

UHEIGHTS

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



"IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST GO ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR GO TOGETHER."

This African proverb highlights the impact that UHeights has on our community every day. UHeights brings together ten community organizations that span schools, arts, and human service programs that call us their home. We host nearly 200 arts, cultural, educational and community groups that perform, rehearse, educate, and delight. We bring together over 400 children a day to learn, create and play in our rooms and halls.

UHeights' greatest contribution is providing an opportunity and space for the magical benefits of convening in community. This power of community was demonstrated in the 1960s by The Roseto Effect; named after a small Pennsylvania town, inhabited by Italian immigrants. The residents of Roseto had half the incidence of heart attacks as other American communities. In depth studies revealed that their impressive statistics were not attributed to healthier lifestyles—but rather, to close-knit communities. With three generations living under one roof and strong social connections with friends and neighbors, Roseta residents brought attention to **the magical benefits of people talking and convening in community, that we see in our halls every day.**

We bring many generations together under one roof. We host programs that provide preschool to elementary to after school programming, along with free activities, classes, and events for older adults.

We reach underserved populations in our community. We offer employment opportunities to houseless youth; provide a third of our building to Academy for Precision Learning, which serves children on the autism spectrum; and we collectively provide over 600 scholarships to children every year.

We provide affordable space to arts, cultural, educational and neighborhood groups. In 2017, we donated nearly half a million dollars in free and reduced cost space to groups such as the houseless youth training workshops and UW's Doorway Project Pop-Up Community Café. **At 50-70% below Seattle's average market rate, our space is crucial for long-term community organizations that would be otherwise unable to find suitable space in Seattle.**

We host free arts and cultural events for diverse audiences. Last year was a banner year for the inception of new programming, including the fall opening of The Auditorium—the U District's newest affordable performance venue. We've welcomed everything from Opera to Improv Comedy to children's programming to Heavy Metal Shakespeare. This summer, we are most pleased to offer our Summer Music and Cultural Festival for the 13th year running.

UHeights is one of the most significant and beautiful historic buildings in Northeast Seattle. The preservation of our historic building is critical to ensuring that valuable programs and community organizations continue to have a place to call home. With your support, we will continue to be an anchor in our community and provide the magical opportunity of connection for all walks of life.

TOGETHER, WE WILL GO FAR.

Maureen Ewing

MAUREEN EWING
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Beth Mountsier

BETH MOUNTSIER
BOARD CO-CHAIR



Susan Samuelson

SUSAN SAMUELSON
BOARD CO-CHAIR





WHO WE ARE

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 became 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 as well as a Seattle historic landmark building, University Heights Center continues to serve Seattle through a wide variety of classes, workshops and programs. From gardening to shopping at Seattle's largest farmers market, University Heights Center has something for everyone.

Reptile Man comes to UHeights as part of our “Second Saturday Spectacular;” a free, monthly family event designed to entertain and educate.



LEARNING

Despite no longer existing as a public school, education has always been at the forefront of UHeights’ mission.

UHeights supports learning in all its forms, from housing organizations that serve preschool, elementary school, high school, and after school programs, to hosting community groups that provide classes for seniors and adults.

Every year, student enrollments are increasing, and UHeights is critical to meeting the needs of children who cannot be served in traditional public schools.

SPOTLIGHT:

Our Second Saturday Spectacular is a monthly program that blends performance with education in one, amazing, free, family package.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Academy for Precision Learning, University, District Children’s Center, Girls Rock Math, Three Dragons Academy, Yugakusha School

CREATIVITY

On any given day, you can walk into the building, with the farmers market taking place outside, and in one day, attend a Qi Gong class, watch a transformational sitar and tabla performance, experience a dynamic Shakespearean rock opera, while capping the evening off with a late-night ghost hunt. And that is in just one of our rooms.

The building inspires creative thought and expression, and every year we see new programs blossom.

SPOTLIGHT:

In 2017, UHeights began a new visual art program, with three installation areas, highlighting local photographers, painters, and more, for three month rotations.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Three Dragons Academy, Broadway Bound Children's Theater, Northwest Boychoir, Chickadee Music, Michelle Badion Dance

Unite-One performs as part of the Auditorium's Opening Night event; an evening celebrating the arts.



CULTURE

UHeights is an incubator for many of the voices and rich traditions that can be found in Seattle. With diverse, expanding programming, donated space for artists and community groups, along with structured collaborations with new organizations, every year more and more cultures find a home at UHeights.

CeAtl Tonalli, Aztec dance group, performs a ceremony as part of the 12th Annual Summer Music Festival; a series of cultural, music and dance groups every Saturday, from June through September.

SPOTLIGHT:


UHeights hosted Message from Guinea Dance & Drum, CeAtl Tonalli Aztec Dance, and Choro-loco Brazilian jazz, and more, as a way to bring outdoor cultural events, to the public.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:


Yugakusha School, Nepal Society, English Country Dance, Tai Ji Quan, Cuban Dance, Sina de Capoeira, Royal Scottish Dance



COMMUNITY ACTIVISM



UHeights exists as a product of active community voices, challenging the status quo by thinking in new and innovative ways. We strive to emulate that philosophy by highlighting projects and forging relationships across the U District's richly diverse communities.



SPOTLIGHT:

In 2017, UHeights began a partnership with UW School of Nursing, and the newly-formed Doorway Project to host a series of pop up community cafes in our south parking lot. These quarterly events connect houseless individuals with services.


COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

ROOTS Young Adult Shelter, Women Wise Choir, Solid Ground Washington, JustLead Washington, North Seattle Services Coalition, University District Street Medicine



UHeights welcomes groups from around the neighborhood to host community improvement projects.

PRESERVATION



It is not uncommon to find people wandering the halls, that had attended UHeights decades previously, while it was still an elementary school. Whether they are thirty or eighty, the remarks are often the same: “It looks just like it did when I went to school here.”

UHeights is a designated Historic Landmark, and as such, it is imperative to our mission to preserve the building. We highlight the unique aspects of the space, such as the original chalkboards lining the walls of our community rooms, while making upgrades to reflect the current needs of the community.




SPOTLIGHT:

In 2017, we completed a number of large projects: the renovation of the Auditorium, along with capital improvements to the Northwest Boychoir space in the North Basement . We moved forward with construction of a new restroom for the building, along with repairs to our roof, which has suffered from water infiltration.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Our capital projects were made possible through awards from the Heritage Capital Project Fund, 4Culture, Office of Arts and Culture, U District Rotary, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



Some examples of past improvements include a seismic retrofit, a new playground, raised beds in the P-Patch, the new parking lots, historic lampposts, our new park and fresh plants.

UHEIGHTS IN NUMBERS

\$459,052

In free space donated to civic, community, and arts groups

248,566

Individual visits to UHeights

\$446,652

Awarded scholarships to children attending school programming

1,491

Multicultural, educational and arts classes were held at UHeights

617

Children received full ride or tuition assistance to attend school or afterschool programs

193

Free events and performances for the community

163

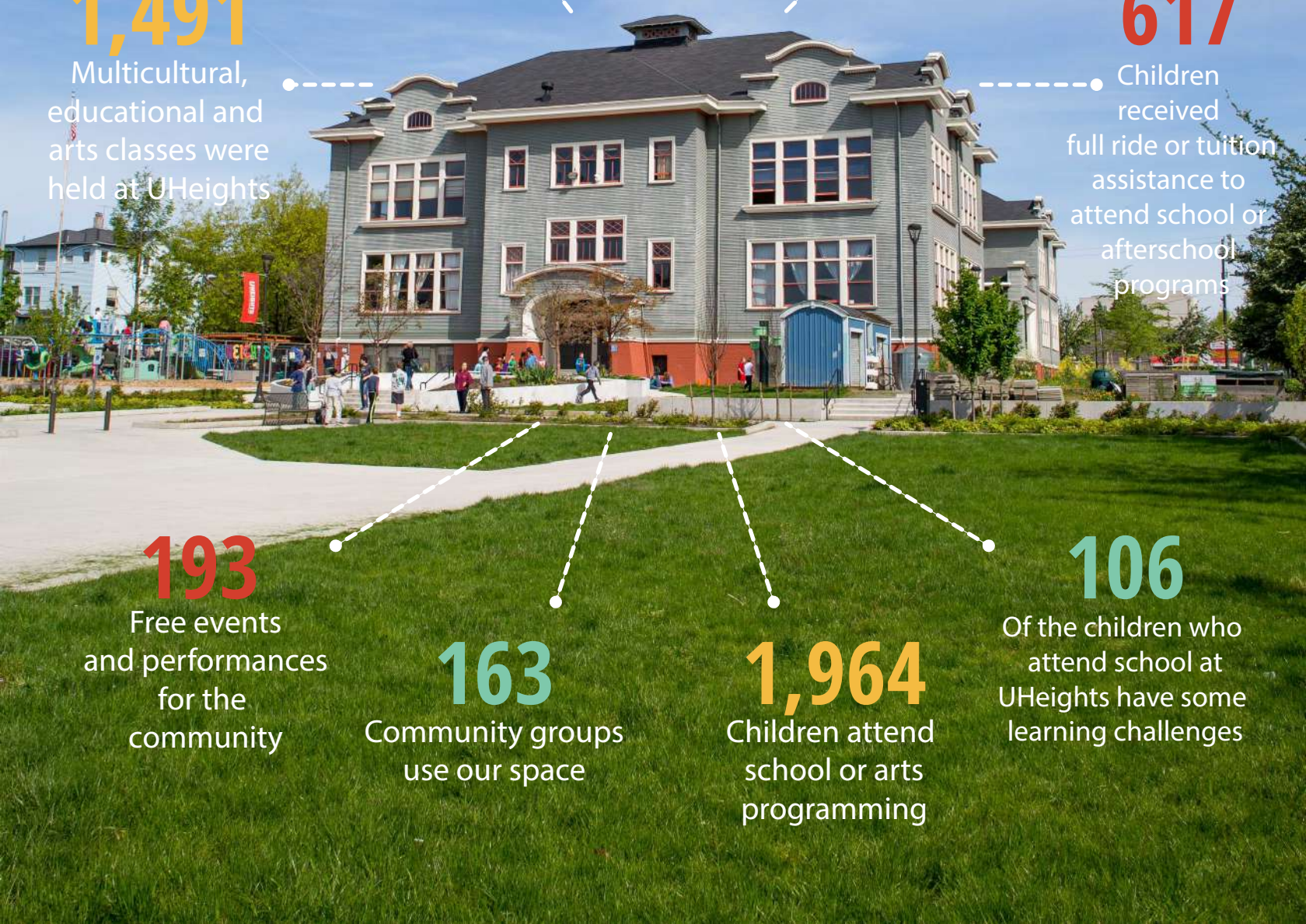
Community groups use our space

1,964

Children attend school or arts programming

106

Of the children who attend school at UHeights have some learning challenges





THE AUDITORIUM at **UHEIGHTS**

The Auditorium is an embodiment of all that we work to cultivate at UHeights. A place to meet, to perform, to spectate. In October, we hosted an Opening Night celebration after finishing months of renovations to this unique performing arts space. We made sure to preserve and enhance the historic features of the room that give it its charm, while adding the infrastructure required to make it a dynamic space for creative projects.

SPOTLIGHT:

With the completion of the Auditorium renovations, UHeights launched a series of new events, including our monthly Improv Night and Film Friday, with Scarecrow Video.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

Fremont Abbey Arts, Sanctuary Arts Center, Seattle Tabla Institute, Forward Flux Theater, Jet City Improv, OperaMuse

Improv Night, at the Auditorium, highlights some of our new features: refinished, 115-year old Douglas Fir floors, a fresh paint job, theatre curtains, a state-of-the-art lighting grid, modular stage and sound system.

SPECIAL THANKS TO 4Culture, Seattle Dept. of Neighborhoods, Joan Horn, Beth Mountsier, Roger Wagoner, and Pat Weber for making this transformation possible.

FINANCES

Statement of Financial Position as of December 31, 2017

ASSETS

Cash	\$471,678
Other Assets	\$30,934
Property & Equipment	\$7,721,098
Total Assets	\$8,223,710

NET ASSETS

Total net assets \$8,107,793

LIABILITIES

Total Liabilities \$115,917

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$8,223,710

Statement of Activities as of December 31, 2017

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Rent revenue	\$697,086	75%
Contributions & grants	\$185,026	20%
In-kind contributions	\$26,328	3%
Other	\$14,950	2%
Total support & revenue	\$923,390	100%

EXPENSES

Program services	\$749,024	88%
Management & general	\$73,573	9%
Fundraising	\$29,435	3%
Total expenses	\$852,032	100%

BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

We thank our corporate and community sponsors for the work that they do and their commitment to working with the community.



4CULTURE

4Culture supports many of UHeights' projects, from the Auditorium renovation to Second Saturday and Summer Music Series performances.



OFFICE OF ARTS & CULTURE
SEATTLE

OFFICE OF ARTS AND CULTURE

The Office of Arts and Culture contributed to our water remediation project, along with a number of other programs.



BIGTIME BREWERY

A beloved U District establishment, Bigtime Brewery is the proud partner and contributor of delicious libations.



Seattle
Neighborhoods

SEATTLE DEPT. OF NEIGHBORHOODS

The Auditorium renovations would not be possible without the support from Department of Neighborhoods.

B O L A

BOLA

BOLA designed two beautiful new sheds for UHeights, that are used by the P-Patch and Farmers Market.



RICHHAVEN ARCHITECTURE

Richhaven has contributed to UHeights capital improvement projects.



GIFFORD INDUSTRIES

Gifford Industries have been a valuable partner in the preservation and restoration of UHeights' 115-year old wood floors.



U DISTRICT VOLKSWAGON/AUDI

U District Audi is a contributor to the Auditorium renovation and programming.



HUB U DISTRICT

Hub U District is an important partner in the construction of UHeights' new sheds, used by the P-Patch and Farmers Market.



U DISTRICT ROTARY

U District Rotary is a contributor to the UHeights water remediation project.



NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Contributed to our long term preservation plan, along with a number of other programs.



WSECU

WSECU has been a valuable partner in the restoration of UHeights Auditorium and programming.

Discover how YOU can make an impact as a Business Partner with UHeights.



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STAFF

Maureen Ewing - Executive Director
Olena Billingsley - Operations Manager
Isaac Rubio - Facility Manager
Liv Froehlich - Program &
Communications Manager

Marcus Cerny - Events Coordinator
Jimi Morris - Facilities Technician
Aaron Brown - Custodial Technician
Ben Christiancy - Custodial Technician

TENANTS

Academy for Precision Learning
Broadway Bound Children's Theater
Defensive Driving School
Northwest Boychoir & Vocalpoint! Seattle
OTB Solutions Group LLC
Seattle Displacement Coalition
Seattle Ki Society
Three Dragons Academy
University District Children's Center
Yugakusha Seattle

BOARD

Beth Mountsier - Co-Chair
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Kristine Kenney - Member
Rick McLaughlin - Member
Brigid Nulty - Member
Brian Rich - Member
Ben Starsky - Member
Roger Wagoner - Member
Patricia Weber - Member