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2021 SEED GRANT SUMMARIES

Constructing Hope (CH): CH provides no-cost, ten-week foundational training in the skilled construction trades, life skills, blueprint reading, and safety led by professional craftspeople. Classes, tutoring, and testing are followed by actual construction projects. This program will serve Portland residents who are 100% low income, 80% BIPOC, and 60% coming from the criminal justice system. **BIPOC-led non-profit**

Ethiopian & Eritrean Cultural and Resource Center (EECRC): EECRC is a non-profit organization established by Ethiopian immigrant leaders to provide culturally-specific solutions to the Ethiopian and Eritrean immigrant and refugee communities in the Tri-county Area who are struggling to integrate into a new culture, system, and country. Currently run on a small scale, EECRC's 2-part program addresses the need for health education and youth mentoring within Ethiopian and Eritrean communities. Funding will support expansion of the amount and depth of services provided. **Black-led; Immigrant-led nonprofit**

Friends of Zenger Farms: *Building Portland's Food Justice Leaders* is a community wellness education, entrepreneurship, and economic leadership project for Zenger Farms. The project, developed by and for Black, Indigenous, and women of color community members who live primarily east of 82nd avenue, aims to eliminate barriers and provide direct access to land and nourishing fresh food for low-income Black and Brown people in Portland's community. **Women-led nonprofit**

Building Blocks to Success (BB2S): BB2S is an in-school and after-school program that engages youth from underserved communities in unique opportunities to learn about STEM through the exciting world of LEGO Robotics. Students participate in hands-on activities and learn in-depth robotics principles by applying them to building and programming robots to complete challenging tasks. The organization primarily serves youth ages 4-14 identified as underserved, lower economic status, and have a priority focus on youth of color. **Black & Latinx-led nonprofit**

Elevate Oregon: In a community destabilized by gentrification and poverty, Parkrose School District (PRSD) students were identified as facing critical challenges. Elevate Oregon works with students from 4th grade up to high school graduation, placing trained Teacher Mentors (TMs) in underserved PRSD schools to help students to access and develop the character qualities and life-skills needed to achieve academic and personal success. **BIPOC-led nonprofit**

REAP, Inc.: The Young Entrepreneurs Program (YEP) works to develop employment and entrepreneurial skills, specifically aiming to dismantle barriers for culturally diverse students. YEP works with youth to develop general business knowledge, effective self-presentation, networking skills, and access to job markets and



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training. Targeting middle and high school students, YEP provides integrated career and entrepreneurship training, including mentorship, curriculum, workplace tours, and project-based learning. **BIPOC-led nonprofit**

Open Signal: Funding will support Open Signal Labs, an initiative by and for Black media makers, offering a professional development program and media production studio for Black media makers. It is the first program of its kind in the state of Oregon, addressing the stark lack of Black voices in the film and television industry. The program exclusively serves the Black creative community, engaging at least 400-500 folks each year through training, production and events. **Black-led project**

POIC/RAHS: POIC+RAHS provides a continuum of education, career, and family services to at-risk youth and adults. From reintroducing houseless teens to the classroom, to pairing gang-affected students with meaningful career opportunities, to helping youth experiencing domestic violence find stability and hope through mentorship - POIC+RAHS helps youth and adults reimagine and rewrite their life stories. **2020 SEED Grant Recipient; BIPOC-led nonprofit**

Prolific Integrations (PI): PI aims to address disparity in Black, Indigenous, and Latinx (BIL) communities around accessible holistic fitness solutions, basic health education, and representation in fitness and health enterprises. PI integrates STEM, IOT, augmented reality, data analysis, nutrition and exercise science, and mindfulness into sensible and accessible holistic fitness programming. Prolific PDX has a mission to create 100+ healthy BIL homes in Portland, forecasting a decrease in morbidity and an increase in vitality. **Black-owned For Profit**

Oregon Expungement Relief Project (OERP): OERP is committed to mitigating the impacts of racial bias and disparities in the criminal justice system impacting BIPOC and low-income communities in Oregon. By facilitating the expungement process, the organization assists in removing barriers to a more just, healthy, safe, and fulfilling life. **Women-led non-profit**

Jim Pepper Native Arts Council: Speak/Sing Native™ is an after-school music education program for grades 9-12 in three distinct environments: Urban, Rural/Reservation and Residential/Indian School. The multidisciplinary music program aims to reduce both dropout and suicide rates, and to radically transform the educational experience of Native students and their non-Native peers. The program would be open to all interested students and offered free to foster greater awareness and counter negative stereotyping. **Indigenous-led nonprofit**

Historic Parkrose: Historic Parkrose aims to increase equity and economic opportunity in Portland's Parkrose district through collaborative neighborhood projects between diverse district residents and businesses. The organization prioritizes low-income, houseless, and marginalized community members through both direct basic needs support including outreach to houseless camps, as well as by hosting multicultural events and administering small business grants through Prosper Portland's Neighborhood Prosperity Initiative. **BIPOC-led nonprofit**



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Street Roots: The Street Roots Ambassador Program is a new program that diversifies employment opportunities for the houseless population. This program builds upon the talents, aptitudes and expertise of people who have lived on the streets and faced barriers to employment and housing. Expanding efforts in media, communications and outreach, the Ambassador Program creates new income-earning opportunities while building leadership and helping people connect to new employment opportunities. **Women-led nonprofit**

Brown Hope: Brown Hope’s proposal aims to support the mission of Blackstreet Bakery in reclaiming commercial and community spaces in North and Northeast Portland for Black Portlanders displaced by racism, cannabis criminalization, and gentrification. The bakery aims to expand economic opportunities for Black Portlanders in plant-based baking, specifically prioritizing Black Portlanders who have intimately felt the pain caused by displacement. **Black-led nonprofit**

Oregon Handlers Fund (OHF): OHF pays OLCC’s mandatory cannabis worker’s permit fee for qualified BIPOC candidates. Additionally, through free public events, OHF offers resume building and job skill support to ensure that candidates are successful while also providing placement referrals to cannabis companies that partner with OHF as part of their commitment to increasing the diversity of their workforce. **Black-led nonprofit**

Barbari LLC: Barbari’s Incubator Program subsidizes the rent, necessary fees, and overhead costs for a Black and LGBTQ+-owned company operating in the hemp market with a vision to expand while also providing employment opportunities for post-incarcerated women. Through established and ongoing partnerships with community-based organizations, Barbari also uses its headquarters to host bi-monthly expungement clinics and to hire qualified BIPOC individuals with eligible cannabis worker permits. **AAPI-owned for profit; Women-owned**

PG Partners: PG Partners, a MWBE-certified business introduces The Pure Genesis Comprehensive Educational Suite to the Portland market in partnership with local community impact organizations. The educational suite is a focused, interactive exploration of key cannabis instruction including health risks and benefits, current and proposed laws, possible expungement of criminal records, restorative justice, and job/business opportunities. With a goal to prevent incarceration and drug misuse through outreach and education, the program is free to prioritized communities such as at-risk youth and adults from the ages of 16-25. **Black-owned, Women-owned**



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