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THE
WASHINGTON BUS
EDUCATION FUND

a letter from the director

Dear Bus Friends and Community,

Our staff, boards, and volunteers worked tirelessly throughout 2022 to continue to build a stronger movement of young people, by young people, and for all people. We are proud to have safely returned to in-person work after two years of primarily working remotely.

This year, we continued to build robust paid-leadership development programs that put young people at the center of change. By resourcing and investing in our youth leaders, we led bold changes at the local and state level through policy, advocacy, and youth voter mobilization. In total, we were able to resource and train **36 youth leaders and organizers** who are now out in the real world making change.

This year, we fought hard to elect **15 strong progressive candidates** that will continue to work on voting rights expansion, education equity, and economic justice across Washington State.

This year, we were able to reach out to over **45,000 young people** across the primary and general elections through our youth voter mobilization programs. In fact, those contacted by the Bus typically turn out 10%-35% higher than those we did not contact. Our staff, interns, fellows, and volunteers organized their peers on college and high school campuses, festivals, community events, and through the phone.

I share deep thanks and appreciation for each one of you that made our work possible. Our work remains more critical than ever as our communities are recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, fighting the climate crisis we are facing, and so much more.

As we head into 2023, I know our work will only get stronger, be scaled, and more disciplined as we continue to fill in the political, legislative, and organizing gaps to ensure *all of our communities thrive*.

To the power, vision, and leadership of young people,

Cynthia Illan-Vazquez,
Executive Director

To fulfill our mission, "The Washington Bus" header consists of two separate entities: **The Washington Bus**, a 501(c)4 social welfare organization, and **The Washington Bus Education Fund**, a 501(c)3 public charity. This report includes highlights from both organizations and The Washington Bus Political Action Committee.

People. Participation. Policy.

The Washington Bus is the political home for young people ages 15–35 in Washington State. We support a rising generation of leaders and organizers in addressing systematic and economic barriers holding young people back from civic leadership. We remove barriers to political participation so that our generation can realize its full political power. We invest in people of color, low-income, LGBTQIA+, immigrant, and other historically disenfranchised young leaders to build a more accessible, equitable, and representative Washington State — and it's working. We have registered over 75,000 young people in Washington State and contacted hundreds of thousands of young people since our inception.

The Washington Bus focuses on engaging young people at all levels of the civic process. We organize and mobilize our generation to fight for issues and candidates young people care about in the legislature and on the ballot.

The Washington Education Fund focuses on leadership development and non-partisan civic education. We train young leaders with the skills and tools to make real change in their communities, register hundreds of people to vote each year, educate the public about issues on their ballot, and work to make sure all eligible youth vote in every election!

We believe in people. We believe in participation. We believe in policy. The Bus meets young people where they are and mobilizes them to build a more progressive and representative Washington. We run large youth voter mobilization campaigns, educate our peers on civic issues, and train our next generation of leaders and organizers in Washington State.

YOUTH VOTER MOBILIZATION

Amplifying youth voices at and beyond the ballot box

We organize hubs of young people throughout the state who turn up and turn out their communities all-year round, not just during elections. This year we...

Reached out to voters statewide, with a special focus on the 26th, 42nd and 47th Legislative Districts with over 45,000 young people contacted.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Empowering leaders to grow, fight, and win

We empower young leaders across Washington State to grow, fight, and win on issues that matter to them through year-round training, mentorship, and leadership opportunities. This year we...

Trained and graduated 12 fellows, 8 interns, 9 endorsement leaders, and 7 high school and campus leads for a total of 36 young leaders out changing the political landscape with the technical, political, and leadership skills honed in our programs.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Eliminating structural barriers for young people

We build, champion, and sustain youth-led efforts dedicated to eliminating structural barriers holding young people back from civic participation. This year we...

Won on Ranked Choice Voting and Social Housing in Seattle, Even Year Elections in King County, and Ending Prison Gerrymandering as well as Bargaining Rights for Legislative Workers at the state level. Young people keep on winning!

BUILDING YOUTH LEADERS



We believe **that long-term change must be driven by the communities most impacted**, and that means we need strong leaders at the helm of our movement. During 2022, the Bus provided comprehensive, paid leadership development programs that equipped and **empowered 36 young people to lead on the issues they are passionate about**. Our program participants went on to become student leaders, campaign managers, and nonprofit and government leaders.



"The Washington Bus **restored my belief that change is possible by giving me the opportunity to affect it**. Through YELL, I met elected officials who share my values, advocated for policies I agree with, and canvassed for candidates who championed my concerns. Working in a cohort of passionate young changemakers **made the work feel not only fun but possible.**"

CLARA PRIZONT
2022 YELLer & volunteer

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

Winternship provides youth leaders the opportunity to lead advocacy, education, and youth mobilizing on our Youth Agenda, the issues most pressing to young people.

Summer Fellowship is a ten-week program where fellows lead issue-campaigns and get-out-the-vote efforts. They receive robust political education and technical training to be able to run campaigns.

Fall Electoral Internship trains college students in relational organizing skills to turn out the youth vote in their colleges.

High School Internship trains high schooler students in voter registration and civic education to register their peers to vote and build a stronger civic culture in their schools.

Campus Leads Internship trains college students in voter registration and civic education to register their peers to vote and build a stronger civic culture in their schools.

Youth Endorsement Leadership League (YELL) provides our youth leaders the opportunity to lead our candidate endorsement process, learn more about the Washington political landscape, and lead get-out-the-vote efforts for those candidates.

WINTERNS WINNING ON POLICY

bills passed



lobby meetings
led by youth



youth
testimonies



advocacy
forms
submitted

The Bus continues to organize young people in support of critical legislation that will impact their lives. This year we focused on three core issue areas: **Protect the Vote; Tax the Rich, Fund the People; and Education Equity.**

In fact, we hosted our first ever lobby day where we had **11 lobby meetings led by our youth leaders.** We showed up strong in the "virtual halls" of Olympia organizing legislators to support our Youth Agenda.

Through our advocacy efforts we were able to win **Senate Bill 5583** which ended prison gerrymandering at all levels. Additionally, we were able to win collective bargaining rights for legislative workers through **House Bill 2124** and increased language access in schools through **House Bill 1153.**



VIRTUAL LOBBY DAY

"Prior to the Winternship, I had experience in campaign work but didn't know a lot about what happened once candidates were elected into office. The Legislative Internship gave me **the opportunity to be immersed in the legislative process** - from learning how to track bills to testifying during committee hearings, **the Bus program staff was with me every step of the way** to guide and resource my advocacy efforts.

After this experience, I feel **more empowered to make positive changes in our state** and hold our elected officials accountable for their promises."



MEHAR SINGH

2022 Wintern and current
Development Manager at
the Washington Bus

2022 FELLOWSHIP RECAP

Our 2022 Fellowship had 12 incredible BIPOC, queer and trans, disabled, immigrant, and poor and working-class young people from across Washington State. Our Fellows dedicated ten weeks to lead three issue-based campaigns – **Rank Choice Voting, Social Housing, and Democracy Voucher Statewide Expansion** – all while turning out the youth vote! Fellows ran education campaigns, collected signatures, and held voter contact events.



"Being part of the Washington Bus' Summer Fellowship introduced me to so many **incredible people that are so involved with their community**. This experience taught me the importance of community organizing as well as the **vital role that young people have in shaping the future of our state**. It has **deepened my perspective** of what it means to have equal access to resources that allow everyone to live a quality life."



With their canvassing and organizing, we had a bill in the 2023 Legislative Session to **expand the Democracy Voucher Program statewide**, Clark Voters were able to vote on **Rank Choice Voting**, and Seattle residents voted in **strong favor of Social Housing** in February 2023!

We are glad to report that those contacted by our Fellows voted at a rate of 34% – **almost double the statewide youth voter turnout rate**.

SOPHIA HERNANDEZ

2022 Fellow



1,201

voters
contacted
for Primary
Election
GOTV

34%

of youth contacted by
Fellows turned in their
ballot; double the
statewide youth
turnout!

34

GOTV
events
hosted

12

Fellows
graduated
from our
program

CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENTS



15 out of 19 endorsed candidates elected!

YOUTH ENDORSEMENT LEADERSHIP LEAGUE (YELL)

We put young people in the driver's seat this year! **9 youth leaders worked alongside our staff and board** to put together an endorsement process and questionnaire. In total, our YELLers endorsed 19 candidates and 5 ballot measures through the primary and general election. YELLers also led Get-Out-the-Vote efforts including phone banking and door knocking on behalf of the candidates and initiatives we endorsed. **Out of our endorsed candidates and ballot measures, we won:**

Endorsed Candidates

King County Prosecutor Leesa Manion
Representative Reed
Representative Mena
Representative Entenman
Representative Reeves
Representative Farivar
Representative Chopp

Senator Trudeau
Senator Kauffman
Senator Randall
Senator Frame
Senator Wilson
Senator Nguyen
Senator Shewmake
Senator Saldaña

Ballot Initiatives

Raise the Wage Tukwila
Seattle Ranked Choice Voting
King County Even Year Elections

We're excited to begin expanding the YELL program's Get-Out-the-Vote impact! Sign up for our newsletter on our website (washingtonbus.org) to stay in the loop.

GENERAL ELECTION: BY THE NUMBERS

Between August 15th and November 8th, 2022 we contacted 14,450 youth voters in the 26th, 42nd, and 47th Legislative Districts. Out of those we contacted, we were able to turn out 4,378 young people across the three districts.

We use phone banks and door canvassing as our primary contact methods passing through each voter once. On average we turned out 32.5% of youth voters in the areas we canvassed.

Bus Turnout: 38.0%



Bus Turnout: 23.3%

4,186 Canvassed

LD47

Bus Turnout: 36.0%

6,189 Canvassed

LD26



YOUTH TURNING OUT YOUTH VOTERS

FALL GOTV INTERNSHIP

Our Fall GOTV Interns were out in their communities for ten-weeks leading Get-Out-The-Vote efforts in their college campuses and neighborhoods.

This year our three interns threw down and led an amazing GOTV program.

We registered people to vote in a variety of tabling events, including locations like **Seattle Central College, UW Seattle, Hood Famous Cafe in the International District, and El Centro de la Raza**, meeting young people and potential voters where they are.



Our interns connected with voters in **critical races**, organizing a total of **9 phonebanks** and textbanks, **contacting 41,807 voters** for the general election.

28,179

Get Out The Vote (GOTV) texts sent

13,628

GOTV Phonebank calls made

HIGHSCHOOL INTERNSHIP



high school interns graduated

Young people's participation in our programs **starting at the High School level** is the the first step to our leadership pipeline — by engaging as early as High School, we are **ensuring that young people show up to vote in every single election** and **helping to build civic habits that will last a lifetime.**





On September 8th, we celebrated the success of our 2022 Summer Fellowship cohort at the Centilia Cultural Center.



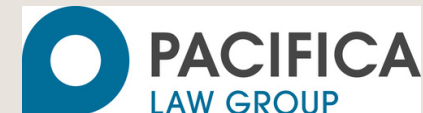
Over 90 of our Bus community members joined us throughout the night to celebrate. We had the privilege of hosting poets from **Youth Speaks**, singer and ukulele player **Lauren Fernandez**, and the **Seattle Steel Pan Group**. We also had the honor of having **Senator Yasmin Trudeau** give a powerful speech about the power and importance of youth in our democracy.

In total, **we raised \$43,300** for our Summer Fellowship program! We want to express **our sincerest gratitude** for everyone who made this event possible, including our 30 amazing sponsors.



BUS BASH

THANK YOU TO OUR BUS BASH SPONSORS!



EVANN STRATHERN
& ASHLEY ZAMMITT

CINTHIA ILLAN VAZQUEZ &
BRIAN CHU

CARY MOON &
MARK REDDINGTON

TOBY CRITTENDEN

BOB & LIBBY CRITTENDEN

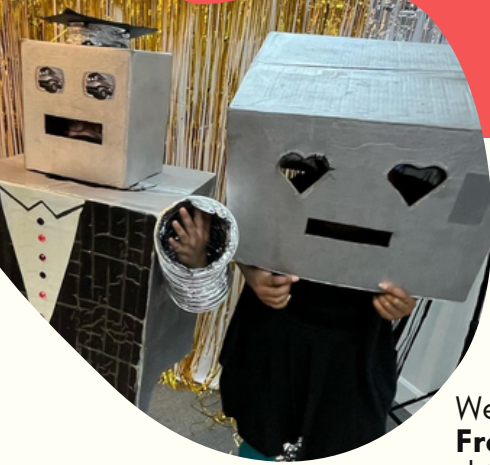
EMILY MURPHY

ANNIA YOSHIZUMI &
JOSH ENGLISH

JEAN JOHNSON
PARKER BUTTERWORTH

EVENTS
RECAP

FESTIBUS



On December 7th, we hosted our Festibus End-of-Year Celebration and welcomed around 30 Bus community members & volunteers to our Capitol Hill office for a night of building community and connections.

We enjoyed delicious **food from Frelard Tamales**, had a winter themed drink-making station, and a program featuring our Executive Director, **Cynthia Illan Vazquez**, and former 2022 Fall GOTV Intern **Bailey Medillo** who shared **the impact of our youth leadership development programs.**

We were excited to **share the in-person field-work** for the primary and general elections **after two years of mostly virtual work.** We are so grateful to everyone who made this event a possibility, especially to our sponsors! Huge thanks to The Group Health Foundation, Patagonia and our co-sponsors, Evann Strathern and Ashley Zammit, Annia Yoshizumi and Josh English, Jill Leahy, Vanesa Gutierrez, and Jessica Jones!



BAILEY MEDILO

2022 Fall GOTV Intern

"The Washington Bus **did not give me permission** to organize. Young people are organizing on **our terms.** What organizations like the Washington Bus do right is that **they understand that young people can, should, and do want to organize** on our terms. We need the **resources, training, and connections** to make this happen.

I am proud to be a product of the Washington Bus."

Our Executive Director, Cynthia Illan-Vazquez, **took a trip to Spokane** for a Mixer hosted by Board Members Denisse Guerrero and Paul Dillon on December 13th.

We had an incredible time sharing our work and **building stronger partnerships** with the Spokane community. We are excited to **invest more deeply in Eastern Washington youth** to build a more vibrant and diverse Washington State in 2023.



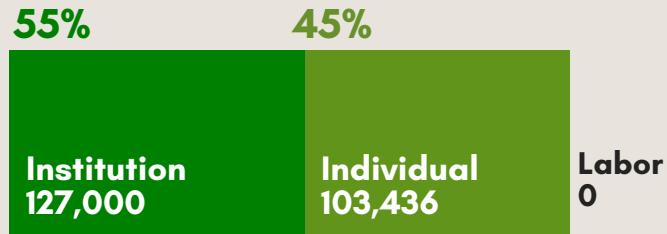
SPOKANE MIXER

REVENUE

501 (c)(3) TOTAL
\$519,380



501 (c)(4) TOTAL
\$230,449

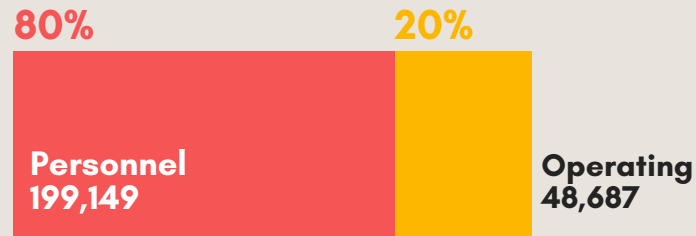


EXPENSES

501 (c)(3) TOTAL
\$545,524



501 (c)(4) TOTAL
\$247,837



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

*NOT YET AUDITED



WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT SUPPORTERS LIKE YOU. THANK YOU.

We can't do it without sustainers like you. We are incredibly grateful for the generous support from foundations, labor unions, businesses, and individuals who fuel the Bus. Your support allows us to equip young leaders to build a more progressive and representative Washington State. Incredible thanks to our Bus Boards and staff members who show up every day dedicated to empowering young leaders.

THE WASHINGTON BUS EDUCATION FUND BOARD

Evann Strathern, President	Annie Holden
Emma Scalzo, Vice-President	Maribel Hermosillo
Danielle Kim, Treasurer	Nicole Thomas-Kennedy
Jill Leahy, Secretary	Zach Pekelis
Annia Yoshizumi	

THE WASHINGTON BUS BOARD

Chris Lampkin, President	Denisse Guerrero
Bayley Dodd, Vice-President	Osta Davis
Parker Butterworth, Treasurer	Paul Dillon
Abigail Doerr, Secretary	Shaine Truscott
Christine Newman	

STAFF*

Cinthia Illan-Vazquez, Executive Director
Lizbeth Rivera-Estrada, Leadership Development Manager
Jazmine Smith, Political Manager
Mehar Singh, Development Manager
Fernando Barceló, Operations Manager
Sára Mustre-del Río, Campus Organizer
Sophie Morada, Digital Organizer

**staff and board members as of December 2022.*

THE WASHINGTON BUS EDUCATION FUND SUPPORTERS

350 Seattle
Abracadabra Printing
AFT Washington
Alliance for Youth Organizing
Annia Yoshizumi and Josh English
Bob and Libby Crittenden
Cary Moon & Mark Reddington
Christian Sinderman
Cinthia Illan-Vazquez and
Brian Chu
City of Seattle
Civic Ventures
Community Center for
Education Results
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Evann Strathern and
Ashley Zammitt
Jill Leahy and Heidi Sohn
Martin Luther King, Jr. County
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OneAmerica
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Parker Butterworth
Patagonia

Planned Parenthood of
Greater WA and North
Idaho
Satterberg Foundation
Scholar Fund
Seattle Foundation
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SEIU Local 775
SEIU Washington State
Council
Social Justice Fund
Summit Strategy
Tarko Foundation
The Vera Project
Toby Crittenden
Washington Community
Alliance
Washington
Immigration Solidarity
Network
Washington Progress
Fund
Washington Senate
Democratic Campaign
Win|Win Network

THE WASHINGTON BUS

Alliance for Youth Action
Annia Yoshizumi and Josh
English
Cary Moon & Mark
Reddington
Emily Murphy
Out Votes Count
Peter Goldman
Progress Alliance of WA
Ruth Ann Lipscomb
Seattle Credit Union
Threshold Philanthropy



**OUR BESTIES
FOR LIFE**



BUS FRIENDS FOREVER

Our Bus Friends Forever program is our amazing base of monthly supporters! BFFs support our work year-round making sure that our leadership development programs, voter mobilization, and advocacy efforts are fueled.

We are incredibly thankful for our 40 BFF supporters who are our steady lifeline throughout the year!



Now is the perfect time to show some Bus Love and become a BFF! Our BFFs are the Bus's steady lifeline without whom we would not be able to continue our programming throughout the year. Become a BFF to gain access to exclusive Bus events throughout the year like our quarterly Alumni and Bus Friends Happy Hour! Visit bit.ly/BusBFF (c4) or bit.ly/BusEdFundBFF (c3).