



Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
We Heart Seattle

Address:
2324 1st Ave, Suite 503
Seattle, WA 98121

Contact:
(206) 850-4290
<https://www.weheartseattle.org>

Organization's General Goals:
We Heart Seattle is an action-based, boots-on-the-ground movement that organizes trash cleanups in our public spaces and offers resources to those in need. Through our direct civic engagement, we lead the way to a more compassionate and healthy community.

Date of Award:	Level:
2022 Q3	\$500 to \$2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from We Heart Seattle.

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

Disclaimer: This report may be a summary of content provided by the recipient, not always complete quoted material.



April 30, 2023

I join Andrea Suarez in appreciation for the Tulalip Tribes grant. I hope to send you a one year progress report in 6 months from now. It's possible you prefer hardcopy, but if you also have an email address for correspondence with grantees like us, will you send me an email sharing that address, to:
Rebecca@WeHeartSeattle.org

Best regards to your team,

Rebecca Laszlo
Rebecca Laszlo

We Heart Seattle 1912 3rd Av, Seattle WA 98101



April 30, 2023

Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund
Quil Ceda Village
8802 - 27th Av NE
Tulalip, WA 98271

RE: We Heart Seattle – Six Month Funder Report

Dear Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund Trustees:

It has been another busy six months for We Heart Seattle (WHS), and we are so grateful for your generous grant of [REDACTED] to help us do this work. This letter provides an overview describing WHS' progress in Q4 of 2022 and Q1 of 2023 with the support of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund and encloses a copy of our 2022 Annual Impact Report.

Debris Removal Results

We Heart Seattle recognizes the interconnectedness of the work we do with those experiencing homelessness, and continues to balance debris removal with recovery-oriented outreach to those we meet during cleanups who also struggle with drug addiction. To do this at our current capacity, we are finding that 5,000 pounds per week (or 20,000 pounds/month) is the sweet spot as a volunteer-led organization. This allows WHS to also provide case management and support for those we meet along the way.

- Q4 of 2022: WHS removed 64,000 pounds of trash and debris
- Q1 2023 removed 84,200 pounds of trash and debris
- Total pounds of trash and debris removed from parks and shared spaces over the last six months: 184,200

Through our litter picks, WHS has also employed 15 people with lived experience through WHS' Uplift Northwest collaboration and provided Seattle Municipal Court Community service volunteers with the opportunity to work off court fines which resulted in over 1,000 hours of free labor for WHS.

Unhoused Neighbor Assistance

In Q4 of 2022 and Q1 of 2023, We Heart Seattle helped a total of 21 people off the streets and into more stable circumstances. We have found moving people into shelter and housing during the last six months to be more challenging due to the increased number of sweeps in Seattle.

Those being removed from encampments by the City of Seattle are able to "skip the line" in the system. This priority model puts a temporary hold on available beds (also known as set-aside-beds) until the sweep is completed. This has hindered our ability to place people who are ready in the moment due to unavailable set-aside beds.

To mitigate this, WHS is keeping a close eye on timing of sweeps and continues to grow its relationships with shelter and housing service providers to identify options that are not tied to encampment sweeps for set-asides. To date, We Heart Seattle has moved 152 people off the streets total and WHS has a 76% success rate for placement for both temporary and permanent housing across 2022 as a whole. We are confident that as we continue into 2023, we will face fewer barriers as a result of our shift in response to sweeps.



Civic Engagement Results

In 2022 alone, WHS engaged 305 *NEW* Volunteers. However, WHS has found the second half of the year to be lighter on volunteer hours due to summer vacations and the holiday season.

To help grow volunteer support overall, we will continue to foster community partnerships for larger scale group litter picks. For example, on February 12, 2023, WHS collaborated with the Rotary and over 40 volunteers showed up, removing 10,000 pounds of debris around I-5 Colonnade Park (located under Interstate 5, closest address 1701 Lakeview Blvd E, Seattle, WA 98102). Since inception, WHS has cleared 802,400,000 pounds of debris across Seattle, and we look forward to surpassing 1,000,000 pounds in 2023 with the help of larger group litter picks, like this one.

Our work throughout Seattle continues to be impactful with the support of the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund, and we look forward to continued collaboration in this important work. Feel free to reach out anytime. My direct line is (206) 850-4290.

In gratitude,

Andrea Suarez

Founder and Executive Director

With your support, our grassroots efforts have accomplished a LOT over the last 2+ years - you can see it every day in the public spaces where WHS and its supporters have cleaned up litter and offered resources to those in need!



Volunteers remain **THE** driving force behind WHS' unique and successful model of civic engagement. To date, volunteers logged 7,715 volunteer hours with WHS, helping WHS to remove 20,000+ pounds of trash **EACH MONTH!** Our scheduled litter picks have proven meaningful for individuals and teams ranging from faith-based, social, nonprofit, and community groups to corporate businesses.

Since inception, WHS and its volunteers have:

- Removed 773,000 pounds (386.5 tons) of debris from Seattle's public spaces
- Hosted 235 events in 26 distinct Seattle zip codes
- Restored **AND** have kept 42 parks clean across the city and acres of green space



Successful Individualized Outreach and Impact

Our small and nimble team of staff and volunteers regularly connect the unhoused folks they meet on litter picks to a range of vital resources, including shelter, housing, employment, recovery/treatment navigation, securing vital documents, and removing a range of other barriers. Several members of WHS team have lived experience, which is key to building trust and making progress. Between 2020 and 2022 WHS assisted 143 people in moving off the streets.



Community Impact

We've done massive litter picks at parks such as Denny, Kinnear and MacLean (and so many others!) and tackled tens of thousands of pounds of trash that built up over the years. Now, these public spaces are available for community enjoyment. MacLean Park even hosts twice-monthly walkabouts organized by community trail stewards – and regularly contact WHS requesting outreach to homeless individuals they encounter along the trails.

This is a shining example of the importance of sustaining the hard work of WHS and its volunteers, while growing community commitment to safe and beautiful public spaces for all. We promise to continue to work with local communities on maintaining sites, and in identifying equally critical areas that have yet to benefit from this important work.

Patti Sheehan

Thank you for all you do. You treat people with dignity and respect as you move them out of dysfunctional situations. We are lucky to have committed people like you in our community.

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Michelle Moomaw Le Beau

Bravo! You do such difficult but impactful work. Bless you for what you all do and how you do it! With compassion! 🍷🍷🍷

Like Reply Share 13w 🍷

