



# Funds Distribution Report

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**Recipient Organization:**  
**Seattle Children's PlayGarden**

**Address:**  
1745 24th Avenue South  
Seattle, WA 98144

**Contact:**  
(206) 325-5576  
<https://www.childrensplaygarden.org>

**Organization's General Goals:**  
Founded on the core principles of *Adventure Play, Garden to Table and Full Inclusion* the PlayGarden was designed to be a safe, supportive, accessible and innovative place for children of all abilities to play.

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<b>Date of Award:</b>	<b>Level:</b>
2017 Q4	\$10,000+

For more information, please read the attached report from Seattle Children's PlayGarden.

8802 27th Ave NE  
Tulalip, WA 98271  
**TulalipCares.org**

SEATTLE CHILDREN'S  
**PLAYGARDEN**  
A Garden for Everyone

**Grant Report**  
**Q4 2017 14.2**

**Purpose of grant:**

The PlayGarden was generously awarded [REDACTED] from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, to continue our Open Play Program and pilot a new Supported Employment program for young adults with disabilities.

**Results/Outcomes:**

With financial support from the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, the PlayGarden expanded our Open Play program. Open Play is offered after school and on occasional Saturdays, with hours that adjust seasonally. During the summer months, Open Play was offered from 2pm to 8pm on weekdays and from 9:30am to 2pm on Saturdays. During the late fall and winter months, Open Play is offered Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons until 5pm, and two Saturdays each month.

Open Play is offered on a drop-in basis and is free to the public. Offering these play opportunities at no charge and without pre-registration requirements removes financial, logistical, and social barriers to entry. The result is an array of Open Play participants that include children and families of all abilities, religious backgrounds, economic backgrounds, races, and cultures.

**Difference Made in Community/Neighborhood:**

Over the last year and half with the support of this funding and support the PlayGarden has been able to greatly expand access to inclusive, multi-age and multi-generational nature-play based programming for kids, youth, families and the community through the creation of our Open Play program. Our preschool and summer camp programs often have significant waitlists and Open Play was an opportunity for us to be able to provide staff facilitated play experiences for the community at large.

With staff on site to greet families, answer their questions, and help facilitate play interactions between their child and other children playing at the park, we were able to better support the community in including kids with and without disabilities.

**OPEN PLAY PROGRAM**

**Hours of Staffed Open Play offered: 722.50**

Open Play hours varied seasonally ranging from 2 three-hour sessions/ week in the winter months to 6 three-six hour sessions / week in the summer. These hours were offered afterschool at times families requested such as on Wednesday afternoons to align with early release school schedules from Seattle Public Schools and on the weekends

**Total Open Play Visitors to the PlayGarden 2018: 7, 125**

Including kids, youth and adults with and without disabilities across a wide range in zip codes, racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic backgrounds. Many came with their family members, or caretakers. Some visitors came with their peers as part of organized events hosted by other organizations.

**Types of programming** the support of Tulalip Charitable funds have helped us provide to the community:

- Multi-generational, inclusive garden exploration, community celebrations, seasonal celebrations, year-round nature-play, organized school field-trips (elementary age through undergraduate degree programs)
- Support for neighboring after-school programs, weekend programming, community group events, trainings for adults, parent support and mindfulness workshops, kids cooking, gardening, visiting animals, water play, art, science, music, dance.
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**Number of PlayGarden Staff** Trained to Facilitate Inclusive Open Play Programs: 15 Trained Staff including year-round, full time staff and seasonal Open Play Counselors. Some of these staff are young adults with disabilities themselves and some staff have siblings with a disability.

#### SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

We are also proud to have recently launched a supported employment program, for young adults with disabilities. As the PlayGarden has grown, so have the children who first came through our gates in 2005. They are now young adults, eager to join the workforce. Unfortunately, employment opportunities for people with disabilities are hard to find. Enter our supported employment program! We started small, by welcoming Asher, a 23-year old young man with developmental disabilities, to our staff. Asher comes to the PlayGarden with his job coach, who works with us to find appropriate tasks for Asher and to offer support throughout his shift. In the spring, we welcomed Michaela to the team. In the summer, we expanded the program further and welcomed Ella Mae and Annie to our summer camp team. We look forward to sustaining and expanding this new program in 2019.

Supported Employment Objectives Accomplished:

- Successfully hired, trained, and supported 3 young adults with disabilities to join our year-round staff (Resulting in 33% of our year-round staff being people with disabilities).
- Successfully, hired, trained, and supported 2 teens/youth with disabilities to join our seasonal staff (Resulting in 15% of our seasonal staff being people with disabilities).
- Worked closely with job coaches from Northwest Center and Provail to provide appropriate support to employees with disabilities.

Supported employment also has a broad impact. The most obvious outcome is the creation of these five positions for youth and young adults with disabilities, but the ultimate outcomes extend much further. Increased representation of people with disabilities in employment is an important part of modeling inclusion for our community. Representation is also vitally important for the children with disabilities who participate in the PlayGarden's programs. Recent studies have quantified the power of representation. Children of color who have even one same-race teacher in elementary school are more likely to finish high school and more likely to attend a four-year college. The message is clear: children benefit from seeing themselves reflected in the world around them, especially among the adults in their lives. Our preschoolers and summer campers will come to the PlayGarden and see grown up versions of themselves working with their colleagues, earning a fair wage, and being treated with dignity and respect. That imagery is profound and powerful for children, because we cannot be what we cannot see.

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It's important to note that we are not just modeling inclusion for these children, but for all the families in our community. These families include adults who are part of our workforce and will hopefully feel compelled to advocate for the inclusion of people with disabilities in their companies and offices.

#### FUTURE PLANS

We have many exciting plans for the upcoming year:

1. We will break ground on the new Pathway for Play project that includes site improvements that will increase the accessibility, visibility and safety of the PlayGarden as well as add several new play features.
2. 2020 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our fully accessible and inclusive outdoor-based preschool program. We will celebrate with a reunion of all PlayGarden Preschool families.
3. Open Play, Preschool and Summer Camp will be staffed by young adults with disabilities alongside their typically developing peers.
4. Our newly published book, Say "YES" to Kids with Disabilities, Stories and Strategies for Including ALL Kids will be widely shared locally and at national conferences.
5. The PlayGarden will continue to offer workshops and trainings to assist other organizations to best serve children with disabilities in their programs.

We are so grateful for your support!

Best,

The PlayGarden Family  
Seattle Children's PlayGarden  
1745 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Seattle, WA 98144  
[www.childrensplaygarden.org](http://www.childrensplaygarden.org)







