AFRICATOWN COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

BLACK EQUITY TAKES ROOT

Annual Report 2020
Africatown Community Land Trust's mission is to acquire, develop, and steward land in Greater Seattle to empower and preserve the Black Diaspora community.

Vibrant and thriving Black communities through land ownership
On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire staff at Africatown Community Land Trust (ACLT), thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.

Though significant forces seek to displace and erase our voices, heritage, and presence, we have persevered in our work to sow the seeds of a thriving Black community in Seattle, which is taking root with new development projects spanning the Central District.

When we started on our mission in 2016, we drew inspiration from the past accomplishments of Black pioneers and their struggle to create legacy institutions that nurture our community. Emerging from the Black Seattle 2035 planning process, ACLT was established to acquire and steward land on behalf of the Black community and to help the African diaspora grow and thrive in place for generations to come.

With this vision firmly established, ACLT was well positioned to turn the tragedy brought about by the pandemic and the racial reckoning sparked by national uprisings into an opportunity for Seattle to make good on long-overdue promises of Black equity.

As the community came together to demand justice for Black Seattle, ACLT stressed the urgent need to make long-term, sustainable impact through land acquisition, access to capital, and control over the resources that impact our lives.

Throughout 2020, we addressed the acute health and financial crisis in our community by distributing over $100,000 in COVID assistance and by providing training and technical assistance to Black businesses. We also witnessed the fruits of focused and sustained community advocacy, including securing Fire Station 6 as the new William Grose Center for Cultural Innovation and rescuing the former Keiro Center from predatory development to give it a new future as a full block of community assets.

Together, we celebrate the success of our first development, the Liberty Bank Building, which has provided much-needed affordable housing and commercial space for Black legacy entrepreneurs. We remain committed to creating bridges back to the Central District for displaced Black businesses and homeowners while continuing forward in building the infrastructure for a new normal rooted in equity.

While we have much more to achieve, we are grateful for the progress that we have made and appreciate your generous contributions to bringing our collective vision to life.

We look forward to another year of growing this future together.

Sincerely,

K. Wyking Garrett
President & CEO

Margo Jones
Chair, Board of Directors
Real Estate Development

In the midst of the economic devastation in 2020 caused by the pandemic, social unrest, and a divisive political climate, ACLT forged ahead with its mission and continued to set the pace as a leader for Black equity in Seattle.

ACLT has five real estate projects in the pipeline that will provide affordable housing, retail space for black-owned businesses, and culturally relevant community services and programming while preserving the Central District’s Black heritage.

Africatown Plaza
24th Avenue and E Spring Street

Africatown Plaza is a significant asset in Seattle’s equitable development landscape with features that will make it an arts and cultural destination for the Black community in addition to providing much-needed affordable housing. The seven-story, mixed-use building will offer a community room, office and retail spaces, and apartments for households earning up to 60% of Seattle’s area median income.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS
126

COMMERCIAL SPACE
2,364 SF office
589 SF commercial

PROJECTED DATE OF COMPLETION
Fall 2023
ACLT Community Home at Keiro
16th Avenue and E Yesler Way

In a big win for the community, Africatown stakeholders and King County Equity Now mobilized to prevent the former Keiro Center from being another landmark of displacement and predatory development in the Central District. By acquiring this full block, prior to the redevelopment of the site, the ACLT Community home will make use of the existing facilities to address Seattle’s homelessness crisis. The Community Home will provide culturally responsive resources in order that groups disproportionately affected by homelessness can have access to safety, stability, and a road to recovery.
William Grose Center for Cultural Innovation

23rd Avenue and E Yesler Way

Housed in the iconic Fire Station 6 building, the William Grose Center for Cultural Innovation will be an economic incubator that supports entrepreneurship and workforce development. In honor of early Seattle Pioneer, real estate developer and founder of the Central District, William Grose, the center will carry his legacy into the future with an emphasis on innovation through training the next generation of tech leaders.

PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

COMMERCIAL SPACE
4,211 SF

PROJECTED DATE OF COMPLETION
February 2022
Youth Achievement Center
MLK Way S and S Angeline Street

Half a mile south of the Central District, the Youth Achievement Center’s (YAC) dual-building design will be a source of stable housing and wrap-around services for court involved youth. A shared mission to interrupt the school to prison pipeline has brought ACLT to serve as developer on the YAC project led by Community Passageways and Creative Justice’s existing programming and outreach.
Walker Street Development
Walker St

ACLT continues to move forward with feasibility requirements for the Walker Street development, projected to offer the opportunity for affordable homeownership in the Central District for formerly displaced Black residents.
COVID Response
ACLT responded quickly to the immediate needs of the community during the pandemic, connecting residents to support services and resources while directly distributing over $100,000 in COVID relief funds.

Business Assistance grants
Seattle businesses that received seed funding grants of $1000

PPP Loan Workshops
ACLT co-sponsored workshops to support businesses in accessing PPP funding

Rental Assistance
Amount of grants given for rental assistance

Food Program
Food distributed weekly to community members in collaboration with the Emergency Feeding Program and Def Chef Kitchen during COVID relief efforts
**Property Development Meetings**

Several community meetings were held in support of ACLT’s goal to preserve Black property ownership in Seattle. Targeting property owners facing displacement, resources were provided to address their particular challenges including repair and maintenance costs as well as managing mortgage and property taxes.

**Liberty Bank Building (LBB) Resident Services and Events**

ACLT supports community engagement to help LBB residents with specific issues and concerns and to empower them to make a positive change in their lives and in their community. Residents are frequently invited to take part in on-site community building events including healing circles, social brunches, guest speaker forums, and resident meetings.

**King County Equity Now**

In 2020, King County Equity Now emerged from ACLT as a collective of community organizations and stakeholders calling for $1 Billion to support an anti-displacement and land acquisition plan for the Black community. KCEN called for publicly-owned vacant land to be transferred to Black ownership and raised more than $600,000 for direct investment into Seattle’s Black community.
ACL T thanks our generous donors for their ongoing support.

City of Seattle
Communities of Opportunity
Crescent Collaborative (Formerly Yesler Community Collaborative)
Enterprise Support, Section 4
Equitable Development Initiative
Group Health Foundation
Homestead Community Land Trust
Kaiser Permanente
Satterberg Foundation
Seattle City Light
Ways to Give

Donors can help ACLT by making an investment in Black equity. There are several ways to give.

**ONLINE**

africatownlandtrust.org/support/aclt

Become a monthly investor by checking the “make my donation recurring” box

**BY MAIL**

Africatown Community Land Trust
1437 S Jackson St
Seattle, WA 98144

**BY PHONE**

Development Department
206-886-2797

**WORKPLACE GIVING**

Donate through your employer
Submit a matching gift

For more information, email development@africatownlandtrust.org