

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



DELRI
NEIGHBORHOODS
DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION

MISSION

INTEGRATING

ART,

NATURE &

NEIGHBORHOOD

TO BUILD AND SUSTAIN A DYNAMIC DELRIDGE

PROGRAMS OVERVIEW

DNDA collaborates with local creatives and organizers to develop projects that engage young and diverse communities. Many of these programs are held at DNDA's historic Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, which houses an alternative high school, nonprofit offices, affordable room rental rates, and 36 affordable live-work spaces for artists of all disciplines. DNDA also supports integrative art programming through the EcoArts Program, Arts In Nature Festival, and Creative Advantage.

ART

DNDA is committed to restoring, preserving, and protecting our natural habitat by developing community stewards. Our Urban Forest Restoration Program engages volunteers to work at 8 Seattle parks in W. Seattle, and our Wetlands Restoration and Stewardship Project works to expand local permaculture and access to affordable healthy food, while providing a children's teaching garden for youth environmental science lessons.

NATURE

DNDA provides affordable housing for local artists and low-income families at 7 properties in the Delridge corridor. All of our housing options are less expensive than for-profit buildings so that families with lower incomes can always live in Delridge.

NEIGHBORHOOD





"If you've never been to Youngstown you've got to check it out. It's truly a transformative and love-filled space. I speak a lot about Youngstown because it is where my heart is, my home away from home."
Carlynn Newhouse, Youth Speaks



2016 in ART

45,000	Youngstown visitors
27	Art events
2	Concerts
21	Film events
196	Performances & Rehearsals
50	Nonprofits rented space
102	Nonprofit events
600	Youth served by EcoArts
2,200	Arts in Nature Festival visitors

Top left - Cultural Event Series' Dia De Los Muertos at Youngstown

Bottom left - Totem Star youth performance at Youngstown

Top right (next page) - A youth performance at Youngstown

Middle right (next page) - Low-income youth working together for an EcoArts Project

Bottom right (next page) - Performance at the Arts in Nature Festival



Youngstown Cultural Arts Center

Youngstown Cultural Arts Center is an inclusive contemporary multi-arts hub in the Delridge Neighborhood of Southwest Seattle that incubates the arts, art-makers, and organizations from our multicultural, inter-generational communities in order to engage in civic dialogue and meaningful community transformation.

A school for 80 years, and a cultural arts center for the past 11 years, Youngstown has been at the heart of the neighborhood, and a symbol of community, education and the power of art for generations. Today the School is the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center and is a vibrant community focused on the arts, youth and sustainable initiatives.

EcoArts

Our year-round EcoArts environmental and art education program, provides artistic, cultural and environmental programming in SW Seattle. EcoArts programming includes summer and school break camp classes, after-school classes and outdoor classes. EcoArts is a unique model for arts-based environmental education; classes take place both indoors in art lessons and outdoors in the forest. Lessons are inspired by, made from, or created in nature. Our curriculum is designed to increase students' artistic skill, advance environmental awareness, foster positive identity, and increase social competence. EcoArts helps youth explore and connect to their natural environment and their creativity.



Arts in Nature Festival

The Arts in Nature Festival is a celebration of the arts and nature, and showcases the amazing diversity of our community. As DNDA's signature event for our Nature Consortium programs, the Festival offers the community an engaging arts and performance experience in the woods of Seattle's only campground, Camp Long. The festival features four intimate performance stages, a "Museum of Sound" of art installations contained in 8 rustic cabins, and hands-on art and nature activities, designed for children and adults alike, throughout the grounds of beautiful Camp Long. Since the first Arts in Nature Festival in 1998, the event has since become a community favorite that attracts attendance from all across Seattle.





Wetlands Restoration and Stewardship Project

The Delridge Wetlands, located on 23rd Ave SW and SW Findlay St, is a project spearheaded by DNDA to protect, restore, preserve and expand the existing wetland to improve water quality in Longfellow Creek, meanwhile developing the space as a public park for all to enjoy. Beside wetland restoration, other plans for the park include the creation of an urban garden, community orchard, as well as developing the space as an outdoor classroom for local students and the community to learn hands-on environmental science and wetland stewardship.



2016 in NATURE

- 83** Restoration events
- 1,857** Restoration volunteers
- 656** Youth volunteers
- 6,347** Volunteer hours
- 3,627** Native plants installed
- 2** Acres cleared of invasive species
- 8** Parks expanded
- 250** Wetland community stewards
- 7** Wetland project partners
- 60** Acres of Parks land maintained

Top - Teens volunteering at one of our restoration sites

Bottom - Salmon art project at the DNDA Wetlands



Nature Consortium is part of DNDA programming

In 2016, Nature Consortium became a part of DNDA. Nature Consortium, a longtime tenant at DNDA's Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, has long held the mission of connecting people, arts, and nature. Their programs focus on environmental restoration, arts, and education, all through a social justice lens, so could not be more aligned with the work and mission of DNDA.

"Being a volunteer has given me a chance to get out more and meet more people while I do something good for the environment, which is great not just for me, but also for the society and I share more time with my son because normally I work all the time."
Restoration Volunteer

The union brings tremendous opportunities to reach different segments of the community throughout the Seattle area. From marginalized groups to the most energetic environmental enthusiasts, we will have programs that benefit and appeal to all. We will be building connections to those we have not yet served. Connecting people to nature, connecting people to the civic process and connecting people to arts and culture will be enhanced by this union.

The staff and boards of both organizations are thrilled about the move, excited that together we can do more for the shared community we serve by combining our resources to address the educational, health, and economic disparities that exist in Delridge.



Top - Youngsters exploring nature through DNDA's Restoration Program
Bottom - Day of Caring Restoration Program with United Way



2016 in NEIGHBORHOOD

7 Affordable housing properties

308 Low-income residents

18 New families housed

13 Tenant organizations

9 Cultural Event Series (CES) events

1,500 CES participants

193 CES volunteers

600 CES youth served

38 CES partner organizations

"When I started visiting Delridge, I felt like 'Wow... This is my home...', and I started growing roots here, and connecting with people throughout the community."

CES Participant



Top - DNDA's community investment: One Community Commons

Bottom - Collaborative lantern making for the Cultural Event Series'

Vietnamese Moonlight Festival



CULTURAL EVENT SERIES

Over the years there has been growing discussion within our community about a need for more communication and collaboration between organizations, and a desire to highlight the diverse array of cultural groups living and working in Southwest Seattle.

"Volunteering with the Cultural Events Series helped me understand that our organization strengthens Delridge. Having been involved in the series this past year, I can clearly see that our participation helps reflect our presence in the community. Meeting each other allows us to have conversations and that is what I love. The opportunity to serve the community this way is worthwhile. It shapes who we are when we can learn from someone different than us." - CES Volunteer

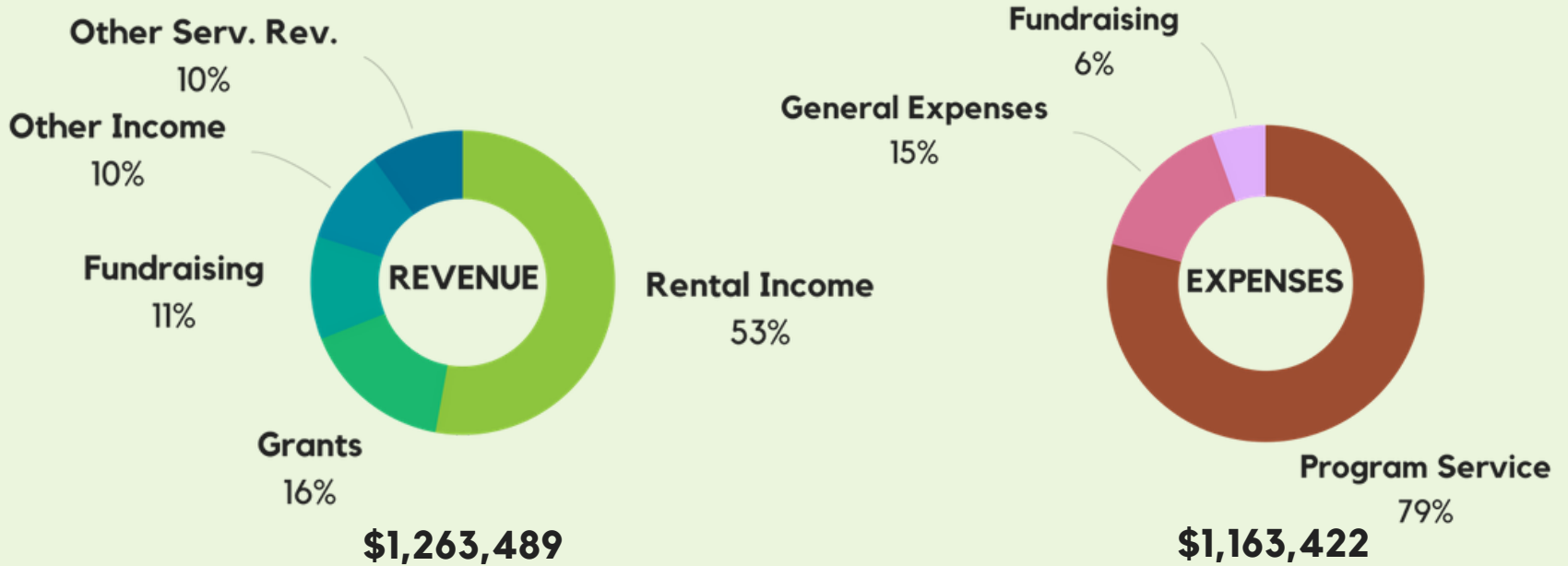
With the help of local partners, DNDA brought a series of cultural events to the Delridge community in 2016. These events were held at DNDA's Youngstown Cultural Arts Center and other venues in the neighborhood to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Delridge. By bringing together a variety of people and organizations for these events, the series served to strengthen neighborhood bonds and helped to cultivate a more engaged, safe, and caring Delridge. Events included showcases of performing arts groups, youth poetry slams, skate park events, cultural food events, and other youth performances.

This project was funded in part by a Neighborhood Matching Fund award from the City of Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods.



Top - Brazilian Dance Troupe at the Cultural Event Series' Delridge Day
Bottom - Participant reactions at Cultural Event Series' *Race: The Power of An Illusion* Film Screening

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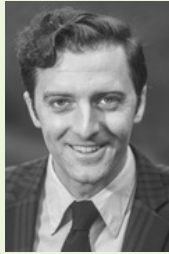
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ALL of our supporters
contributing dollars,
skills, and time, to
support DNDA in its
mission to build and
sustain a dynamic
Delridge.**



**A word from
the Executive
Director**

Dear Friends of DNDA,

I am incredibly honored to represent our organization, and am truly blessed to work with such an amazing staff and board. We got so much done in 2016, and we had a great time doing it, working towards a vision of a vibrant and thriving Delridge.

21 years ago, DNDA set out to, among other things, preserve affordable housing. Today, we own and operate 7 affordable housing properties throughout the Delridge Corridor. 3 of our properties are mixed use, providing services to our community in addition to housing. One of these is the Historic Cooper School building, historic not only for its architecture, but also as the site of Seattle's first black public school teacher, Thelma DeWitty, for whom our Theater is named. It continues to be a place where we value inclusion, racial diversity, and education. Built in 1917, now at its Centennial, we are truly making the most of the building. On the top three floors, affordable live/work lofts for artists. On the main floor, the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center. At Youngstown, we house an alternative high school serving some of Seattle's most vulnerable youth, we house 7 nonprofit organizations, mostly youth-serving arts organizations, and in addition to running our own programs we rent space to our broader community for performances, classes, and events. Over 45,000 people come through our doors each year, to play, to create, to learn, and to connect.

Last year was a huge year for us at DNDA. In 2016, we ran a Cultural Events Series, hosting 9 events throughout Delridge, which included a youth poetry slam, a film screening and community conversation about race, and celebrations with our local Vietnamese, Mexican, and Muslim communities. We strengthened existing partnerships, built new ones, and celebrated the wonderful multiculturalism that exists in our neighborhoods.

In 2016, we saw significant support at our Wetlands Restoration and Stewardship Project. At 23rd SW and SW Findlay, we are leading work to restore the natural wetland on the site. We will build teaching gardens and continue to lead experiential environmental education for the whole community, including the K-8 STEM school one block away. We've already had over 300 third, fourth, and fifth grade students working on the site, and we're only just getting started.

All this of course, in addition to our biggest news of 2016 - our merger with longtime trusted collaborators, Nature Consortium. DNDA has long partnered with Nature Consortium, always admiring their robust programming, and their work to connect people, arts, and nature. And now that Nature Consortium has become a program of DNDA, we are excited to continue and grow their foundational programs. DNDA and Nature Consortium are both deeply rooted in intertwining arts and nature, and we are excited to continue integrating their programs with our own.

With your support, we will continue to provide affordable housing, to create space for arts and culture, to amplify the voices of our youth, to celebrate multiculturalism. We will continue to lead conversations about racial equity, to support our local artists, to help our neighbors in need. And we will bring volunteers into the woods, and work to improve the health of our precious urban forests.

Our momentum at DNDA is strong. And we are honored to have you as our allies in this work. Thank you helping us pursue our vision of a vibrant and thriving Delridge, and for your support and generosity.

David Bestock



PHOTOGRAPHY BY:

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DIWAS Photography, Nature Consortium Volunteers



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