesses along the local food pipeline, providing direct relief to this hard-hit industry and the owners, workers and community members of color who have been disproportionately affected. It also will lay the foundation for a sustainable community support mechanism that can respond to future disasters and create business partnerships that strengthen the local food economy in the long-term.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our request. We are happy to provide any support you need to ensure funding for this program area is included in the final budget.

Sincerely,



Erin Adams
Executive Director, Seattle Good Business Network



Jamie Lee
Director of Community Initiatives, Seattle Chinatown International District Preservation and Development Authority

⁶ Figure from Katie Rains, WSDA Policy Director in Lauren Paterson, "[Study measures food insecurity in Washington families](#)", WSU Insider, November 19, 2020.

⁷ UW/WSU, WAFOOD Survey, [Economic Security and Food Access During the COVID-19 Pandemic: King County](#) (June to July 2020, Research Brief 2)

Additional Signatories

Edouardo Jordan
Chef & Owner
Salare, Junebaby, and Lucinda Grain Bar

Kristi Brown
Chef & Owner
That Brown Girl Cooks! and Communion

Van Nguyen
Executive Director
Project Feast

Tarik Abdullah
Founder & Chef
Feed the People Seattle

Eric Patterson-Floyd
Marketing Manager
Feed The People Seattle

Melissa Miranda
Owner
Musang

Cheff Samm Hess
Food Services Manager
Mary's Place

Andrea Caupain Sanderson
CEO
Byrd Barr Place

Lynda Greene
Executive Director
SouthEast Seattle Senior Center

Kanwal Yousuf
Development Officer
Wasat

Samuel Chesneau
Site Lead at South Park Community Center
Seattle Parks & Recreation DPT

AJ McClure
Executive Director
Global to Local

Kara Martin
Program Director, Food Innovation Network
Global to Local

Todd Biesold
CFO
Merlino Foods

Jason Salvo
Owner
Local Roots Farm

Jeanie Chunn
Executive Director
Seattle Restaurants United

Melissa Spear
Executive Director
Tilth Alliance

Laura Clise
CEO
Intentionalist

M. Angela Castañeda
Director
Beacon Business Alliance

Elliott Smith
Owner, Co-Founder
Kitchen Sync Strategies

Greg Westhoff
Principal Director / Founder
Tideway Creative

Inderjeet Ramgotra
Principal
Inner Renewal and the Healthy Path

From: eric@hempfest.org
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Cc: [Vivian McPeak](#); [Ami C.](#); [John Toker](#)
Subject: Comment - Budget & Fiscal Mgt. 12 May
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 8:07:47 PM

Esteemed Councilmembers-

Thank you for considering these comments today from the Board of Directors of The Seattle Hempfest. In light of the new territory we find ourselves in the (hopefully) tail-end of the Covid-19 pandemic, Hempfest has opted to forego our traditional event that takes place the third weekend of August for a second year. The financial impact has been grave, and we beseech the council's guidance.

Hempfest would be celebrating our 30th anniversary this year - we have been Seattle's original Free Speech "Protestival" since 1991. Hempfest was the consistent voice in the conversation around the cannabis plant, and we feel we played a major role in the passage of I-502 - an initiative projected to generate more than \$1 billion in tax revenue for Washington this budget cycle. Our direct impact is significant as well. A 2014 UW Economic Impact Study determined Hempfest generated 234 jobs in King County, led to \$18.145 million in output, and generated \$8.172 million in LABOR income. Not only is Hempfest part of the culture, uniqueness, and history of Seattle, it is also a strong economic contributor.

The Board has determined not to move forward with our traditional event again this year. In light of our collective phase of recovery, we feel a large, public gathering at the waterfront would be premature. This decision is causing severe (and possibly terminal) financial strain on our organization, which has closed its storefront and eliminated paid positions. We are keeping the dream alive with an online presence and public clean-up events, but it is not enough.

The Seattle Hempfest appeals to the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee in the hopes we can participate in one of the county's grant awards that would be appropriate for Hempfest.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Eric Boone
Treasurer - Board of Directors
Hempfest 2021

Seattle Hempfest, Produced by:
Seattle Events a Nonprofit Corporation

From: [Christina Diego](#)
Cc: [Esther Lucero](#); [Abigail Echo-Hawk](#); [Francesca Murnan](#)
Subject: Seattle Indian Health Board Supports \$30 Million for Community-Driven Fund
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 9:47:17 AM

***Message sent via bcc**

Dear Executive Constantine and King County Council Members,

On behalf of Seattle Indian Health Board, we request your support of Councilmember Zahilay's amendment to develop a \$30,000,000 Community-Driven Fund for Housing, Homelessness Response, and Behavioral Health. These services are critical for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) who are disproportionately impacted by housing insecurity, homelessness, mental health conditions, and substance use disorders in King County, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a Native-led organization serving our urban American Indian and Alaska Native people in a culturally attuned way, we know direct funding is critical to addressing disparities outcomes in housing, homelessness, and behavioral health. To advance racial justice in King County, we must directly support our BIPOC organizations that are invested in community informed and culturally responsive services.

Please contact Esther Lucero, CEO at 206-324-9360 Ext. 1103 | EstherL@sihb.org, or Francesca Murnan, Policy Director at 206-941-5999 | FrancescaM@sihb.org if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Christina Diego (Nimiipuu), MPA, MSW
Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
Policy Associate



Seattle Indian Health Board
For the Love of Native People
sihb.org | uihi.org | [Twitter](https://twitter.com) | [Facebook](https://facebook.com)

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From: [Teresa Sweeney](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Please Support Girmay Zahilay's Budget Amendment
Date: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 2:16:05 PM

Dear Councilmembers - I'm a Seattle volunteer with Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and I'm writing to ask you to support Councilmember Girmay Zahilay's budget amendment proposal for the Community-Driven Fund for Housing, Homelessness Response, and Behavioral Health. This amendment would reserve \$30,000,000 to establish a program that awards grants to organizations that provide housing or behavioral health services in response to homelessness that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In effect, this amendment would allow King County to support community-based organizations with their existing housing and behavioral health projects, especially organizations that are run by people who reflect the demographics most disproportionately impacted. This is crucial because community-driven efforts that provide culturally responsive care are the most effective forms of care, especially if the goals are racial justice, violence reduction and building healthy and sustainable life paths.

Thank you,
Dr. Teresa Sweeney
2536 1st Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98109
County District #4

Teresa Sweeney, Ph. D.
Clinical Psychologist
100 West Harrison St., #S-330
Seattle, WA 98119
(206) 282-3282

From: [Gordon McHenry, Jr.](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Cc: [Gordon McHenry, Jr.](#); [Carolyn Taggart](#); [Lauren McGowan](#); [Theresa Fujiwara](#); [Sara Levin](#); [Colleen Laing](#)
Subject: Council Approval of Rental Assistance Budget
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:13:38 AM

Dear Councilmembers:

As President and CEO of United Way of King County, I am writing to encourage your yes vote on the Rental Assistance budget before you at Wednesday's committee meeting. United Way is grateful for the partnership with King County to design and launch an equitable and effective Eviction Prevention and Rental Assistance Program. Since the beginning of pandemic our Home Base program has helped more than 10,000 households access financial assistance by leveraging public and private funds – more than 73% of those served are BIPOC led households.

We applaud the focus King County has had on racial equity and supporting those at greatest risk of evictions and homelessness. Engaging with BIPOC communities and responding to the concerns they voice is critical to crafting effective interventions. We are proud that the multi-pronged approach to distributing rental assistance has been effective at achieving racial equity goals. We also believe that proposed changes will make the program even more effective and more equitable.

United Way has more than 10,000 people on a wait lists for rental assistance. We expect this number to grow as eviction moratoriums lift. We know that landlords are struggling to pay mortgages and families are financially stressed. It is critical to quickly deploy these funds.

It is important to remember that prior to the pandemic, there was no comprehensive homeless prevention system in King County. There were many programs operating across the region and families had to work too hard to access resources. This crisis has presented an opportunity to build a world class homeless prevention system that is equitable, effective, scalable, and sustainable. United Way and our Home Base partners look forward to working with King County to sustain this vision as we move out of the pandemic-generated crisis and focus back on the pre-existing homelessness state of emergency.

We urge King County to continue to partner with large and small landlords, community based organizations, and tenants to design a client-centric, effective and equitable homeless prevention system that addresses the scale of the crisis.

We are also delighted to take this opportunity to update the Council on United Way's work to increase our community's food security. Since the beginning of the pandemic, it is estimated that rates of food insecurity in Washington have tripled. This impacts low-income and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities at disproportionate rates.

Access to school-based child nutrition resources such as school breakfast, afterschool meals, and summer meals is even more important during the unprecedented economic instability faced by so many in our region. That's why United Way has recruited, trained, and deployed hundreds of AmeriCorps members and provided technical assistance and funding to schools to connect families with federal meal programs during the pandemic.

Additionally, we are working to leverage benefits that are new or have expanded such as SNAP and

P-EBT. These benefits provide robust cash assistance to families and give households autonomy and decision making around purchasing culturally appropriate foods and meeting the unique nutrition needs of family members. The problem is that too many families – especially older adults and college students - don't know they are eligible. United Way has created a new website WAFoodHelp.org and will launch a robust campaign to increase awareness and enrollment in these programs.

One area of innovation is our partnership with DoorDash, food banks, and grocery stores delivering food boxes to food insecure households. Through this program, United Way works with community-based organizations to identify people who need food delivery. We partner with food banks and grocery stores to purchase food and package it for delivery. United Way then works with DoorDash to schedule a driver to pick up food and then deliver it the recipients' homes. Since the start of the pandemic, we have scaled this partnership to serve more than 4,000 households across King County weekly and have delivered 100,000 boxes of food. Of these households, over 70% self- identified as Black, Indigenous or other People of Color. We have more than 850 households on the waitlist for the program.

We urge King County to invest in programs and systems that address food insecurity and increase access to healthy and culturally appropriate food.

Please adopt the Executive's \$600 million emergency spending plan to ensure rental assistance and food programs reach the many County residents in need.

Thank you for all you've done over the past 14 months to ensure that local government services continue, stimulus funds become available to community members, and County programs are delivered despite the unprecedented disruptions we have faced. For myself and our staff at United Way, I offer you our gratitude for your excellent service to our community.

Gordon

Gordon McHenry, Jr. (he, him, his)

President & CEO

United Way of King County

gmchenryjr@uwkc.org

(206) 931-8547(m)

[Web](#) | [Blog](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [COVID-19 Updates](#)

From: [Ariana Vallejo](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: public comment regarding budget and fiscal management committee
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:53:32 AM

Queridos miembros del concilio.

Mi nombre es Ariana Vallejo, miembro de la comunidad de Auburn por más de 13 Años. El motivo de esta carta es para solicitar de forma encarecida se den los fondos a las org para crear mejores oportunidades de desarrollo económico en nuestra ciudad, la cual a sido difícil salir adelante siendo madre soltera y con 3 hijos e tenido que salir a buscar mejores oportunidades de trabajo en otras ciudades como seattle o la isla de vashon haciendo un recorrido a veces de dos horas para poder llegar a mi trabajo.

En Auburn no tenemos programas que impulsen a los latinos a crear negocios o nos ayude de alguna manera a seguir nuestros sueños, hace un año con lo de la pandemia, me quedé sin trabajo por unos meses y cree una compañía de limpieza la cual no e podido echar adelante debido a la falta de información, o apoyo para negocios pequeños.

Siendo madre soltera he tenido que dejar ese sueño por un lado y buscar un trabajo que sea seguro ya que no puedo darme el lujo de no traer comida a la mesa, creo que si tuviéramos programas o alguien que apoyara a personas como yo que quieren salir adelante creando nuevos empleos locales, y pequeños negocios ayudaríamos a la economía local creando nuevas oportunidades para los jóvenes y adultos latinos de la ciudad.

Ya que en esta ciudad no hay programas que ayuden a nuestros jóvenes a crear o aprender algo lo cual podría ser una gran diferencia en mantener a nuestros jóvenes alejados de las calles, lo cual es muy importante para una madre de adolescentes que nacieron y crecieron en Auburn.

Ariana Vallejo
valleary.3@gmail.com
253 217-5608

From: [Linnea Westerlind](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Funding for King County Play Equity Coalition
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:07:58 AM

I'm writing to express my support and appreciation for funding in the supplemental COVID budget to go **toward the King County Play Equity Coalition**. As a parent of three kids in public schools, I'm grateful for the hard work this diverse coalition is doing to ensure greater access to play for kids across King County. The work is only possible with ongoing funding and support.

Thank you for including youth sports and outdoor recreation in this budget!

Best,
Linnea Westerlind
Parent/PTA member, Seattle Public Schools
Co-founder, Outdoor Childhood Puget Sound
member of the King County Play Equity Coalition

From: [Danielle Winslow](#)
To: kcexec@kingcounty.gov; [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#); [Dembowski, Rod](#); [Zahilay, Girmay](#); [Lambert, Kathy](#); welles@kingcounty.gov; [Upthegrove, Dave](#); [Balducci, Claudia](#); [von Reichbauer, Pete](#); [McDermott, Joe](#); [Dunn, Reagan](#)
Cc: [Norine Hill](#)
Subject: Pass the amendment for the Community-Driven Fund for Housing, Homelessness Response, and Behavioral Health
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:29:29 AM

Greetings Councilmembers and Executive,

On behalf of Mother Nation, we join our partners and neighbors to request your support of Councilmember Zahilay's amendment to develop a \$30,000,000 Community-Driven Fund for Housing, Homelessness Response, and Behavioral Health. As a result of forced removal and systemic erasure, American Indian and Native Alaskan people are disproportionately impacted by housing insecurity, homelessness, mental health, substance use, and violence. By and for organizations like Mother Nation know the unique challenges and strengths of our community and have co-creating crisis and supportive services with the community that are rooted in culture and healing for long-term health and well-being.

Last week we honored our missing and murdered indigenous relatives through the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) movement. By passing the amendment for the Community-Driven Fund for Housing, Homelessness Response, and Behavioral Health and by supporting the implementation of this fund to be in collaboration with community-based organizations, we believe we can prevent MMIWG. Here is brief message from the Mother Nation team: [MMIWG Awareness Day Message](#).

Thank you for centering the communities most impacted by the issues you seek to solve. We look forward to working in partnership.

Respectfully,

Danielle

Danielle Winslow (she/her) Homeless Prevention/Homelessness Program Manager
Mother Nation
dwinslow@mothernation.org | (206) 867-3518
4250 South Mead Street
Seattle 98118
www.mothernation.org

