

UHEIGHTS

The background of the entire page is a light blue color. Overlaid on this background are several thick, brown, stylized tree branches that curve across the frame. Scattered throughout the scene are numerous small, green, teardrop-shaped leaves, some of which appear to be falling from the branches.

2019
REPORT
TO THE
COMMUNITY

LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

As we reflect on 2019, we could not have known then how important our community would become. Not only has the UHeights community been instrumental in supporting us in weathering the storm of 2020, we have solidified its role as a catalyst for change.

We evolve with our neighborhood by responding to its needs; by providing affordable and free space for hundreds of community groups; by ensuring our most vulnerable neighbors have a place to find refuge; and by offering a pay-what-you-can programming model.

As we look ahead, we will continue to apply a racial equity lens to our mission and strategic decision making and will continue to increase our community activism efforts to impact change.

Together we will uphold our mission to truly be a “Place for All.”



MAUREEN EWING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EMMA DECARREAU, CO-CHAIR

SUSAN SAMUELSON, CO-CHAIR



“The experience of being a part of the University Heights Artist Collective has changed my perspective on what people can accomplish when we all believe in one another.”

*-BRITTANI ANGLIN,
UHEIGHTS ARTIST
COLLECTIVE MEMBER*

“I have been teaching all types of partner dance at UHeights for almost 30 years and I still love teaching there. Dance is all about the connection to a partner, the floor, community, self and surroundings. I can’t think of a more nurturing place to learn something as challenging and rewarding as partner dancing.”

*-MICHELLE BADION,
LEARN TO DANCE*

“There is such a sense of inclusion and community at University Heights. I have been welcomed to the classes and invited to stretch and grow, all in the company and support of wonderful people”

*-JAYASRI,
UHEIGHTS PROGRAMMING
PARTICIPANT*

A PLACE FOR ALL, A PLACE FOR YOU

MISSION

UHeights promotes lifelong learning, creativity, culture, community activism, and the preservation of our historic building.

HISTORY

Built as an elementary school in 1902 in response to the burgeoning University of Washington population, University Heights Center was the first school for thousands of neighboring children for 87 years. In 1989, due to declining enrollment, the school shuttered its doors. It was reborn again as a community center —University Heights Center— in 1990, when the community came together to save the building from demolition.

Now on the National Registry of Historic Places as well as a City of Seattle Historic Landmark building, University Heights Center continues to serve Seattle through a wide variety of classes, workshops and programs. From arts & cultural programming that connect and engage our community members to critical human services that extend basic necessities and meaningful resources to our more marginalized neighbors, University Heights Center establishes itself as the vital heart of a burgeoning community.



RESIDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Academy for Precision Learning
Broadway Bound Children's Theatre
Northwest Boychoir and Vocalpoint! Seattle
Three Dragons Academy
Defensive Driving School
University District Children's Center
OTB Solutions
Seattle Displacement Coalition
Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance
University Heights P-Patch
University Temple Children's Center
Yugakusha School

UHeights is a critical anchor in a burgeoning neighborhood. We are home to 12 community-focused resident organizations. Together, we provide services that bolster our surrounding neighborhood through programming centered around early childhood education, K-12 specialized education, afterschool arts activities, housing solutions, healthy living alternatives, environmental activism, and more. Collectively, we support over 200 employees and host over 100 volunteers generously contributing their time and talents towards our mission.

RESIDENT ORGANIZATIONS HIGHLIGHTS:

YUGAKUSHA SCHOOL is a Japanese language school for Japanese and Japanese American children who want to pursue a traditional Japanese education in the U.S.

THREE DRAGONS ACADEMY is dedicated to providing arts enrichment to youth and families seeking alternative education or supplementary arts tutoring through their art, music and theater-based curriculum.

NORTHWEST BOYCHOIR and **VOCALPOINT!** Seattle strive to make available music education and performance opportunities for children and young adults while contributing to the cultural life of the community by providing access to a unique choral resource.

ARTS & CULTURE

UHeights has served as a meeting place for artists, activists and educators of all ages and cultures for nearly 120 years. We host hundreds of community and cultural groups who provide classes and events, such as gender non-conforming Swing Dance classes, Scottish Dancing, the Nepalese Society, civic/advocacy meetings, the Neighborhood Farmers Market Association, Seattle Public Libraries, and much more. UHeights also sponsors many free opportunities for family friendly events, a summer music/cultural series, in addition to managing The Auditorium, which hosts a diverse array of performances, including music, theater, film, lectures and more.



UHEIGHTS THEATRE ALLIANCE Our alliance has grown to 18 small local theatre and performing groups presenting close to 100 free or pay-what-you-can performances each year. Nearly all the member groups are led by and/or produce works by people of color, immigrants, the LGBTQ+ community, and women.



UHEIGHTS ARTIST COLLECTIVE Over 30 artists display an ongoing Gallery of works throughout the halls of our historic building. The Collective also hosts Art Walks to bring together our artistic community from visual artists and artisans, jewelry makers, and clothing creators to performers in dance, music, and poetry.



SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM FESTIVAL UHeights participated in the festival as just one venue showcasing documentaries and narrative films pertaining to issues including incarceration, oppression, environment and sustainability in an effort to bring together community members to discuss and advocate for change.



2019 SUMMER PARK POP-UP We collaborate with the Neighborhood Farmers Market Association to host an extravaganza of delights for the average 5,000 patrons of our Saturday Farmers Market. The UHeights plaza is activated with live music and dance performances by local musicians and cultural groups, a unique Food Truck Round-up and table displays by our own UHeights Artist Collective.

SECOND SATURDAYS Offering many FREE and pay-what-you-can performances geared towards families and children, UHeights was proud to host The Evan's Family Variety Show, Daffy Dave, and Caspar Babypants.

HUMAN SERVICES & COVID-19 RESPONSE

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, we realized UHeights was positioned to be an important community anchor throughout the crisis. UHeights and its resident organizations quickly pivoted to address the newfound needs of our community, with a focus on our most marginalized neighbors. While UHeights is closed to the public, we remain open to provide many critical services and resources.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOR KING COUNTY*

Number of homeless youth:

- 955 unaccompanied youth and young adults accounting for 8% of total unsheltered population.
- 248 - under the age of 18
- 707 - between 18-24 years old

Estimated number of people living in vehicles:

- 2,747 (50% of total unsheltered population and a 28% increase from 2019)

*From 2020 Seattle/King County Point-in-Time Count of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

UHEIGHTS COVID-19 RESPONSE

Hosted team of nurses from Swedish Medical Center for Community **COVID-19 TESTING.**

400 FREE MEALS four times a week from our south parking lot.

A comfort station including two **PORTO-POTTIES** and **HANDWASHING STATION.**

A **SAFE LOT** for people living in their cars with Tiny House kitchenette, laundry, shower and bathroom.

PARTNERS: The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle, U Temple United Methodist Church

SEATTLE STREET SINK

PARTNERS: Jeff Hou and his team from UW, Real Change

AVAILABLE: 24/7



EMERGENCY CHILDCARE for essential workers.

Space for the **FARMERS MARKET** which reopened in April and continues important food distribution.

Distributed **300 CLOTH MASKS** to our community.

ONLINE CLASSES and arts and cultural programming, including Bollywood Dance, Zumba classes, Thursdays at 10 (book clubs, etc.), poetry classes, and an emotional support group led by a licensed therapist to help people manage stress in their lives.

We have had record attendance and attendees from across the world!

THE YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

UHeights is proud to be one of the first businesses in the U District to successfully hire youth for both short- and long-term employment opportunities where they gain valuable job training while earning a living wage.

PARTNERS: YouthCare, Sanctuary Arts Center

OVERALL PROGRAM STATS SINCE INCEPTION:

- 5 Youth hired for longer-term employment opportunities, working nearly 3,100 hours
- 40 Youth hired for short-term roles

Assistance to the U District Partnership and the UHeights Artist Collective to paint **MURALS** on the boarded up windows of closed small businesses.



photo: Jeff Hou





PRESERVATION



"Old ideas can sometimes use new buildings. new ideas must use old buildings."

-JANE JACOBS, AUTHOR & ACTIVIST

Old buildings like UHeights are integral to the social fabric of our rapidly growing and gentrifying City's culture—a culture that is at great risk of losing its original character. The historic UHeights building tells the story of our City's past, while providing a space for the public to learn about our local history.

2009 - The University Heights School is purchased from the Seattle School District with State of Washington, King County, City of Seattle and UHeights funds.

2010 - UHeights is registered as a National Heritage Site by the US Department of the Interior.

2014 - New Playground is installed.

2015 - Seismic Retrofit and renovation of grounds is completed.

2016 - UHeights Plaza Constructed

2017 - The Auditorium is renovated.

2019 - Water Mediation Completed! Roof, parapets, and cornices are repaired.
- Elevator Installation Project begins.
- Approximately 45% of the \$1.5 million budget is raised.
- Necessary pre-construction work is completed.
- Design process to be completed by fall of this year, with construction slated for completion in the fall of 2021.

CURRENT - Our staff works daily to respond to the needs of the building. They refurbished two floors on our main level with 4 more floors planned within our resident organizations. The vintage chalkboards in The Auditorium were painted by volunteers of Nordstrom on Advocacy Day with a new blackboard coating to prolong their use.

TO DATE, WE HAVE INVESTED \$5 MILLION INTO PRESERVATION EFFORTS

We are very grateful for the support of:

4Culture

M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

The Washington State Historical Society's Heritage Capital Fund

Councilmember Teresa Mosqueda

Councilmember Abel Pacheco

City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

City of Seattle Office of Arts & Culture

Joshua Green Foundation

Kawabe Memorial Fund

The Lucky Seven Foundation

Nesholm Family Foundation

The Norcliffe Foundation

Norman Archibald Charitable Foundation

Rotary Club of University District, Seattle

The Tulalip Tribes of Washington

Patricia S. Weber

COMMUNITY & PARTNERSHIPS

UHeights is honored to work with many organizations to fulfill our complementary community missions!



UHEIGHTS THEATRE ALLIANCE



UHEIGHTS ARTIST COLLECTIVE

Aaron Brown
Ann Thomas
Brittani Anglin
Candise Salinas
Chris Lecocq
Ekta Gupta
Elise Tissot Storey
Jonathan Decker
Kendra Azari
Kiam Wright
Kree Arvanitas
Kristian Winnie
Lee Harper
PAWS with Cause
Steven Omondi
Susan Moffitt

UDYC P.O.C. Street Arts
Vibrant Palette Arts Center
Alex Lubbers
Pallavi Garg
Nicolina Miller
Lindsay Reeves
Tyreesha "Lady" Jenkins
Daniella Rosaline
Jenny Messerle
Akshara Ravela
David Mampel
Kristina Nielander
Sheri Brassell
Adrienne Bell-Koch
Anne Earhart
Kara Swanson

Fremont Abbey Arts
Neighborhood Farmers Market Association
Northwest SHARE
Sanctuary Arts Center
The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle
U District Family Y
U District Street Medicine
U Temple United Methodist Church
University District Partnership
YouthCare

BUSINESS PARTNERS

The M Seattle
WSECU
Big Time Brewery & Alehouse
Richaven Architecture & Preservation
University VW Audi
Wells Fargo



UHEIGHTS

BY THE NUMBERS

512

children receiving
full rides & tuition
assistance

115

children who
attended school at
UHeights have
learning challenges

\$687,742

scholarships awarded
to children attending
school programs

190

free
community
events

1,763

classes and
performances
held throughout
the year

unsheltered
youth worked

3,100

hrs since program
inception

224

community
groups used
our space

3,389

children attended
school or arts
programming

more than
\$950,000

in free space, donated
to civic, community
& arts groups

FINANCES

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2019

ASSETS

Change in Net Assets	\$387,313
Other Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$8,315,758
Total Assets, End of Year	\$8,703,071

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Total Liabilities	\$201,700
Total Net Assets	\$8,703,071
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$8,904,771

Statement of Activities as of December 31, 2019

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Rent Revenue	\$738,175	48%
Contributions & Grants	\$622,734	40%
In-Kind Contributions	\$64,266	4%
Program & Other	\$105,493	6%
Total Support & Revenue	\$1,530,668	100%

EXPENSES

Program Expense	\$944,120	82%
Management & General	\$80,488	8%
Fundraising	\$118,747	7%
Total Expenses	\$1,143,355	100%

2019 HONOR ROLL

Thank you so much to the members of our community who generously supported UHeights in 2019!

Max Alin
Dema Alkhalil
Nancy Amidei
Thomas G. Andrew
Jennifer Annable
Kurt Armbruster
Sanjay Batra
Tamara Belland
Aleks Bennett
Ethan Bernstein
Hilary Bernstein
Jaron Bernstein
Misha Berson
Toni Beymer
Sarah Bluvas
& Greg Gatcombe
William Brickett
Kathy Brostoff
& Mel Belding
Elizabeth Cain
Bill Cameron
Castruccio Family Foundation
Lauren D. Chen
Chickadee Music
Together
Lori Cohen & Woody Wheeler
Frances & Gerry Conley
Richard Conway, Jr. & Susan Ann Williams
Marisa Anne D'Angeli
Kathleen Day & Chris Farnsworth
Emma & Justin Decarreau

Edla Deppman
Pranati Desiraju
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Kent Lake
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Kirk and Nonnie Laughlin
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Debbie Finch Libbing
Lisa Lichtenberg
Shaina & Andrew London
Marshall Longtin
Kathleen & Mike Lovejoy
Dorina Maley
Monica Martin
Jackie Hampson McDonald
Rick McLaughlin
Jimmy McNamara
George Monagan
Teo Morca
Elizabeth Mountsier
Daniel Myers
Mark & Ellen Notbohm
Patricia Novotny
Brigid Nulty
Leslie Nulty
Russell Owen
Gaurav Pai
Bellamy Pailthorp
Alexander Park & Janelle Henney

Jim Patton & Jacquie Webster-Patton
Paws With Cause
James Peacey
Play Orbit Studio
Linda Povinelli
Laurel Reitman
Lynn Retallick
April Rettkowski
Virginia Rice
Richaven Architecture & Preservation
Laura Robinson
David Rosen and Jeanine Needles
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Sailor St. Clair
Ben Starsky & Alie Ibarra

Lorraine Starsky
Amy Stephson and Brian Rapalee
Bradley Stevens
Christopher Stuessy
Shirin Subhani
Elizabeth Sweet
Marian & Jennifer Tanau
Kelly Thompson & Mike Schumacher
Tanya Ting
Jessica Wagoner
Roger Wagoner & Kay Livingston
Jaclyn Weber & J. Kevin Kane
Patricia S. Weber
Sylvia Weinmann
Jessica Wexler
Stefan Wiktor
Kathryn Wiley
Mason Wiley & Jessi Libbing
Stanley & Anne Willard
Douglas K. Wills, Jr. & Dianne K. Wills
Marianne Willumsen
Yugakusha School
Anonymous (43)

We strive to keep our donor listing accurate and up-to-date.

If you have any questions or would like to update your listing, please call 206-556-2495.



STAFF & BOARD

STAFF:



Maureen Ewing
Executive Director



Mason Wiley
Associate Director



Olena Billingsley
Operations Manager



Shirin Subhani - Outreach
& Program Coordinator



Nicolina Miller
Development Coordinator



Aaron Brown
Facilities Manager



Addison Kramlich
Facilities Technician



Vincent Delli Paoli
Facilities Technician

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