

**CONNECT.**  
**LEARN.**  
**HEAL.**

# CONNECT.

“Connection is organically going to happen in this group, and I think it will organically happen as we reach out and bring other people into the conversation that we’re having.”

- Young Adult Community Advisory Board member

# LEARN.

“Being a UCBI intern has been a transformative experience that has prompted me to reflect on how I can use my privileges to fight for social justice. I was able to learn about the complexities of homelessness and see what healing-centered care looks like in action.”

- Julia Mikulikova, UW undergraduate

# HEAL.

“In our spaces of liberation, we hold one another with unconditional positive regard; we rely upon our community to reflect back the potency of our potential in times when our purpose feels lost. Igniting & sustaining one’s creative relation to this world, heals us all.”

- Tyreesha Jenkins, Doorway Project Program Assistant & UDYC’s Holistic Creative Engagement Lead



# ABOUT DOORWAY PROJECT

The Doorway Project is a state legislative-funded initiative co-led by the University of Washington and YouthCare to address youth and young adult homelessness in Seattle’s University District through continuous community-engaged collaboration with University District service providers. Our core mission is *“developing a comprehensive and effective service model that reduces youth and young adult homelessness and improves quality of life for all affected.”*

Youth and young adults in the “U District” form the foundation of our work. We seek the knowledge and guidance of young people who live, work, or learn here in this neighborhood are experiencing housing instability. The work we do is intentionally open-ended, flexible, and continually evolving in response to what we learn.

In the first two years of the Doorway Project, our methods included community mapping, focus groups, digital storytelling, and individual interviews. We engaged in these research methods through a combination of our seasonal Pop-Up Cafes and through partnership with existing service providers in the U District. In this third year, we began “Phase 2” of the Doorway Project, in which we formed a **Community Advisory Board** made up of direct service providers, young adults with lived experience of homelessness in the U District, and UW staff and faculty. Through this, otherwise marginalized voices are not only lifted up and honored, but provided a long-term seat at the table to help improve services and give back to their community.

In the pages ahead, you will read about our challenges and successes over the past year, as well as the current programs and services we have begun to offer the U District community through our collaborative efforts. We will also share the blueprint for what the Doorway Project will be building in the coming year, a plan that has taken shape as three foundational programming pillars: **CONNECT** (Community Connection), **LEARN** (Bi-Directional Learning), and **HEAL** (Creative Engagement).

Lastly, we will share an overview of our financial statements for each primary fiscal partner (UW, Carlson Center UCBI, and YouthCare), as well as resources and links for staying connected to this project. Collectively, we hope that this information provides you, our stakeholders, with a clear picture of our transformative work together, and will be helpful to you in assessing the effectiveness and responsibilities involved with the Doorway Project as a whole.

Dear Doorway Community and Stakeholders,

An annual report is typically a time where we pause, take a deep breath, and reflect on all of our challenges and accomplishments over the past year. We must acknowledge, however, that there is nothing typical about this year. Against the backdrop of global pandemics (novel Coronavirus and the not-so-novel ongoing systemic racism), and a year where it has literally and figuratively been difficult for people to breathe, especially for members of our Black and Brown community, it is hard to know how to start a report like this. And, yet, I find myself starting with feelings of hope.

The Doorway Project has been a beacon of light during these dark times. It has been a partnership that has held steady amidst the global shutdown. Our work together has grown, evolved, and even thrived during this time. How? Through our shared vision of collective healing and liberation. Through trust and transparency. Through community building and power sharing. Over the past year, our collective work has taught me that even during times of crisis, the community knows how to show up and take care of each other. We are a unique community of diverse university faculty, staff and students, service providers, and members of the young adult community experiencing homelessness that have come together to collectively imagine and build a better world for ourselves and our communities.

This unique collaboration was precisely what the Doorway Project was meant to do—leverage partnerships and utilize our collective strengths and wisdom to build the world we want to live in. I could not be more proud to be part of this incredible team of brilliant hearts and minds who have come together to actualize our vision and lay down a solid foundation on which to base our programs and services. This partnership and our work together has communicated loud and clear that nothing—not even a global pandemic— can knock us down.



Thank you to all of you for your ongoing support and dedication in helping to build better lives for people experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Seema Clifasefi".

Seema L. Clifasefi, PhD, MSW  
University of Washington Doorway Project Director

*“Not everything that is faced can be changed.  
But nothing can be changed until it is faced.”*

- James Baldwin

Dear community,

The pandemic of racism, homelessness, and the dehumanization of youth has been apparent for a long time now. The intersection of these issues seems big and can sometimes even feel insurmountable. Yet, day in and day out with creative, innovative, intentional, and collaborative community platforms like the Doorway Project, we are showing up for young people and building a strong foundation of trust and empowerment to collectively dismantle oppressive systems. The Doorway Project believes in centering and elevating the voices of the young adults that we serve and shifting the power to them as a pathway of healing and liberation.

At YouthCare’s University District Youth Center (UDYC), we recognize that collective healing is essential in this process. We put a name to each face that walks through the doors, and we know that we have our community partners’ backing and support in guiding each individual on their way towards achieving the goals they didn’t believe they could achieve when they first arrived. The power needs to lie within the young folks whom we serve.

Through various creative engagement services offered at UDYC, we promote an environment for individuals to be authentic and vulnerable. This is a community that provides space for young folks to speak their truth. As my Doorway Project colleague Tyresha Jenkins says: “If we can become vulnerable with one another as a collective community, that cultivated trust is what keeps us healthy”. Each day, we see that everyone can create their own path to what success looks like for them.

In creating a healthy community, it is crucial we not only recognize the intersections of racism and homelessness, but that we shift power to the most vulnerable. In order to have a thriving community we must, as UDYC staff Maane F. says, “lead from the heart, not by the book”. The narrative needs to change, and the Doorway Project has developed into an impactful source to support changing that narrative – to dismantling the status quo.



It has been an honor to be part of this project and we hope that through this report, you enjoy learning more about our collaborative work.

In community,

*Jason McGill*

Associate Director of University District Services

**YOUTH**CARE

Black Lives Matter

Dear Doorway Community and Stakeholders,

The youth and young adults of today face unique challenges of growing up during a time of racial reckoning and political unrest in our nation, against the backdrop of a major global public health epidemic unlike any faced in the last 100 years. For our University of Washington students participating in the Undergraduate Community Based Internship Program (UCBI), awareness of social issues is not merely enough; our interns crave action and aspire to be part of the social change they wish to see in the world.

UCBI is humbled and grateful to be a collaborative partner of the Doorway Project. Our long-standing relationships with staff and supervisors at Doorway-affiliated organizations have created a strong support network for our interns. Doorway Project has modeled what coalition-building and community care look like, and provided a crucial example for our interns, many of whom are future practitioners in community engagement.

We seek to connect students with communities in which they themselves are a part of. UCBI interns connect with young people experiencing homelessness in the University District, a neighborhood they all share. During their internships, these experiences shape their perspectives and fuel their future passion for this work.

Through this collaboration, interns have created coordinated meal programs, crafted policy briefs, and taught GED classes for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. These are just a few ways in which interns have expanded organizational capacity, while building relationships with clients, staff, and volunteers. Interns bring their passion to this work while gaining knowledge, humility and insight into social and racial justice issues that fuel the housing crisis and poverty, all while reflecting on and being exposed to innovative solutions to combat homelessness and systemic racism and oppression in Seattle.

As UCBI transitions from its affiliation with the Carlson Center, to the Community Engagement and Leadership Education Center (CELE) at UW, we remain committed to our partnership with the Doorway Project. The 'Bi-Directional Learning' pillar holds us accountable to embodying authentic community engagement. Together, we will expand on peer learning between University students and young adults experiencing homelessness, as well as create a more accessible pathway to education and resources for young adults through this innovative and truly community-centered project.



Your trust and investment in the Doorway Project promotes innovation in supporting young people, and helping build a stronger community in the University District. We are excited to share our work with you and thank you for your commitment to community-centered care.

*Katie Wallace*

Community Engagement Manager  
Undergraduate Community Based Internships  
University of Washington

# THE DOORWAY PROJECT

## CONNECT.

### Community Engagement

Simpler Case Management  
UDSPA Partnership  
Online Resource Hub  
Policy & Advocacy  
Community Advisory Board

## LEARN.

### Bi-Directional Learning

Community-Based Research  
Departmental Collaboration  
Community Classes  
Community-Engaged Learning

## HEAL.

### Holistic Creative Engagement

Art Hive  
The Hair Shop  
BLOOM @ UDYC  
Real Talk Thursday  
UDYC's Podcast

A Campus-Community Partnership of

**YOUTH  
CARE**

**W**  
UNIVERSITY *of*  
WASHINGTON



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**LISTENING,  
REFLECTING, &  
BUILDING RELATIONSHIP**



# CONNECT.

For many people who know the U District already, it's likely no surprise to learn that there is a long-standing University District Service Providers Alliance (UDSPA) that meets monthly to discuss shared visions, programming information and community needs. UDSPA is comprised of dedicated program managers and direct service workers that know that strength lies in community.

The Doorway Project serves to support and strengthen already existing community connections that are united around a mission to better serve youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. This support includes steady coordination and managing centralized communication (e.g., real-time updates online), streamlining case management services across agencies, providing guidance on research and evaluation, and creating a strong, unified voice for political advocacy.

This work does not come without its challenges, and difficult times have only served to strengthen the connections and trust amongst the UDSPA. For example, during the infamous "Snowmageddon" of February 2019, program managers across agencies quickly organized to provide 24/7 safe haven and services for clients in the U District. And, during the onset of the coronavirus pandemic these same community leaders ensured meals, drop-in space, beds, showers, toilets, and testing were available to clients week after week. In these times, there is no shortage of examples to highlight how a small group of dedicated service providers are working together to show up for the youth and young adults that they serve to help create better futures for these individuals.

As we began this year of the Doorway Project, our team read over hours of interview transcripts with youth and young adults from previous years. One theme we heard time and again was the need for service providers to be better connected through clear communication and common goals for their clients. And, not just in times of acute crisis when it is a last resort, but every single day. In speaking with our young adult Community Advisory Board members, that message has only grown clearer:

The intersection of COVID-19 and the long-term epidemic of homelessness is unprecedented. This moment calls for a re-envisioning of what community, solidarity and healing all mean, *and* the formation of a collective of service providers that dreams, heals, plans, and finds success together to create better and brighter futures for the young adult community experiencing homelessness. We believe that anything less will not match up to the challenge we face.

**2,150**

Unique visitors to DoorwayProject.org website in last 12 months

**110%**

Increase in service hours at YouthCare's UDYC in response to COVID-19 pandemic

**480**

Total meals provided to clients of Doorway Project's community partners, between April 1 and June 30



## Coordinating Case Management

By leveraging the time and energy of Doorway Project team members, service providers in the University District can ease the work of case management while also improving client outcomes. Coordinating case management would begin by creating a common ROI (release of information) that could be offered

during a new client's intake process. Clients will be given the option to have as many or as few case managers as they see fit, while pre-emptively minimizing the inefficiency and emotional difficulty of a client needing to explain their story at each new service agency

In addition, a coordinated case management system would also operationalize through consistent monthly case manager meetings, organized and facilitated by a Doorway Project team member.

Each meeting would have apportioned time for general and client-specific topics that would use a "case consulting" model to actively collaborate on complex client or agency needs.

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## Centralizing Information

Currently, the **UDSPA** and Doorway Project run separate websites that both include neighborhood service hours as well as a community calendar. By combining online presences, a centralized information hub can exist at *DoorwayProject.org* that also includes a portal for service providers to log-in to a private communication channel.

Serving as a community information hub, newly implemented features of this website would include training resources, a

client-focused community events and activities calendar, as well as employment and volunteer opportunities.

In addition to centralizing information online, monthly, in-person UDSPA meetings that have been organized by otherwise-busy agency program managers can be coordinated and facilitated by Doorway Project team members. This lifts the responsibility from them and creates consistent contact that UDSPA members can trust and rely upon.

**Over 1,500**

Masks distributed to Doorway Project partners since March

**Over 2,000**

Gloves distributed to Doorway Project partners since March

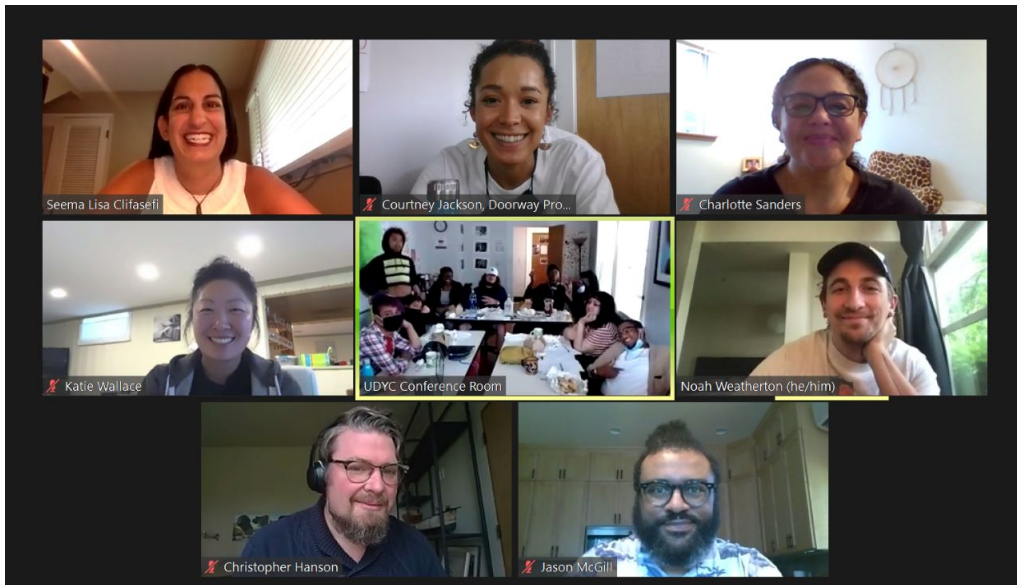
**Provided 1**

hand sanitation station to UDYC; portable toilet to ROOTS; canopy tent for safe outdoor services

# Community Advisory Board

Our community engagement will continue to be directed by the Doorway Project Community Advisory Board through monthly two-hour meetings. Group collaboration between service providers, young adults with lived experience of homelessness, UW faculty, and Doorway Project leadership team members will continue as our focus becomes more clear in the coming year.

We are excited to continue developing a vision to effectively address the needs of the most-impacted University District community members.



## Responding in Crisis

In March, amidst COVID-19 rapidly closing services and new social distancing rules, young folks in the U District needed consistent and accessible services more than ever. Dovetailing services with ROOTS Young Adult Shelter, Youthcare's UDYC created a U District shelter-in-place model, providing seamless access to resources like warm meals and health screenings, in addition to nightly shelter and hygiene spaces.

When the need arose for meal services, Doorway Project stepped up to serve clients from early April through mid-June. And, during those initial days of widespread sanitation supply shortages, we also worked with U District partner agencies to ensure our community stayed safe and healthy.



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## BI-DIRECTIONAL LEARNING

Sparking change on campus  
& in the U District

# LEARN.

**I**ntent versus Impact. Oftentimes, our *intent* comes from the right place, but good intentions will only get you so far. It is your *impact*, the way that your actions land, that is what people remember. It is what makes the difference between a feel-good gesture and a sincere act of human connection.

Throughout this project we have kept this idea in mind. We've discussed the ways in which good deeds, especially in homelessness services, can sometimes cause more harm than good. The same can be said for *service learning*, where well-intentioned, good-hearted students are placed into incredibly complex environments for the sake of their education. Historically this has been done, not in partnership, but at the expense of people who are seeking services or aid during what may be the most difficult days of their lives. Despite the good intention, the impact often ends up reinforcing harmful systems of oppression.

It is our goal to continue moving service learning beyond a history of exploitative and extractive programming, and into a future of mutual benefit for both the campus and non-campus community. Currently, there are existing avenues for students to directly assist the non-campus community with the skills they are learning on campus, like nursing, social work, and business. But, our goal is to create ways for the *entire* community to work in tandem, as a way to dismantle the white supremacist, capitalist patriarchy that is a source of inequity in our communities, and build a system that supports us all.

Since the beginning of the Doorway Project in 2017, we have worked in close partnership with the UW's **Carlson Leadership & Public Service Center** through Undergraduate Community Based Internships (UCBI). These paid internships place undergraduates with public sector and non-profit organizations like ROOTS, TeenFeed and YouthCare's UDYC. Students interested in public service get the chance to explore, contribute, and grow as they work in, with, and for local communities.

UCBI interns work with their host organizations ten hours per week and spend an additional two hours per week engaged in one-on-one mentorship and cohort meetings. This cohort-based model allows students to dive into social issues and reflect on power, privilege, identity, and systems of oppression among their peers. Their experiences working with, and learning from folks in the U District help them build the humility, understanding, compassion, and capacities necessary to thoughtfully and effectively engage with marginalized communities during the internship and throughout the rest of their lives.

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UCBI interns funded by Doorway Project, placed at three U District sites

220

Distance, in feet, between YouthCare's UDYC building and the UW campus

1,400

Total hours of community-engaged learning by Doorway-funded UCBI interns

Utilizing this existing partnership, we plan to work with UCBI community-host partners to create a **Mentorship Program** that sends an equal number of clients *onto* campus as students going *into* the community. A pilot group including young adult members of our Community Advisory Board will be both learners and educators. This will provide important feedback through iterative improvements, as well as a space to honor and center the personal stories of those who have transcended difficult circumstances.

Mentees would attend weekly programming sessions with Doorway Project-UCBI interns. The mixed-learning setting facilitates empathy and connection, while serving to de-stigmatize lived experience of homelessness, as well as make on-campus resources and relationships more accessible.

As you will see, the Mentorship Program is just one of the many brilliant ideas sparked during within our Community Advisory Board meetings. Providing a two-way path for learning not only works against extractive programming, it blazes a new trail to knowledge and opportunity for people with lived experience of homelessness, and builds an innovative, socially just model for education access.



## UW L&IS students connect clients through STRAPPD app



Over the past year, UW Library & Information Science graduate students Rachel Beckman and Catherine Matthews have worked in partnership with Doorway Project and Kristy Gale, Youth Librarian at Seattle Public Library, to reinvigorate and reimagine the ways that clients get connected to homelessness services in the U District.

Utilizing the open-source homeless resources app, **STRAPPD**, they have partnered with UDSPA to ensure real-time accuracy of service hours for clients, and special events in the neighborhood.

55

Seattle homelessness services verified and shared through STRAPPD app

\$4,000

Carlson Center total stipend to five students who continued U District volunteer work during COVID-19

5

Major cities in national youth and young adult homelessness “best practices” analysis

## Highlighting national best practices

How do Seattle's services for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness compare to other major cities? Madeline Kramer, an undergraduate honors student at UW, worked with us to find out.

Examining 5 major cities (LA, NYC, Portland, Philadelphia, and San Francisco), her work collected best practices and outcome data to inform improving services here in Seattle.

While the project began in January before the COVID-19 crisis, her work also explores how COVID-19 has impacted youth homelessness. We are excited to soon share Madeline's crucial work through an interactive map on our website.

This will not only inform service providers on best practices, but serve to strengthen national networks of those who serve young adults.



## UCBI interns face challenges with grace

Lastly, we want to take this space to acknowledge the hard work, flexibility and grace of UW undergraduates Julia Mikulikova, Makayla Ndamele, and Tulili Tuiteleapaga-Howard (*L to R, pictured above*), along with the additional four students in the Doorway Project UCBI cohort.

In the face of unprecedented circumstances, this cohort showed grace and understanding to adjust responsibilities and expectations in the midst of a physically and emotionally demanding academic year. We are excited to see them continue on in their academic and personal journeys.



## HEALING THROUGH ART

Holistic programming empowers young adults and builds communities



# HEAL.

Social services channel and advocate for the recognized personal and systemic freedom of everyone. Historically, YouthCare's **University District Youth Center** is a space that has prominently empowered the lives of young transgender people, and more recently young people of color.

**Holistic Creative Engagement** at UDYC aims to continue broadening this foundational impact by co-cultivating and sustaining employment, housing and educational resource. UDYC also prioritizes our community's socio-political investment and solidarity with Queer, Transgender & Two Spirit persons of color. The historical intersections of systemic oppression, generational trauma and chronic dis-ease leave these highlighted identities disproportionately represented among those in our community experiencing



homelessness, which leaves its own long-term traumatic effects. Holistic healing sows seeds within the individual to interrogate the nature of both change and resistance.

Creative engagement confronts the dissonance of the dominant culture's inertia and the colonial ideologies that innately repress indigenous ways of knowing. This engaged expansion of consciousness reveals the power of practicing daily ritual and reflection as a way of healing.

In liberated community, these revelations have various artistic expressions that we, as service

providers, are dedicated to co-curating and honing. Holistic intent requires that we honor one another completely, from the metaphysical circumstances to the symptoms and stories that manifest in our lives.

Thus, Holistic Creative Engagement measures outcomes of progress in relation to each individual's personal history and growth. By supplying tangible pathways to art, education, geographic history, ethnic culture, emotional transmutation, and hope, this pillar of our community collective not only bridges members to life necessities, but also supports and sustains them in the transition of their state of mind.

## Healing-Centered Engagement

Forming the basis for the HEAL pillar, this concept developed by Shawn Ginwright is:

- Focused on well-being, rather than suppressing symptoms
- Explicitly political, rather than clinical in its approach
- Supportive of adult providers in their own healing
- Culturally grounded in healing as the restoration of identity

Holistic Creative Engagement is the facet of the Doorway Project that is rooted as a catalyst towards individual and community healing. **Our programming mirrors our pursuit of collective liberation.** We are committed to the long-term journey of providing resources and advocating for the progress towards personal reform and systemic justice; with our BIPOC & LGBTQ+ communities guiding the evolution of our service.



As providers, we understand that knowledge and access to resources are central to achieving upward mobility. It is imperative that we not only educate our community about systems of oppression, but also that we provide intentional programming to harness all of this learning in reflection.

In solidarity with the many intersecting identities we bear, we know that healing from generational trauma begins once we consciously validate each other's sense of belonging. Art is limitless in terms of how to define it, and in the ways it allows us reconnection to our most humane inner selves.

Holistic Creative Engagement programming, by design, asserts and advocates for environmental structures that are conducive to the ongoing process of institutional de-colonization, which is necessary in order to thrive!

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## The Art Hive

Grounding itself as an open art studio and space for community, this is the foundation for healing-centered programming in the Doorway Project, and the basis for **Holistic Creative Engagement** at UDYC.

Different engagement levels, based around both identity and community are offered, and provide paid opportunities. Art Hive serves as a liaison to resources for housing, education and employment through both short and long-term engagement



**\$17,000**

Total grant funding received for Art Hive:  
Vulcan Foundation, \$10,000; Robert Chinn  
Foundation, \$5,000; Foundry10, \$2,000

**\$3,000**

UW Campus Sustainability Fund &  
Resilience Lab: Resilience seed grant  
for BLOOM @ UDYC

models. This is done through internships with **Doorways & POC Street Arts** and mentorships through **Next Steps**.

## BLOOM @ UDYC

Community members learn about food, nutrition and ways to nurture and connect with plants and each other through this UW grant-funded community garden project with the mission of “*growing food for Self, Spirit & Community.*” This work expands upon and applies the lessons of Los Angeles-based Black Master Gardener Ron Finley.. This will also include the work of curating traditional culture recipes, making plant medicine, and ancestral conjure.

## The Hair Shop

Dedicated to empowering young individuals of color who seek to grow, style, and sustain their own hair, The Hair Shop illuminates a sense of pride and grounds participants with cultural education, including field trips and building connections in their communities.

We provide access to salon equipment and hands-on learning in both group and individual training via community partnerships with local barbershops and hair salons.



## Real Talk Thursday

A weekly forum used to facilitate a book club & critical dialogues centered on history, social justice, identity development and healing.

## UDYC's Podcast

Through the power of telling stories, we can enlighten others, heal, and strengthen connection.

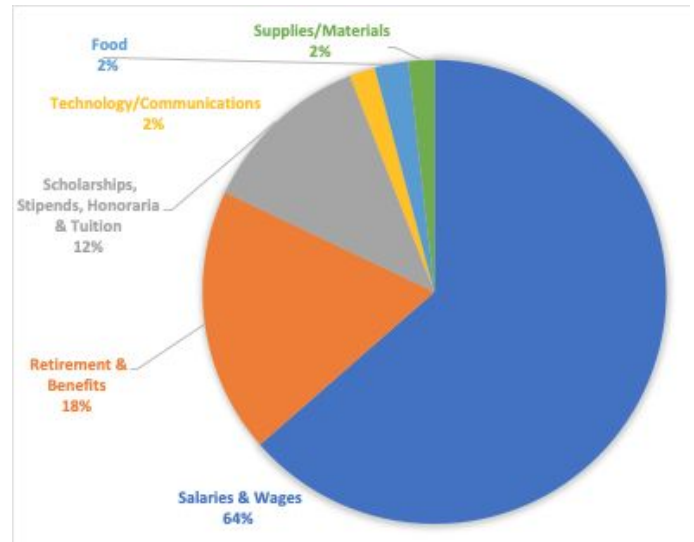
Starting with the **Juneteenth 2020 publication of our first episode**, this weekly forum will engage service providers and participants in conversation about relevant factors impacting the communities we uphold. Our goal is to expand awareness and network via our episode streams.

# Financial Highlights

Fiscal year July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020

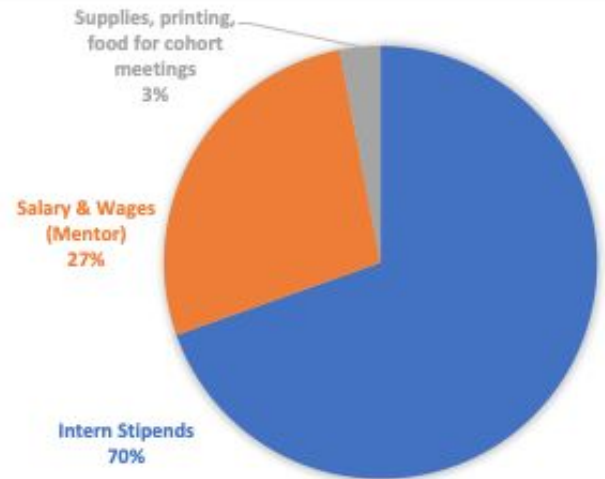
## UW

Salaries & Wages	\$ 127,113.18
Retirement & Benefits	\$ 37,006.73
Scholarships, Stipends, Honorary & Tuition	\$ 23,991.90
Food	\$ 4,698.92
Supplies/Materials	\$ 3,612.96
Technology/Communications	\$ 3,576.31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 200,000.00</b>



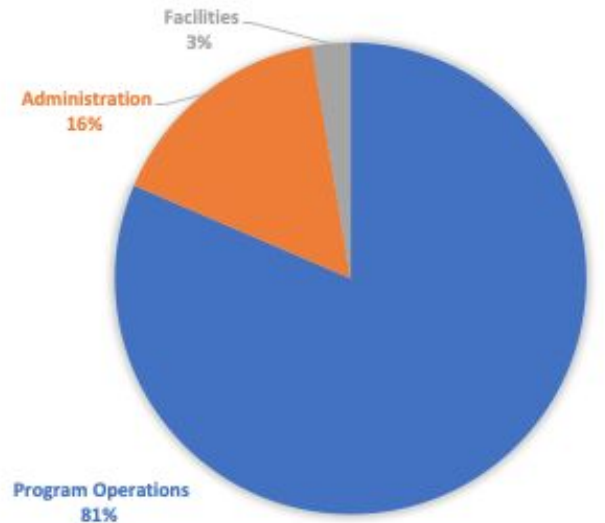
## Carlson Center UCBI

Intern Stipends	\$ 32,000.00
Salary & Wages (Mentor)	\$ 12,600.00
Supplies, printing, food for meetings	\$ 1,400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 46,000.00</b>



## **YOUTH**CARE

Program Operations	\$ 203,633.00
Administration	\$ 39,752.00
Facilities	\$ 6,615.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 250,000.00</b>



**Doorway Project Total Spent \$ 496,000.00**

**Total Funds \$ 500,000.00**

# STAY CONNECTED.

We welcome the support and engagement of new friends and partners in our mission to improve services for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness in the U District. Here are a few ways you can learn more and stay connected.

[DoorwayProject.org](http://DoorwayProject.org). This is our main tool for sharing out quarterly project updates, service hours, student research projects, photos from community events, and resources of all kinds.

Find and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) by searching “Doorway Project Seattle” or through our website.

# THANK YOU!

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If you can't tell already, this project would not exist without the enormous support and collaborative efforts of our campus and community partners.

- ROOTS Young Adult Shelter
- Seattle Public Library - University Branch
- Teen Feed
- Street Youth Ministries
- Sanctuary Art Center
- University Family YMCA
- UW HaRRT Center
- Urban@UW's Homelessness Research Center

...and so many more!



We are so grateful to engage in this work with you all. Thank you!



the  
doorway  
project

**YOUTH  
CARE**

**W**  
UNIVERSITY *of*  
WASHINGTON



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WASHINGTON