



# **2023 IMPACT REPORT**

## **SUMMER SEARCH SEATTLE**



We envision a world in which young people, regardless of circumstances, have the opportunity to fulfill their potential and lead their families and communities to thrive.



# SUMMER SEARCH SEATTLE 2023 REVIEW

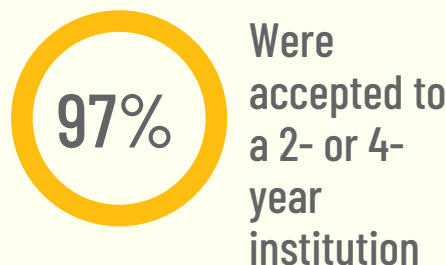
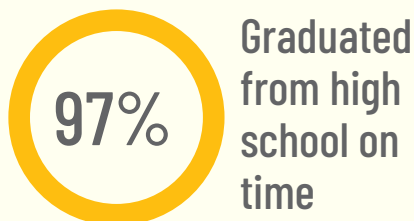
As the new Executive Director (since July) of Summer Search Seattle I have been so impressed by the amazing dedication and passion of our team in directly helping 310 young people unleash their potential and soar.

It's been a year of incredible growth with our **biggest sophomore enrollment ever!** This growth and the staff to sustain it has provided us great momentum for 2024 as we celebrate our 20th anniversary of service and **commitment to our young people for life.**



**Lakesha Knatt**

*Executive Director,  
Summer Search Seattle*



**692 SOARING SUMMER SEARCHERS!**



## Savannah, Seattle Alumna & Entrepreneur

*"I'm embodying No Ceilings because this past year I started a company with my good friend. As Black women in Marine Science, we both faced similar barriers and decided that we could do something to create space for ourselves and for others in the field.*

*Overall, starting a company was a little bit scary, but I'm so glad that we did it and removed the ceiling to the box that we were confined in."*

Savannah is the co-founder of Sea Potential LLC, which cultivates a full cycle of Black Indigenous People Of Color representation in maritime. Through healing activities and ocean justice conversations, they focus on fostering youth appreciation and connection to marine ecosystems, in addition to transforming the maritime industry with inclusive workplace culture.

# HIGH SCHOOL & MENTORING



## Full Time Mentors, Full Time Support

97%

of Class of 2023 seniors graduated from high school.

Our team of 5 highly trained high school mentors provide unbiased and unwavering support of our students as they chart their path through high school and into adulthood.

154

High school students served.

Milestone!

This year saw the biggest high school sophomore enrollment ever of 75, which is 30 more than last year. Thanks to our community support we were able to hire more mentors to fill the need and keep our long term commitment to supporting our students.

85%

of Class of 2023 seniors matriculated to a post-secondary program.

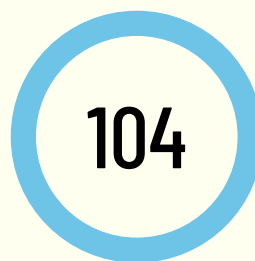
# OUTREACH



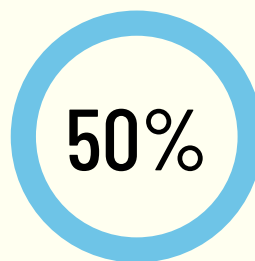
## Growing Our Impact

Our success and impact starts with outreach! 2023 was a banner year in program interest where we had the most applications in our history at 104. We added additional outreach staff to support our growth to ensure all applicable students have the guidance they need to enroll in our program. 2023 was also the first year our team emphasized increasing engagement with males of color, which saw great gains as well with a 50% increase over 2022 of black males completing an application.

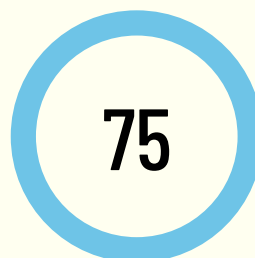
It truly takes a community to ensure we reach our participants and make the biggest impact possible. We work closely with four high school districts in South King County and their supportive staff to reach as many students as possible.



Completed applications for our program.



Increase of black male applications over 2022.



New students fully enrolled and retained.

# SUMMER PROGRAMS

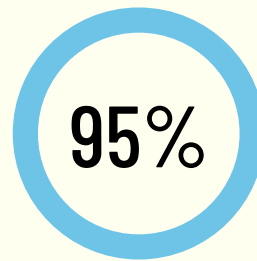


## More Engaging Experiences

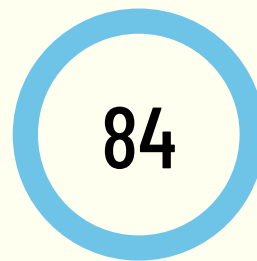
Summer programs are challenging and life changing experiences that support the inner strength and confidence our young people need to overcome any obstacle in life.

In 2023 we continued to diversify our experiential offerings with camps focused on a variety of skills in business, healthcare, and technology while also sending students to places like Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, and Fiji for free.

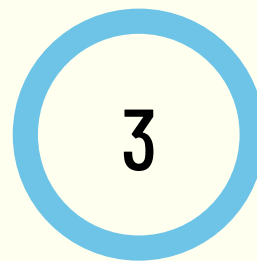
The Impact of Summer programming was bigger than ever with program engagement exceeding pre-pandemic levels. Our staff team worked hard in ensuring students have programming that is of interest to them while also providing them an opportunity to step out of their comfort zone.



of students said their trip was a positive turning point in their life



Students completed a Summer Program



international locations participants visited for free!  
(Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Fiji)

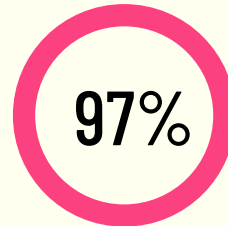
# POST-SECONDARY PROGRAM



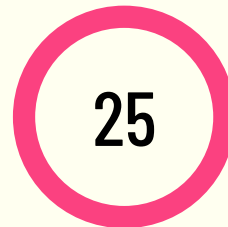
## Supporting all pathways and all dreams

As Summer Searchers graduate high school they have so many decisions to make. The transition into adulthood can be overwhelming and confusing. Our post-secondary mentors are experts in helping students with practical resources and providing emotional support as students step out and chart a path to achieving their dreams.

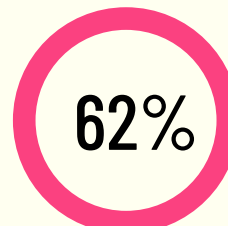
New this year!  
Our students asked for more career support and we answered by hiring a Career and Internship Navigator to support the career aspirations of our students through workshops, career coaching, networking opportunities and more.



of seniors were accepted into a 2- or 4-year college.



Students received 1:1 career support and coaching



Graduate from college within 6 years after high school compared to 21% of their peers.

- COLLEGE
- CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
- GAP YEAR
- JOB/INTERNSHIP
- MILITARY

# ALUMNI

*(Summer Search) helped me get to college and helped me manifest the life that I have today. I don't think I would've been anywhere near as accomplished as I am at 31 without the support of Summer Search believing in me at a young age.*



**Sumeet Chadha**  
Former Chair of SE Alumni Board  
Senior Marketing Manager of  
Amazon Prime Video

## Summer Search Has Your Back, For Life!

The impact of our program and our support doesn't end when Summer Searchers graduate from the program. We stay connected and committed to alumni through our online community Summer Search CONNECT. All alumni know we have their back and are ready to support any chapter in their life to ensure they are always thriving.

We love our alumni! Summer Search Seattle alumni and our alumni board are some of the most engaged and active alumni in the summer search network. Many give back to current summer searchers through mentoring (3 staff are alumni), career networking support, event volunteering, and so much more.

**80%**

of alumni feel 'optimistic' about future job opportunities, compared to the national average of 65%.

**<\$20K**

The majority of alumni hold debt of less than \$20K compared to \$50K for adults aged 22-35 who borrowed money for college.

**3X**

Alumni are 3x more likely to report well-being consistent with 'flourishing' compared to national sample.



# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

## New Executive Director

Our new Executive Director, Lakesha Knatt started in July of 2023 bringing with her a wealth of knowledge and expertise. Prior to her work at Summer Search Lakesha served as the Regional Director of the College Success Foundation and also lectured as an adjunct professor at the school of Social Work at Seattle University.



## Summer Search Alumni Summit

Every few years Summer Search hosts an Alumni Summit, which brings together all of our alumni to share stories, develop skills, reflect, and build connections with each other. This year's event was hosted in Boston and featured three days of engaging and empowering activities that left a lasting impact on everyone in attendance.

## Alumnus Makes 30 under 30 List in Forbes Magazine

Summer Search Alumnus Savannah Smith has been making waves in Seattle and nationally with her business Sea Potential, which was co-founded by her and friend Ebony Welborn. The mission of Sea Potential is to increase BIPOC representation in the maritime industry through youth programming and consulting work. We are proud of Savannah's work and Summer Search Seattle is engaged in discussing partnering with Sea Potential by offering their programs to future Summer Searchers.



## Programs Fully in Person

With the pandemic fully behind us 2023 marked the year we brought everyone back together in person for all of our events and programs. Staff and students alike spoke to the increase in engagement and deepening of relationships between all students. It was truly refreshing to be back together again, and we look forward to more in-person events throughout 2024.

# OUR PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

We are profoundly grateful for our generous network of partners and supporters—high schools, referral partners, summer experience providers, corporate partners, foundations, and donors—who have continued to make Summer Search a priority. Their support, whether financially or through donation of services or goods, has been exceptional.

## Your Investment Uplifts...



**First-Generation  
Firsts**



**Entrepreneurs**



**Experiential  
Learning**



**Critically-Conscious  
Leaders**

## THANK YOU TO OUR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS!

2a  
Gates Foundation  
BIPOC ED Coalition of WA  
BNI Foundation  
BNSF Foundation  
Discuren Charitable Foundation  
Dunn Lumber  
Ellison Foundation  
Emerald Inc  
Expedia Inc.  
Harnish Foundation  
Insurance Industry Charitable  
Foundation

K&L Gates  
Kawabe Memorial Fund  
KC Finish Inc.  
LPL Financial Foundation  
Lucas Interior  
Lydig Construction  
MJ Murdock Charitable Trust  
Medina Foundation  
Microsoft  
OAC Services  
Oceanstar LLC  
Panera Bread  
Pantheon

Parker Smith and Feek  
PwC  
Russell Family Foundation  
Liberty Mutual Foundation  
Silver Family Foundation  
Studio AM Architects  
Tango Card Inc.  
The JEM Project  
The Mary See Foundation  
The Seattle Storm  
T-Mobile  
Tulalip Charitable Fund  
Washington State RCO

# VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP



These volunteer leaders come to Summer Search in service of working collaboratively to actualize our collective vision. They represent program alumni, diverse professional and personal backgrounds, and varied expertise. We are so grateful for their service!

## ALUMNI BOARD

Bao-Chao Do<sup>^</sup>, Interim Board Chair  
Associate, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation  
Melen Yemane<sup>^</sup>, Vice Chair  
College Access Counselor, Opportunities for a better tomorrow  
Mohamed Abdi<sup>^</sup>  
Councilman, City of Tukwila  
Shabazz Abdulkadir<sup>^</sup>  
Consultant, Jeylani Urban Solutions  
Tigist Abebe<sup>^</sup>  
Strategic Site Coordinator, YMCA  
Mysonne Brown<sup>^</sup>  
Benefits Hub Coach, Americorps  
Elizabeth Galvan<sup>^</sup>  
Counselor Intern, Renton School District  
Van Nguyen<sup>^</sup>  
MD Candidate, UW  
Jessica Par<sup>^</sup>  
Academic Advisor, UW  
JayJay Pastores<sup>^</sup>  
Academic Advisor, Seattle Central College  
Jaylin Prescott<sup>^</sup>  
Clothing Entrepreneur

*These lists recognize those who served on Summer Search Seattle during Fiscal Year '22 (Oct. 1, 2021 to Sep. 30, 2022).*

Board List Key:

\*National Board Member

<sup>^</sup>Alumni



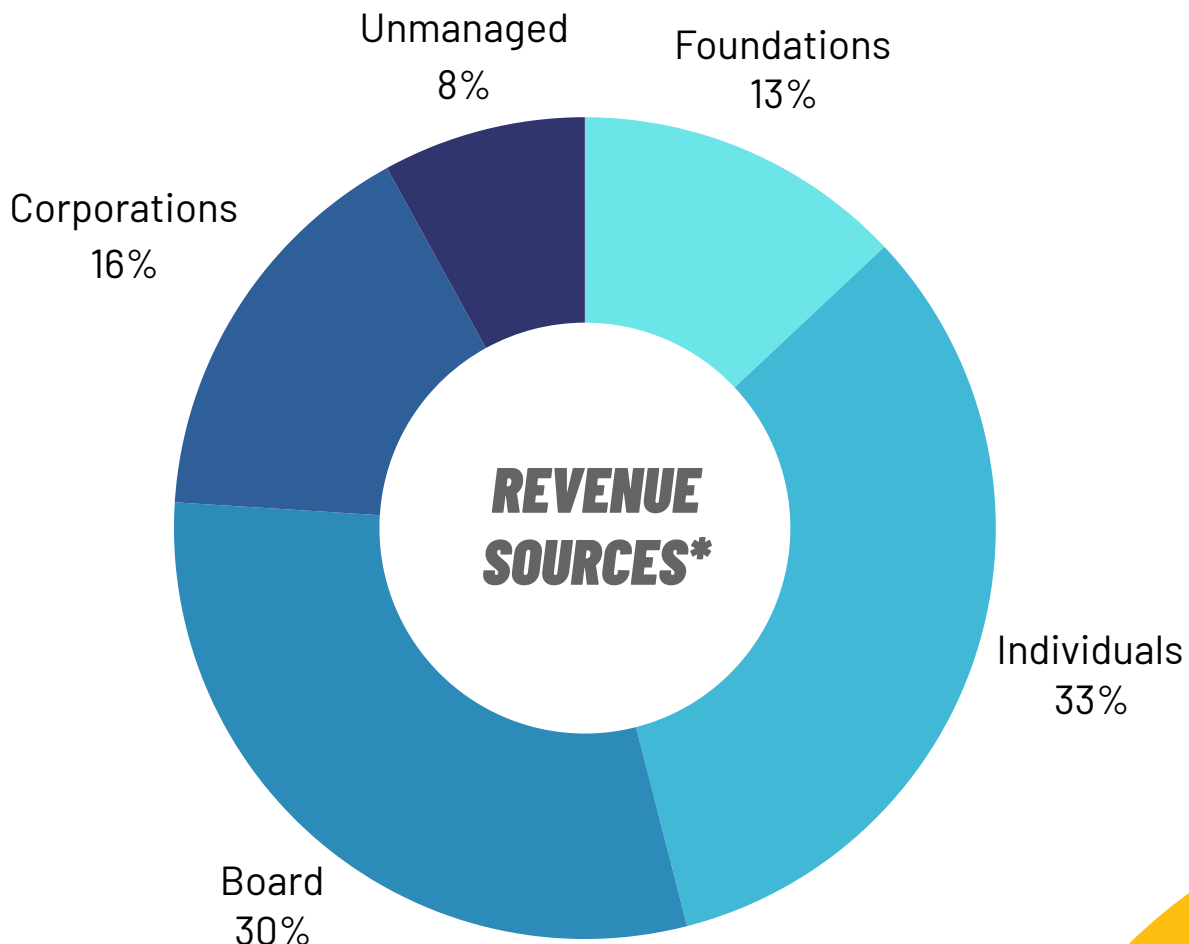
## SEATTLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erik Toth, Board Chair  
Principal, Toth Construction  
Suzanne Eberhard\*, President  
Community Volunteer  
Elizabeth Laughlin, Vice President  
Chief Revenue Officer, Daily Harvest  
Andy Johnson, Treasurer  
President- Western Region, Lydig Construction  
Rachel Tausend, Secretary  
Partner, K&L Gates  
Marie Angeles<sup>^</sup>  
Director of DEI, Nature Conservancy WA  
Jane Barker  
Senior Research Scientist, Amazon  
Neil Bretvick  
Shareholder, Hellam Varon  
Ian Courtnage  
CEO, Evergreens  
Fran Erskine  
Senior VP of Tax, Expedia Group  
Elissa Fink  
Retired, Tableau  
Kate Hudson<sup>^</sup>  
Director of Communications, PCC Community Markets  
De'Andre Jones<sup>^</sup>  
Director of Alumni Engagement, Seattle University  
Michele Janes  
Sr. Vice President, Client Services, VISA  
Jean Lee\*  
Partner, PwC Advisory Services  
Christina MacDonald  
Head of US Product Legal, Tik Tok  
Bryan Smith  
Managing Director and Head of Office, BlackRock Seattle  
Nicci Pannier Trovinger  
Director of Product Marketing, Microsoft  
Alisa Gutierrez Vitello  
Community Organizer

# FINANCIALS

In FY23, our supporters - made up of dedicated individuals, businesses, and foundations - came together to invest in our work and the young people we partner with. Our development team worked with our generous community of support to secure the funding needed to continue our work and strengthen our future. Locally we raised just over \$1.8 million, which is over 100% of our baseline revenue goal.

Please note that volunteer service, while equally important as financial investment, is not reflected on this slide.



\*Excludes national shared revenue

Financials for  
Fiscal Year '23  
(Oct. 1, 2022 to  
Sep. 30, 2023).



***THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR SUPPORT***

