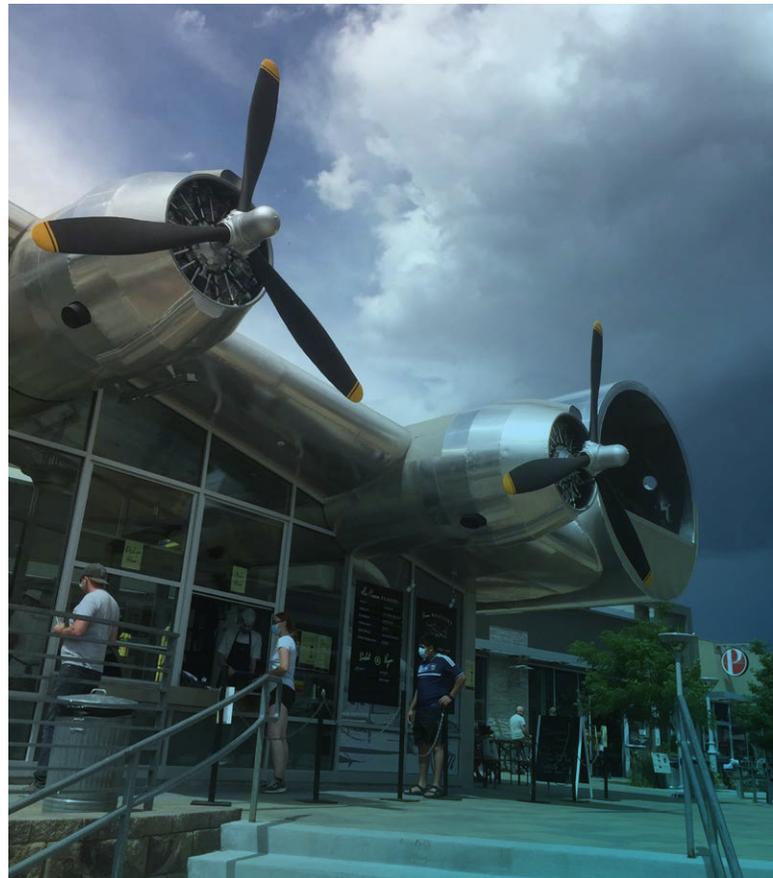




**BUILDING  
COMMUNITY  
FOR THE FUTURE**  
2019 ANNUAL REPORT



## OUR LEADERSHIP IS GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

### Message from Tammi Holloway, Interim CEO/Board Chair

Welcome to our 2019 Community Report that outlines our continued progress in healthy living, education, transportation and affordable housing.

Our transportation group, Northeast Transportation Connections (NETC), continued its outreach efforts to the neighborhoods of northeast Denver, serving communities of ethnic and economic diversity. Its work as community liaison for the Central 70 construction project exemplifies NETC's role to develop a culture of sustainability and reduce reliance on single-occupant cars and trucks to help residents lead healthy and active lives.

Our healthy living initiative, under the *be well* umbrella, advocated and helped shape policy, systems and environmental change through its various programs. *be well* is vital to help ensure community members are informed about their civil rights and equipped with strategies to ensure equity in the policy arena. In education, The Foundation took a lead role in advancing more autonomy and the progressive work for schools through the Northeast Denver Innovation Zone, as well as financial and technical support for area schools and nonprofits.



## REMEMBERING LANDRI TAYLOR: OUR LEADER, OUR FRIEND



As we look back, we want to pay tribute to Landri Taylor, The Foundation's CEO from 2016 to early 2020. Landri was 69 years young when he unexpectedly died in February. It was the premature end to a productive and joyous life.

During Landri's tenure with The Foundation, he advocated for affordable housing and guided The Foundation's other key initiatives. Landri was chair of our board from 2013-16 while also representing northeast Denver on the Denver Public Schools board. He championed high-quality school choices and worked with parents and students to address changing education needs.

Landri held many professional and civic leadership positions, including former president and CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan Denver and a vice president of Forest City Stapleton, the master developer of Denver's former airport. At Forest City, Landri led community relations and small business development programs that enabled women- and minority-owned businesses to start and grow.

But it was Landri's upbeat spirit, enthusiasm, charm and humor that we most like to recall. He made strangers feel welcome with a beaming smile and a twinkle in his eye that correctly suggested a bit of mischief and good fun. He showed respect even when it wasn't earned, countered conflict with patience and sought resolutions with the best outcomes for all, including on one of his favored venues—the golf course. Nice shot, LT!

He was our leader; but mostly, he was our friend.  
Rest in peace, Landri.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'THolloway'.

Tammi Holloway  
Interim CEO / Board Chair

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

The Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities (FSUC; The Foundation) is a nonprofit established in 1990 to craft the Stapleton Redevelopment Plan. The Foundation now works on the plan's social and environmental goals by establishing a seamless connection of economic, social and sustainable development with northeast Denver and northwest Aurora neighborhoods.

The Foundation focuses on the following four initiatives:

### Healthy Living

Advancing equitable policies, programs and research by building the capacity of residents to advocate for the resources they need for healthy lives and to reduce the spread of health disparities.

### Lifelong Learning

Providing leadership, funding and collaboration to schools and the greater community to advance student achievement, quality of instruction, advocacy and educational opportunities for all.

### Transportation

Working with neighborhoods to reduce the number of single-occupant vehicles by providing access to alternative modes of transportation and other support that will help people live healthy, active lives.

### Housing

Leading opportunities for families to reside in safe, affordable housing in Stapleton communities that meet social needs and provide economic opportunity.



# HEALTHY LIVING



## Health and Wellness

In 2019 *be well* advocated and helped shape policy, systems and environmental change through its various programs.

*be well* plays a vital role to ensure community members are informed about their civil rights and equipped with strategies to ensure equity in the policy arena. The initiative wove policy components into its programming and training sessions. Sessions were also added on race, justice, housing access and equity.

## be well Block Captains

The *be well* Block Captain Training was modified to include a stronger policy and advocacy curricula that result in a community-driven agenda. The initiative also added tools to boost Block Captains' knowledge of specific equity challenges in their communities and guidance to have a voice in the policy process.

The program conducted two Block Captain trainings in the *be well* Zone. Block Captains testified at the state legislature to support the Crown Act passed in 2019 that bans natural hair discrimination.

Block Captains in collaboration with the East Colfax Neighborhood Association started and maintained a community food bank and garden with a donated irrigation system installed by residents. Through the financial support of a Block Captain mini grant, the East Colfax captains purchased reusable items and fixtures that support the food bank.

In Montbello and Northwest Aurora neighborhoods, Block Captains focused on workforce development. They joined the Montbello 2020 organization to explore partnerships with groups that can help with transportation for those seeking employment on the Central I-70 project.

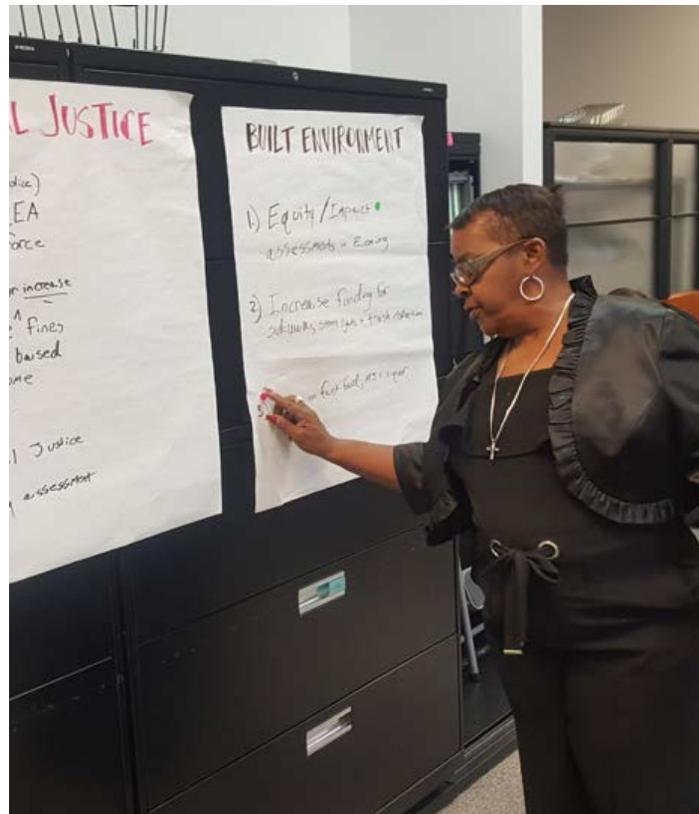


## — be well Legislative Forum

*be well* is guided by its Community Collaborative, a multi-sector partnership consisting of residents, block captains, government agencies, elected officials, business and education leaders and neighborhood organizations. The collaborative sets annual goals, provides guidance to implement and evaluate the *be well* Community Action Plan (CAP), promotes policies and advocates to improve community health. In the fall of 2019, the Collaborative established five policy priorities: housing affordability, equitable zoning, access to vocational education, financial literacy education and food waste reduction.

The collaborative established a policy committee, created policies and organized a legislative forum. The forum allowed residents to share with elected officials *be well*'s policy agenda and ideas to address issues. As a result of the forum, Aurora Councilwoman Crystal Murillo and Denver Councilwoman Stacie Gilmore committed to support a requirement that all new developments include a community benefit agreement with neighborhood organizations. State Rep. James Coleman (D-N.E. Denver), Denver Councilwomen Robin Kniech and Gilmore agreed to support a food waste ban. Rep. Coleman also committed to support the repeal of a state ban on local rent control. Aurora School Board member Marques Ivey and Denver School Board member Dr. Carrie Olson endorsed expanded access to vocational education. State Sen. Rhonda Fields (D-Aurora), Rep. Coleman, Mr. Ivey and Dr. Olson all committed to seek making financial literacy a graduation requirement.

The elected officials agreed to push for the creation of a health equity assessment system to guide policy, planning, program and service design at all levels of government.



## be well Centers

**be well** brings healthy living experience to residents through its **be well** Centers. The Centers are located at three rec centers in Greater Park Hill and Northwest Aurora. The hubs offer free or low-cost Healthy Living classes and **be well** helps residents reach their health goal. Classes are offered for individuals of all ages and levels of experience.

In 2019, **be well** launched two **be well** Centers for youth, starting at five years old. Classes helped youth engage in physical activity and develop wellness habits that promote healthy lifestyles for them and their families. Forty students registered for classes for increased physical activity, promotion of good nutrition and time in nature. Center classes offer culturally-relevant programming, a place to make friends and build community.



In 2019 our goals were focused on policy and advocacy and had less to do with programming than in previous years.

Nonetheless, **be well** Centers served 300+ people in more than 1,000 visits in two Centers compared with three in 2018 by providing:

- Classes for individuals of all ages and levels of experience
- Four wellness workshops (yoga, mental health, using herbs, essential oils, meal prep)
- Three heart health screenings (i.e. blood pressure, height, weight, cholesterol and glucose) that make residents aware of risk factors for heart disease, stroke

5  
PHYSICAL  
FITNESS  
CLASSES

2  
HEALTHY  
COOKING  
CLASSES

4  
WELLNESS  
WORKSHOPS

3  
HEART HEALTH  
SCREENINGS

## be well Youth Council

The **be well** Youth Council prioritized youth homelessness in 2019. Approximately 1,000 youth live on Denver streets. To support them the **be well** Youth Council visited the Globeville Tiny Homes Village for a build day. After meeting with the developers, the group proposed building a Tiny Homes Village for Homeless Youth for teens in transition from the streets. The vision is yet to become reality but the **be well** youth continue to seek opportunities to provide support.

A partnership with the City of Denver allowed **be well** Youth Council members to create temporary wayfinding signage to direct Montbello residents to parks and open space.

Nearly 20 new **be well** Youth completed the **be well** Youth Block Captain training and were recognized at the 10th annual **be well** Awards and Community Celebration. Existing **be well** Youth council members received certificates for their efforts to advance health equity among their peers. Youth were also acknowledged as part of the **be well** Heroes for going above and beyond to encourage their families and friends to lead healthy lives.



## be well School Wellness Annual Report

**be well** School Health and Wellness Team initiatives assisted more than 2,200 students, families and staff.

### School Wellness partnered with 13 schools:

Izzy Bird, McGlone, Crawford, Ashley, Rocky Mountain Prep-Fletcher elementary; DSST: Montview, North and McAuliffe International middle schools; Boston (P-8); Denver School of the Arts (6-12); STRIVE Prep: RISE, New Legacy Charter and Aurora Central high schools. Each school focused on one to three projects that: increased physical activity; improved mental health; produced/promoted more healthful foods; supported good heart and cardiovascular health.

In 2019, **\$10,400** was distributed to seven **be well** zone schools to create healthier school environments. The funds supported student and staff mental health with social/emotional learning curricula, increased physical activity with updated sports equipment, access to better nutrition with classes on healthy meals on a budget and access to comprehensive sex education by partnering with Girl's, Inc.

# TRANSPORTATION



In 2019 Northeast Transportation Connections (NETC) continued its outreach efforts to the neighborhoods of northeast Denver, serving communities of ethnic and economic diversity.

Our work as community liaison for the Central 70 construction project exemplifies NETC's mission to develop a culture of sustainability and reduce reliance on single-occupant cars and trucks to help residents lead healthy and active lives.



Our partnership with the Colorado Department of Transportation began in late-2017 after NETC won a \$2.5 million contract to conduct the transportation demand management (TDM) portion of the five-year expansion of I-70 that runs through the neighborhoods of northeast Denver (I-25 east to Chambers Road). TDM involves activities that help people use the transportation system more efficiently, while reducing traffic congestion, vehicle emissions and fuel consumption.

Over the past year we have continued to develop programs to meet unique challenges in the region, implementing these programs at a grassroots level. We have met with community members and leaders in order to determine the best fit for each program in each neighborhood.

## NETC Programs

- We maintain monthly office hours at various locations in the community to take questions, provide information, and sign people up for programs. We also offer a Spanish-language phone line for Spanish speakers.
- Our Walking School Bus helps reduce the number of cars going to Swansea Elementary during peak traffic times and allows for safe, healthy alternatives to get children to school. It employs one coordinator from the community and four women from the school.
- We provide rental vans to local organizations like GES Coalition and The Grow Haus so that they can transport kids on field trips and to summer camp.
- We distribute free monthly RTD passes to Globeville, Elyria, and Swansea community members. This alleviates transportation costs for many who have to commute to other areas of the city for work.
- We gave Montbello Walks \$10,000 to help support their efforts and rent vans for their Seniors Walks program.
- We partnered with Focus Points Family Resource Center to lead community bike rides and provide "learn-to-ride" and "fix-a-flat" clinics.
- We operate free shuttles to help employees get to work.





Since we began our work on the Central 70 project in 2017, we have **REDUCED SINGLE-OCCUPANT VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED** in the region by almost **500,000**

**DENVER** **B**cycle

With the closing of B-cycle, we partnered with Denver Bike Sharing to

**GIVE AWAY**  
**350**  
**FORMER B-CYCLE**  
**BIKES**

to community members and organizations who could use them.

We partnered with

# BIKES TOGETHER

again in 2019 to have their Summer Camps ride to our Prodigy Bike Library from June – August to clean our bike fleet once a week. This fulfills their camp's community service hours and keeps our bikes clean and ready for members to use.



## NETC Programs *(continued)*

- We help employees form carpools.
- We offer a Try Transit program to give people a taste of the RTD system and show them that using RTD is much easier than trying to drive into the corridor.
- We partner with Walk2Connect to organize community walks for seniors and families.
- We consult with real estate developers to ensure that their new buildings are pedestrian- and bike-friendly.
- We continue to advocate for a better transportation network in the region by supporting city-wide plans such as Blueprint Denver and the East Area Plan.
- We have two Bike Libraries up and running in Swansea — one at Prodigy Coffeehouse and one at Focus Points. The libraries give community members access to a bike any time they need one for a small yearly donation of \$20.

NETC is proud to be a part of the Foundation for Sustainable Urban Communities. We look forward to serving our neighbors in 2020, helping to ensure that Denver's transportation network has a bright future and is available to everyone.



# LIFELONG LEARNING

In 2019, The Foundation advanced initiatives that drive higher quality public education in northeast Denver and northwest Aurora.

One primary tool is our School Grant Program (SGP) which makes annual awards of up to \$10,000 per school to encourage them try new ideas to improve instruction and leadership, increase academic achievement and find ways to involve parents more in their children's education.

Through the SGP The Foundation strengthened relationships with schools, determined viability of projects and helped define needs and proposals. We also furthered connections with districts with practical, on-the-ground ways to enhance the education experience of students and teachers.

One of those efforts was our support and funding of Climate Activism Teams which are a coalition of students in Denver Public Schools to advocate for environmental justice and sustainability and develop "hands on" projects. Students take the lead to educate others in four school communities on critical climate change issues. Students also cultivate leadership skills such as project planning and execution, public speaking, creating proposals and starting Green initiatives.

The schools are in the Northeast Denver Innovation Zone (NDIZ): Swigert ES, McAuliffe International (middle) School, McAuliffe Manual Middle School, Northfield High School. We anticipate that CAT projects will be replicated in other DPS schools and evolve into a district Climate Activism Team that then leads numerous school and community-based teams.

The Foundation also partnered with Northeast Denver Housing Center to fund and establish after-school tutoring and enrichment programs at its two affordable housing projects in Stapleton that boast nearly 300 units.

## The Foundation also supported schools and families in large and small ways:

- Presented lessons and guidance to journalism classes at Northfield High School.
- Awarded grants for community service projects by eighth graders at McAuliffe International School.
- Provided marketing assistance to recruit students.
- Participated in community discussions, collaborating with DPS officials/schools/community groups to better address issues such as equity of educational opportunities.
- Helped schools reach out to lower-income families to increase economic integration.
- Continued to nurture our relationship with Denver Public Schools and Aurora Public Schools, meeting with superintendents, cabinet officials, principals and board members about ongoing issues and regular communication with area schools.



## INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

International Baccalaureate is a challenging interdisciplinary curriculum for K-12 that stresses critical and independent thinking through projects to prepare students for college and to gain a global perspective. It is offered at four northeast schools.

IB focuses on six themes: who we are, where we are in place and time, how we express ourselves, how the world works, how we organize ourselves and sharing the planet.

Area IB schools, which enroll more than 3,800 students: Swigert International (Stapleton elementary); McAuliffe International (Park Hill middle school); McAuliffe at Manual Middle School (Whittier neighborhood); and Northfield High School (Stapleton). These schools are also Innovation Schools in the Northeast Denver Innovation Zone.

## NORTHEAST DENVER INNOVATION SCHOOLS AND ZONE

Innovation schools are district schools that gain waivers from local and state policies, rules and collective bargaining agreements to better serve their students.

They are entrepreneurial and autonomous to control their budgets, staffing, programming and other operations - nearly identical to how charter schools function.

There are six innovation schools in the Northeast Denver Innovation Zone. It is run by a nonprofit with a board of directors that oversees operations and policies and has the same freedoms as individual schools. It helps save money and shares resources among its members by capitalizing on the zone's "economy of scale."

It presents the opportunity for significant impact with its size of 5,000 students (over five percent of total DPS enrollment), its socio-economic diversity and progressive approaches.

The NDIZ was formed in 2018 and includes six schools that serve 5,000 students:

- Montclair School of Academics & Enrichment
- Willow Elementary
- Swigert International (elementary) School\*
- McAuliffe International (middle) School\*
- McAuliffe Manual Middle School\*
- Northfield High School\*

(\*Schools using the International Baccalaureate program)

# LIFELONG LEARNING 2019 GRANT PROJECTS



**Northfield High School** started Strategic Student Support for Attendance, Behavior and Social Emotional Needs that uses a social/emotional online program to address truancy, anger management, self-regulation, digital citizenship, talking to peers, self-esteem and substance abuse.



**Denver Language School** began a multi-year program to train teachers and staff on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The Foundation was the lead developer and founder of DLS, a K-8 charter language immersion school, in 2010.

**Rocky Mountain Prep-Fletcher** (E-5) used both of its 2019 grants to build its choral and instrumental music program that focuses on instrumental instruction, music reading, writing and interpretation, and the social-emotional components of arts education.

**Bill Roberts** (K-8) School continued in 2019 with training teachers at all grade levels in the highly effective Orton-Gillingham reading program. Roberts has seen a nearly 30 percent increase in reading proficiency school-wide.

**Isabella Bird Community School** (E-5) implemented the Playworks program which helps students learn conflict resolution and to manage their behavior during outdoor activities which decreases disciplinary issues throughout the day.



**Swigert International Elementary** started a Summer Enrichment Program to orient new students and parents from outside the Stapleton neighborhood to their new school through tutoring and recreational activities.



**Willow Elementary** initiated a Mural Project to engage students in the creative process on a large, public scale. Students planned, designed and created three large murals inside the school with the guidance of the art teacher and a professional muralist.



**Denver Green School-Northfield** (6-8) established an indoor garden and an aquaponics system that combines raising fish with hydroponics and cultivating plants in water in a symbiotic environment.



**McAuliffe International (middle) School** started an after-school writing program, "ELA Club," to address basic writing structures for sixth graders and basic essay structure for narrative and argumentative writing for students in seventh and eighth grades.



**DSST Conservatory Green High School** used its grant to convert a classroom into a black box theater which expanded its scope of educational opportunities and enrichment in performing arts, visual arts and technical theatre.



**Denver Discovery (middle) School** started an affinity club called "Shades of Black Girl Magic" to address the fact that many young black women are developing at a faster rate without mentors and support to guide them. They received help with self-esteem, good communication, respectful behavior and education.

## THE FSUC SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM INCLUDES 18 SCHOOLS:

### ELEMENTARY

ASHLEY  
WILLOW  
INSPIRE  
IZZY BIRD  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
PREP-FLETCHER  
SWIGERT  
WESTERLY CREEK

### MIDDLE

DENVER DISCOVERY  
DENVER GREEN-NORTHFIELD  
DSST CONSERVATORY GREEN  
DSST MONTVIEW  
MCAULIFFE INTERNATIONAL

### K-8

BILL ROBERTS  
DENVER LANGUAGE SCHOOL  
ODYSSEY

### HIGH

DSST CONSERVATORY GREEN  
DSST MONTVIEW  
NORTHFIELD

## KEY ASPECTS OF INNOVATION ZONES:

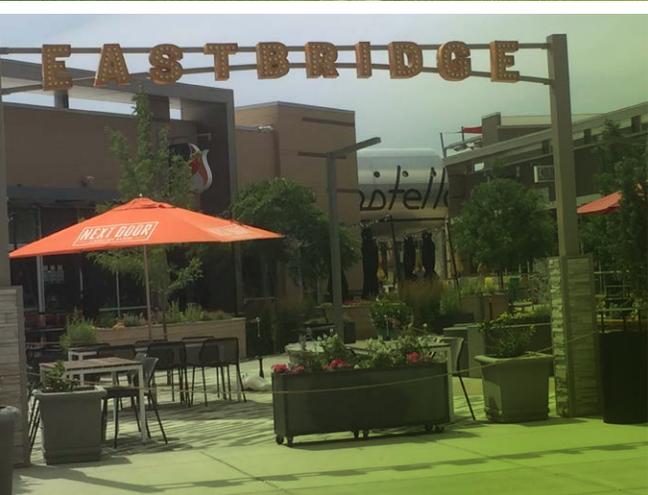
- Innovation Zones are partners with a district. But schools operate under a system that sustains their autonomy. School staff are DPS employees, but they are overseen by the zone's board and executive director.
- NDIZ assists its schools by pooling resources in areas like professional development and purchasing. The zone facilitates connections between families, students and school. It provides opportunities to try new ways of running a school.
- NDIZ schools customize curriculums, allocate resources, share best practices and talent.
- Brian Weber, The Foundation's vice president for education and development initiatives, is a founding board member of the NDIZ. The Foundation supports the zone through its expertise in nonprofit management, crafting its fundraising strategy and implementing it through research and other development activities.

## The Foundation awarded \$105,000 through our School Grant Program

Though they are not large—\$5,000 each—our grants allow schools to try things they otherwise could not afford. The SGP supports projects that advance academic achievement, parent engagement or provide enrichment activities.

The Foundation supports Northfield High School's International Baccalaureate program by paying test fees for low-income students which amounted to \$97,000. IB also requires regular training and other professional development for the staff. We covered \$28,000 of those costs for total of \$125,000 for IB at NHS.

— **\$230,000**  
for Schools in  
**2019**



## ASSETS

<b>Current Assets</b>	Cash and cash equivalents	\$	402,401
	Accounts Receivable	\$	604,505
	Prepays	\$	10,433
	Investments	\$	1,463,122
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		\$	2,480,461
<b>Non Current Assets</b>	Property and equipment, net	\$	17,216
	<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	\$	17,216
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		\$	2,497,677

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<b>Current Liabilities</b>	Accounts Payable	\$	137,899
	Accrued Expenses	\$	59,097
	Other Current	\$	2,483
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		\$	199,479
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		\$	2,298,198

<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 2,497,677</b>
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THE FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN COMMUNITIES  
**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES** December 31, 2019

**REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT**

Community Investment Fee	\$ 2,018,179
Grants	\$ 355,289
Investment Income	\$ 211,372
Other Income	\$ 34,917
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 2,619,757</b>

**EXPENSES**

Program Services	\$ 1,652,628
Management and General	\$ 425,785
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,480,461</b>

Changes in Net Assets	\$ 541,344
Net Assets at beginning of the year	\$ 1,756,854
Net assets at end of the year	\$ 2,298,198

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**King Harris**  
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**Gloria Rubio-Cortes**  
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