

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



RAINIER BEACH ACTION COALITION



**EMPOWERING COMMUNITY,
MOVING RAINIER BEACH FORWARD**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHO WE ARE	2
MESSAGE FROM OUR STRATEGIST	3
BLACK HOME INITIATIVE	4
THE CONSTELLATION: OUR ORGANIZING MODEL	5
YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT	7
NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION EVENTS	8
NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT	9
RBAC GROWTH CENTER: TENANT IMPROVEMENTS	10
FOOD JUSTICE	11
RE-CREATING HENDERSON STREET: PLACEMAKING	13
CELEBRATING 20 YEARS: BACK2SCHOOL BASH	15
FREEDOMNET: CHANGING THE NARRATIVE	16
FINANCIALS	17
DONOR TESTIMONIALS	20
CALL TO ACTION	21



RAINIER BEACH ACTION COALITION

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY, MOVING RAINIER BEACH FORWARD.



WHO WE ARE

RBAC is a place-based, Black-led non-profit rooted in stewarding the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan. RBAC has had a historical presence in Rainier Beach for nearly 2 decades through signature events like the quarterly Town Halls and Back2School Bash, and neighborhood outreach and empowerment. Over time, RBAC has developed programs catered to young adults from the Southend, providing year-round employment opportunities to a roster of 40 emerging leaders from the neighborhood. Their efforts directly impact critical issues affecting the well-being of residents living in Rainier Beach and surrounding areas.

OUR MISSION

- Implement the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan (1997, 2014) and build a connected, sustainable and equitable community within the Rainier Beach neighborhood.
- Promote the “made in Rainier Beach”, quality education, living wage jobs, affordable transportation and housing for all.
- Promote a safe place where people thrive, a neighborhood the world calls home.
- Build neighborhood capacity to enhance quality of life in Rainier Beach as well as to address critical issues threatening the welfare of Rainier Beach resident.

OUR FOCUS:



Message From Managing Strategist Gregory Davis

In the 2022 Annual Report message from the Managing Strategist, I suggested a striving toward our future among the first order of business in 2023. As 2023 ended and many of the goals cited in the 2022 annual report were being met, I was abruptly challenged to consider the idea of not looking to the future, a future whose dreams would likely not be realized even with the best planning. Instead I was told being more focused on the here and now, addressing the issues that are right in front of us was the better approach. That things like young people's life circumstances being gravely impacted by a pandemic, people of color, particularly the low-wage earners in our neighborhood, facing imminent displacement due to gentrification, resources available to RBAC growing smaller due to government deficits, and philanthropies changing priorities should get the attention. Thankfully, my cultural worldview compels me toward both, addressing what is in front of us and looking to the future, we call the former "being real" and the latter "hope". This 2023 annual report will have you excited for the future of Rainier Beach. It will reveal a sincere and intense striving among the RBAC staff, volunteers, particularly our board of directors to address the critical issues impacting the well being of the residents of Rainier Beach. Do enjoy it and also join us in 2024 as the promise of the Rainier Beach Neighborhood Plan, that encompasses the hopes and dreams of its residents, continues to inspire us here at RBAC and compel us to double down on being real and having hope. See you in the neighborhood and be well.

Gregory Davis is RBAC's Managing Strategist and is a co-founder. He has been with RBAC since its inception in 2003.



**...we call the
former
"being real"
and the
latter "hope".**

Photo Credit: Chardonnay Beaver via
Crosscut Cascade (PBS)

BLACK HOME INITIATIVE

RBAC joins the Black Home Initiative (BHI) to promote generational wealth in Rainier Beach through homeownership. While we typically focus internally, BHI's mission aligns with ours, sparking our involvement. Engaging with affordable housing developers, we advocate for community benefits. Success stories include securing ground-floor spaces for community organizations.

This commitment extends to supporting our growing residential population due to new developments. BHI's impact network-based advocacy efforts targets systemic housing inequities through policy change better than any approach we experienced to date.

Partnering with BHI positions RBAC to contribute to increasing Black homeownership, a key goal. We facilitate outreach to interested parties, guiding them to BHI's resources. Advocacy efforts target systemic housing inequities through policy change. Join us in this transformative journey toward **our goal of 1,500 new Black homeowners by 2027, and 3,000 by 2032. Together, we can shape a brighter future.**



Black Home Initiative Website



THE CONSTELLATION

In 2023, RBAC focused on growing and deepening our relationships with partners and neighborhood connections. Below are the tables we sat at in 2023 and active efforts and organizations within the Constellation where RBAC represented the Rainier Beach neighborhood

Rainier Beach Economic Development Roundtable
Priority Hire Advisory Committee
Black Home Initiative
Link2Lake
Race and Social Equity Taskforce
WA State District 37
US Congressional District 9

United Way Black Community Building Collaborative
Seattle Foundation Black Led Organization Cohort (BLOC)
Rainier Beach Community Center
Seattle Parks

Rainier Valley Creative District
Rainier A Beautiful Safe Place for Youth
Restorative Resolutions
Regional Peacekeepers Collective
Youth Consortium

Communities of Opportunities (COO) Rainier Valley
Seeds of Change Network
Seattle Foundation

THE CONSTELLATION

Here at RBAC, we believe that the depth of our relationships we make with the residents, organizations, and businesses are as vast and wide as the galaxy. This is why we say all entities in Rainier Beach are a part of a constellation. Below are the different parts of the constellation based on our branches.

Uplift Northwest
Washington Equity Coalition/First AMELink2Lake
Acacia Council
Chase Bank at Othello
King County District 2
City of Seattle District 2.

United Way of Kind County
Rainier Beach Library
Urban Impact
CHAMPS

Rainier Beach Resource Center
Rainier Beach Emergency Communication Hub
Empowering Youth and Families Outreach
Community Response Network

Ayeko Farms
Black Farmer Collective
Horseneck Farms
Small Axe Farms

YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

At RBAC, we aim to uplift our Young Adults Transitioning into Adulthood (ages 15-24), which we lovingly call our YATTAs. Our YATTAs represent the future and are the heartbeat of RBAC. In 2023, our YATTAs stewarded amazing programs and worked to innovate the neighborhood.



102 total youth and neighborhood engagement activations

(96 Pearl Activations, 16 Crime Prevention through Environmental Design activations)



82% community members say there are people making community a safe place



We held **23 trainings** for young adults, including CPR, Circle Keeping, Financial, Professional Development, and more!



NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION EVENTS

“RBAC is a black and brown-led organization that is dedicated to enhancing, uplifting, and supporting our community. I wish everyone knew that RBAC has been working to beautify the neighborhood and make it safer for all the youth, families, and businesses. They do this through clean crew work as well as with our Economic Development Team.”

*–Coach Vic Roberson
RBAC Staff*

**RBAC recruited 185
community volunteers to help
clean the community in 2023!**



Earth Day/Mapes Creek Cleanup



Volunteer Here!

NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS ENGAGEMENT

With us and the **72 committed members**, we work to engage and reach out to as many of Rainier Beach’s business owners, residents, community partners, and stakeholders. We do this in order to discuss and act on several different community topics like **economic justice, transportation, housing, and job creation through business development and job readiness programs.**

With so many topics to tackle and so many members of the team, we reached a lot of goals and achievement's in 2023!



We **served 275** Rainier Beach local businesses



Matched **10 businesses** into commercial spaces for ownership



Held **over 280** Technical Assistance advising sessions/Outreach touches to area small businesses



Engaged community by hosting an **Economic Town Hall Meeting**



RBAC GROWTH CENTER: TENANT IMPROVEMENTS



The Growth Center is on track to be finished and ready for total occupancy on June 1, 2024. The Growth Center will have a gathering space for circles and restorative resolutions, a board-style meeting room, a recording studio and sound booth, an RBAC office, a community kitchen, and the Rainier Beach Food Hub. The Growth Center is the leading edge of the Food Innovation District and a key tool in arresting gentrification of the Rainier Beach neighborhood, displacing historical businesses, providing access to healthy food and employment opportunities for Black and Brown youth and increasing public safety through design.



FOOD JUSTICE

Farmer Support



270 hours of Farmer Support from
April–October

Brought on **2 Farm Fellows**

Farms Visited: Horseneck Farm,
Small Axe Farm, Ayeko Farm,
Kamayyan Farm, and many more!

Farm Stand



Added **5** new team members

18 Farm Stands with free
distribution

572 Volunteer Hours

RBAC spent **\$127,178** on produce
from **BIPOC farmers** in 2023

FOOD JUSTICE

Seeds of Change Network

A for Farmers by Farmers coalition

20+ SOC Talk Stories

Attended the Emerging Farmers

Conference in Minnesota

Showed up for displaced farmers



Community Supported Agriculture

30 regular CSA customers

15 weeks of CSA with 2 additional
“gleaned Harvest” boxes

30 regular CSA customers



RE-CREATING HENDERSON STREET: PLACEMAKING



The Recreating Henderson Street project started in 2023 in partnership with Link2 Lake. The goal is to create a street improvement plan along Henderson Street with all the ideas and values coming from our community. Going into year two, RBAC has taken on the project management for Recreating Henderson Street, as we are now working with a design team. *Environmental Works* will turn the ideas they have heard from us and the community and turn them into tangible ideas. Our goal for 2024 is to have a Street Concept Design Plan to take to the city and hopefully make our dreams for Henderson turn into reality!

RE-CREATING HENDERSON STREET: PLACEMAKING

We had a big priority on community input when making the initial ideas together for the Henderson Street plan. Shown are some of the results.



Place Making

Place making can include **adding art installations, activating vacant space, painted cross-walks,** and more!



Traffic Safety

We noticed early on in the project that there were hazards with the **parked buses** along Henderson street, and we continue to find the solutions to that issue.



Maintenance and Beautification

Doing **general maintenance and cleaning** to the things already in the community. (Roads, Sidewalks, trails, bus stops, light structures, etc)



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS: RAINIER BEACH BACK2SCHOOL BASH



Expressing deep gratitude for the unwavering support during **RBAC's 20th Rainier Beach Back2School Bash**, which supported **around 1500 families with crucial resources**. Major collaborators, including Danielle Jackson, FAST BarberShop Chat & Chew, Liberated Village, and the Rainier Beach Community Center, played pivotal roles in orchestrating the event. The day, **with over 130 volunteers, 23 sponsors, and 56 vendors, 900 backpacks given**, showcased remarkable neighborhood strength, recognizing **UNSUNG HEROES** and honoring Donald "Slick" Watts for his outstanding service in public education. Our sincere thanks extend to all who partnered in serving the Rainier Beach Neighborhood.



FREEDOMNET: CHANGING THE NARRATIVE



FreedomNet is a grassroots journalism effort where our YATTAs from the Rainier Beach neighborhood have been documenting positive events in the community in an effort to shift the narrative of our neighborhood to be more constructive, thoughtful, and more positive!



12 Podcast Episodes



456 Twitter Headlines

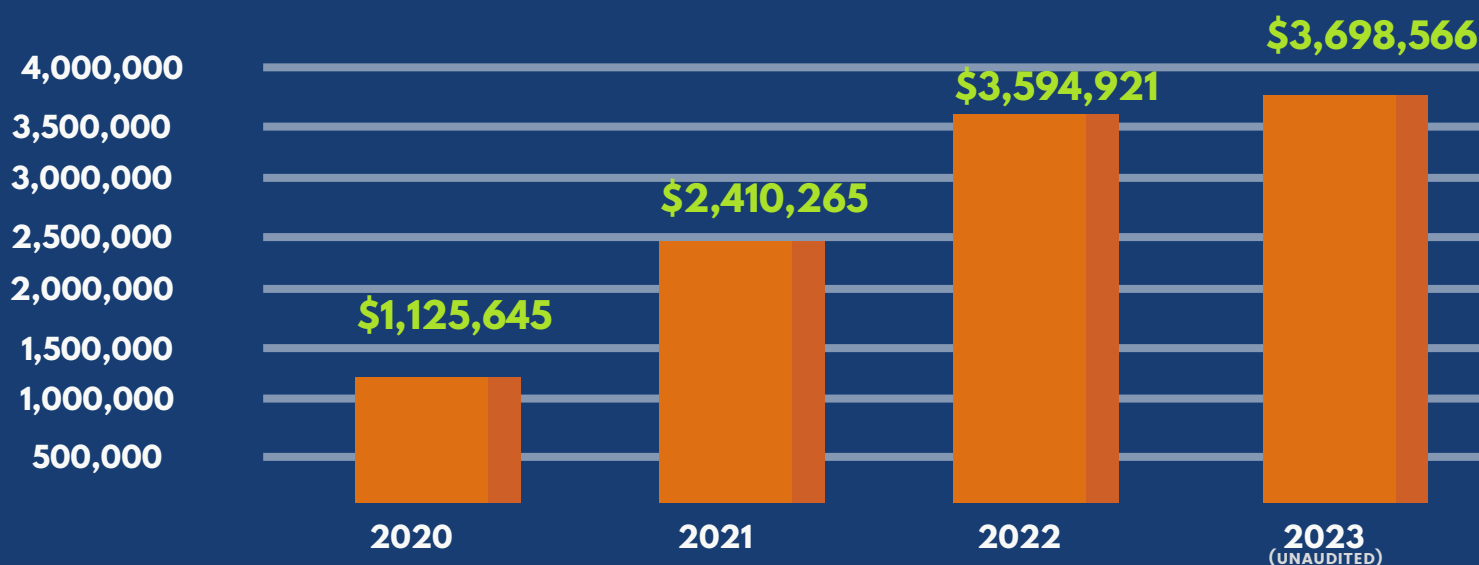


38 News articles

FINANCIALS

RBAC adopts a neighborhood-focused approach to fundraising, aiming to enhance connections with our community members. The collective effect of donations from neighbors, volunteers, partners, small businesses, staff, and others is profoundly impactful. We're deeply grateful to everyone who contributes and acknowledges the importance of their support.

Nonprofit Revenue

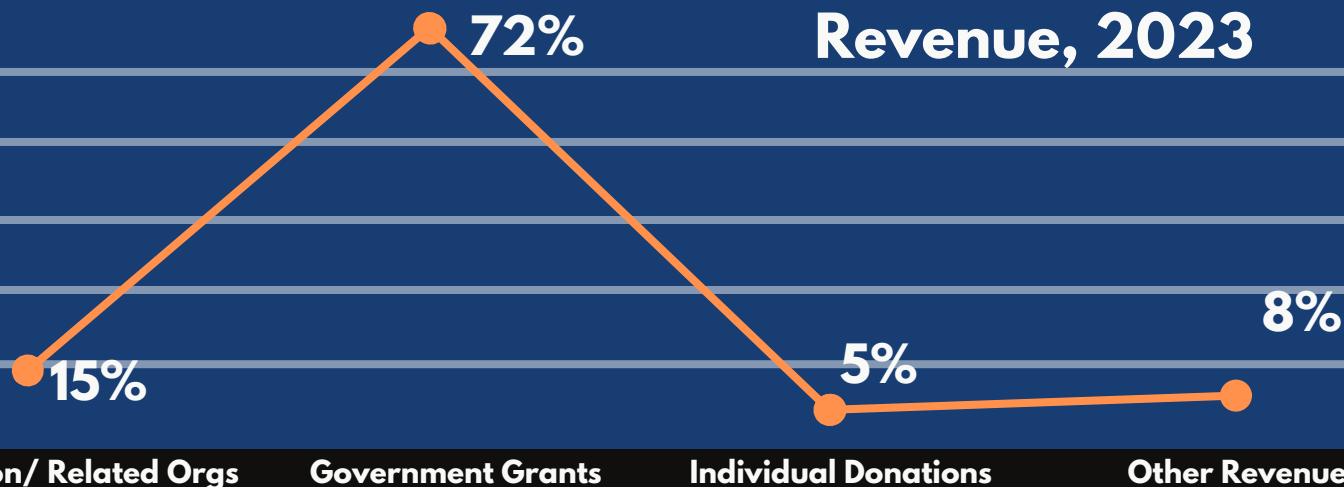


FINANCIALS

*In 2023, **Government funding increased to 72% of nonprofit revenue.***

- **Foundations and Related Organizations constituted 15% of revenue**
- **Other revenue streams contributed 8%**
- **Individual contributions rose slightly to 5%**

Funding as a Percent of Revenue, 2023



FINANCIALS

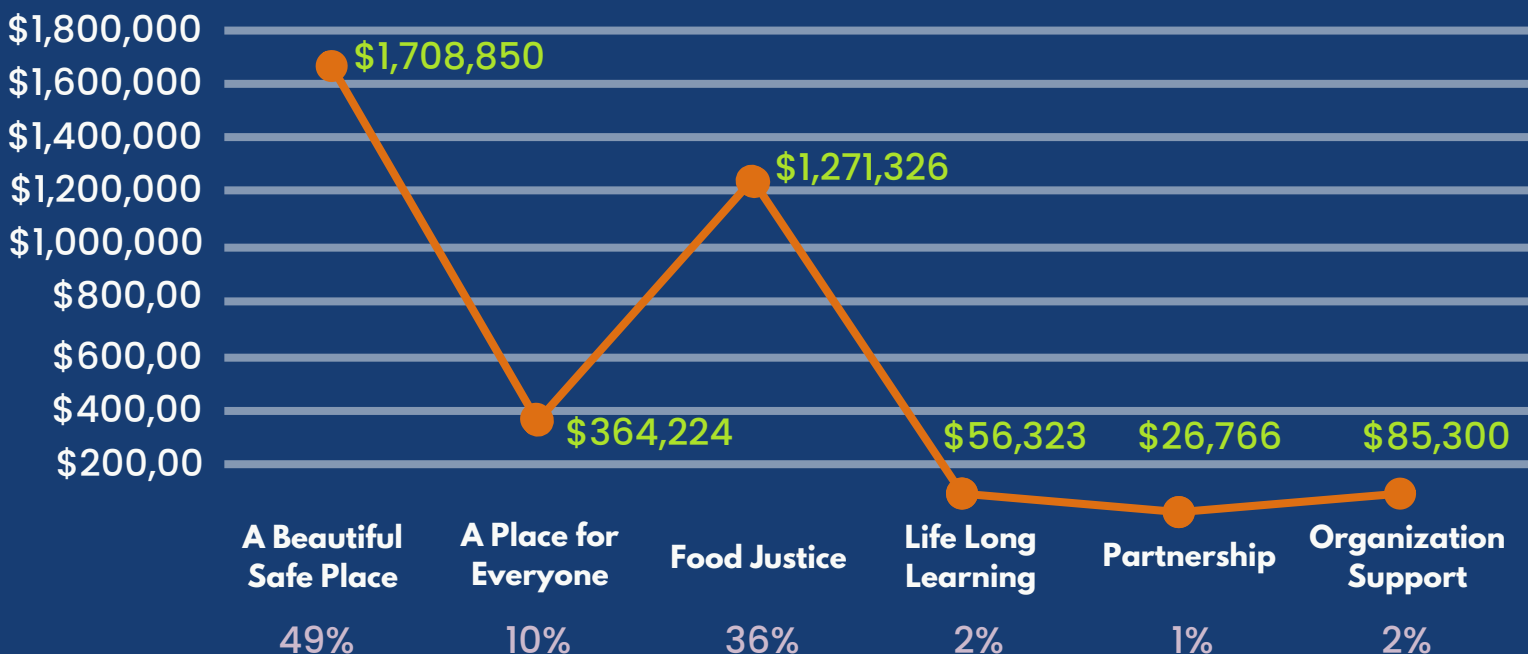
Since 2020, RBAC has successfully brought in over \$10 million for the Rainier Beach area. This includes directing over \$3 million into local households via wages and direct contributions and injecting over \$6 million into the broader Rainier Valley economy. RBAC is committed to bringing much-needed resources into this historically underinvested neighborhood, emphasizing its role in fostering community and economic growth.

	Non-Profit Revenue	Expenditures	Change
2020	\$1,125,645	\$532,086	\$593,559
2021	\$2,410,265	\$1,892,169	\$518,096
2022	\$3,594,921	\$3,241,054	\$353,867
2023	\$3,693,566	\$3,151,350	\$542,216
Total	\$10,824,397	\$8,816,660	\$2,007,737

FINANCIALS

Community safety is presently the largest investment area and the results are promising. Incidents contributing to youth crime are down 35%. **Food Justice is the next highest investment** that has resulted in thousands of pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables being injected into the neighborhood.

Contributed Revenue by Branch



From the Finance Director's desk: We are committed to being responsible caretakers of the donations we receive, including those from community members and governmental bodies at various levels. Our commitment to accountability is underscored by our rigorous internal audits, including our 2023 audit currently underway. The completed 2022 audit demonstrated a positive assessment with a "present fairly" opinion and no findings, affirming that our financial statements accurately reflect Rainier Beach Action Coalition's financial standing and yearly activities, adhering to recognized accounting standards.

Donor Testimonials



RBAC has a positive and inclusive approach to development that benefits the community that already exists in Rainier Beach.

-Polly F.



I have directly benefited from RBAC's efforts to keep community members informed about what's happening in the neighborhood through Town Halls and Citizen Journalism.

-Alise K.D.



RBAC is a black and brown-led organization that is dedicated to enhancing, uplifting, and supporting our community.

-Coach Vic, RBAC STAFF

CALL TO ACTION

In this annual report we've learned about some of the biggest projects that RBAC has worked on through 2023. All of them with the goals to support Rainier Beach in **Economic Development**, Life Long Learning, **Safety**, and **Food Justice**. We have young leaders activating the streets, hosted cleaning events that we spent with 185 of our neighbors, and started a new neighborhood street planning project! And that's just some of the things we've done to serve our neighborhood.

We can't do things like this and reach these goals without YOU! We don't just do this work for you, we do this work WITH you! With the support from our donors, our volunteers, our local farmers and others, we all made a positive change in the Rainier Beach neighborhood!

We hope that your able to donate or volunteer with us in 2024, so that we can all continue to move Rainier Beach forward.



RBAC Donation Page



Volunteer Here!

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BICYCLES OK

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