

Yesler Terrace Legacy Commitment (YTLC)

2026 Annual Report

Systems Change in the Yesler Terrace Community



Yesler Terrace Community

To ensure academic success for children, positive youth development, job opportunities and advancement, overall health and strong social networks continue to be supported for its residents, Seattle Housing Authority (SHA) reached out to longtime partners who have been engaged in the Yesler Terrace community, Sundborg Center for Community Engagement (CCE) and the Seattle Foundation, to create the Yesler Terrace Legacy Commitment (YTLC). The Legacy Commitment was designed to be a powerful, community-driven way for residents and community partners to collectively influence goals, decision-making and outcomes of youth programming in the community. This resulted in community engagement guided by the Yesler Community Services Committee (YCSC), which is comprised of six Yesler Terrace residents plus one representative each from SHA, CCE and the Seattle Foundation.

When YTLC was established in 2024, it was quickly followed by the formation of a truly community-led committee that manages services via the hands of community members who are directly impacted by these opportunities. CCE facilitates this agreement, liaising between YCSC, partner organizations and the greater community. This unique partnership format is an example of ground-breaking systems change work, shifting the way philanthropy and organizations impact community and connect with each other. Through this model, the committee is directly informed through unique perspectives of real program impact, expanded beyond basic metrics.

Message from the YTLC Liaison

What excites me about this work - in addition to amazing partner organizations and the vibrant Yesler community - are the possibilities and potential for YTLC. Co-designing a first-of-its-kind, community-led funding process is an honor. Our challenge has been to reimagine relationships between funders, recipients, evaluators, decision makers and the communities they serve. Having the privilege to convene vested partners in pursuit of that end has been a labor of love. In our first year as a committee, we learned that reimagining familiar processes meant unlearning standard practices and slowing down to ask: 'is this equitable, are we centering the experiences of those most impacted and who's voice is missing from the conversation? Approaching our work with curiosity allows us to enter the funder-recipient relationship as true partners, invested in the success of each program, committed to support that extends beyond providing financial and operational resources. Over the next year, we look forward to deepening our existing relationships and applying what we've learned to our forthcoming Request For Proposals (RFP) process.



*~ Benji Anderson, Associate Director of Seattle University
Youth Initiative Education & Housing Programs*

→→→ Yesler Community Services Committee

4

Contracts
awarded

208

Committee
Hours

119

Youth
served



2025-2026 YCSC Members

Contracts
signed with:

- BFI
- YTP/CCS
- TeamRead
- MMRTI

What does YCSC do?

- Communicates with the community
- Evaluates current youth program opportunities for residents
- Assesses needs and opportunities for new programs
- Designs service provider RFPs
- Reviews and selects service providers based on community voice and resident priorities.



Mentors connect with Yesler
Terrace scholars.

Spring 2025

Committee Elections
Inaugural Meeting
Onboarding
Meet the
Organizations

Summer 2025

Training
Data Collection
Evaluations
Assessments
Bylaws Creation

Fall 2025

Continued Evaluations
Assessments
Program Proposals
Contract Renewals
Budget Review

Yesler Terrace Legacy Commitment



TeamRead Summer Program



Multimedia Resource Training Institute
(MMRTI)



Catholic Community Services' Youth
Tutoring Program

Committee Accomplishments To Date (through Summer 2026):

• Systems

- * Bylaws Ratified in April 2026, increased resident members to six for expanding representation and ensured one seat is held for ages 18-25.
- * Created processes to receive, review and evaluate contract renewals
- * Began process for inaugural RFP

• Trainings

- Implicit Bias, Confidentiality, Proposal Review, and Contract Process & Revisions
- Data Collection, Program Evaluation and Community Assessment

• Engagement & Evaluation

- Met organizations providing activities
- Held info sessions for Yesler Terrace residents
- Partnered with SHA Yesler Community Council and MMRTI to record candidate platform videos for community review and resident vote
- Evaluated and assessed current fund recipients

* Significant accomplishment ahead of schedule.

60%

of
participants
live in Yesler
Terrace

\$515K

Awarded to
Service
Contracts

15K

Programming
hours

Winter 2026

Year-End Review
Reflections
Process Review
2026 Calendaring

Spring 2026

Ratified Bylaws
Evaluation Process Review
Program Needs
Assessment

Summer 2026

Develop Themes for
New Programs
Community Feedback
Preparation for First RFP

Impact & Results



“Working on YCSC, I have learned how important it is to thoughtfully evaluate community needs and ensure resources are directed where they will have the greatest impact. Being part of these conversations has shown me that strong communities are built through collaboration, resident leadership, and intentional investment. It has strengthened my appreciation for the organizations that work every day to support Yesler residents/youth and reinforced my belief that community members should always have a voice in shaping the future of their neighborhood.”

- Yasmin Mohammed, YCSC Member

“I’ve been in the nonprofit world for most of my adult working life... From the start, the folks on the ground working with Yesler Legacy is less like a funder-grantee arrangement and more like a real partnership with trusted allies on the ground: ideas moving in both directions, someone actually showing up in the room, getting to know the work, and investing in the people doing it. We don’t just go to YTLC for resources, we go to them for advice, for counsel, for the deep dive brainstorming session. The support around hiring, the close collaboration on the ground at our programs, and the mentorship extended to Camp Yesler interns means that the Legacy Commitment’s impact reaches well beyond the dollars themselves.

Funding matters, but so does having people who understand a community in the bigger sense, who are absorbing what’s actually happening as it happens. What makes our Yesler Collaborative real; someone is actually on the ground with us, rolling up their sleeves with the community.”

- Roberto Ascalon from Bureau of Fearless Ideas, Community Partner



Since, 2004, the Sundborg Center for Community Engagement (CCE) has connected Seattle University students, faculty and staff with families, youth, community-based organizations, government institutions, neighborhood leaders and others through direct service, philanthropy, activism, policymaking, social entrepreneurship and community-based research. Inspired by the university’s Jesuit, Catholic ethos, CCE strives to lead as an antiracist organization working toward a 2030 place-based vision that leverages the university’s resources to advance justice, remove institutional barriers and educate changemakers.