FROM THE BOARD

2016 presented many reminders of the challenges our society and environment are up against. It was also a reminder of the collective power we have to create positive change in our community. It was a year of strong progress toward solving some of our community’s most pressing concerns and we are proud to share a few of those stories here in our first annual report.

This year, Confluence Environmental Center Staff and Board supported the amazing work of two programs. The AmeriCorps Program entered its 6th year and the Fellows Program completed its 2-year partnership with Green Lents. We witnessed 24 individuals develop as leaders of environmental justice and it was an incredibly rewarding and visible reminder of the change we can manifest in our communities.

Fall 2016 marked the welcoming of a new cohort of 24 Members to our AmeriCorps and Fellows programs. From providing environmental programming to underserved communities to building capacity with Friends of Gateway Green and Green King, these Members and Fellows will spend the next 11 months implementing a wide range of environmental and social justice programs around the Portland area.

Financially, we raised over $670,000 to support our programs and improve Confluence’s efficiency and effectiveness. We also welcomed two new Confluence Board members, Michael Oliver and Ismael Armenta, and continued our partnership with Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute in Moscow, ID.

In the coming year, we are excited to hire our first Executive Director, through a grant from Meyer Memorial Trust. Our Executive Director will focus on solidifying our programs, diversifying our funding streams and deepening our connections to the communities we serve.

We want to thank all of you for your ongoing support, with a special recognition to our amazing partners and grantees – we couldn’t do any of this without you.

Laura Guderyahn
Board President

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

4,163 VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED A TOTAL OF
23,469 VOLUNTEER HOURS

10,549 ADULTS PARTICIPATED IN
752 ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS
56% of participants identify as being low income or a person of color

7,952 YOUTH PARTICIPATED IN
689 ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS
57% reside in a low income community or a community of color

31,600 TREES AND SHRUBS PLANTED

237 ENVIRONMENTAL SITES MANAGED
86% of sites serve low income communities or communities of color

Confluence Environmental Center
5441 SE Belmont Street
Suite 25
Portland OR 97215
confluencecenter.org

2015-16
The Confluence AmeriCorps Program completed its fifth year of programming in 2016 and what a year it was! Here are a few highlights:

We recruited 20 Members dedicated to service, environmental issues and social justice. The Professional Development Series focused exclusively on diversity, equity and inclusion, providing Members with information and tools to understand oppression, build culturally-specific relationships, and develop community-driven projects.

Our Member-led team meetings were great opportunities for Members to gain skills while building partnerships with groups such as Voz and Portland Mercado. On MLK Day, Members partnered with Playworks to spend quality time with active and cognitively-challenged seniors from local retirement communities.

One of our favorite Change Agent Projects was aptly titled “Face Forward”. Designed by Xiao Xiong, in collaboration with the Bradley-Angle House, this confidence-building workshop supported domestic violence survivors as they re-entered the workforce.

We couldn’t do any of this without Project Partners who mentor their Members and deepen their organizational equity work. We are excited to support the current team in their efforts to make the environmental movement more diverse, equitable and community-driven.

Lara Jones
AmeriCorps Program Director

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**AMERICORPS PROGRAM**

**PARTNER SPOTLIGHT**

**DRIVE OREGON**
PARTNER SINCE 2015-16

Drive Oregon is one of our newest partnerships and already they are doing great work to bring Electric Vehicles (EV) into low-income communities and communities of color. With the direction and support of their AmeriCorps Members, they are now conducting an equity analysis of their projects (Hacienda CDC EV car-share program), their policies (EV rebates and hiring practices), and processes (staff trainings, talks and internal equity audit). It is inspiring to see this organization embrace this work and we look forward to supporting them into the future.

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**KELLYN BAEZ**
WATER RESOURCES TECHNICIAN, 2015-2016
CLEAN WATER SERVICES

Having Kellyn on our team was such a joy. She worked hard to build a relationship with the Community Alternative Learning Center in Forest Grove, bringing students out to do watershed restoration projects. Also, she and Jesse, her fellow teammate, partnered with the Boys and Girls Club to help youth get out into nature. They even drove a truck-full of Mt. Hood snow down to the center! After Confluence, Kellyn was offered a position with Clean Water Services where she now mentors two Members currently placed in the Watershed Management Department.

Lara Jones
AmeriCorps Program Director

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“**I have become more self-aware, gained a variety of professional and organizational skills and have a much more rational perspective on tough issues like equity. I will aim to always be aware of the inclusivity of a project, action, decision and affect.**”

Kellyn Baez
15-16 AmeriCorps Member with Clean Water Services
With lots of persistence, planning and fundraising, the Fellows Program was born in 2015. The Fellows Program began with a question: what do small grassroots environmental organizations need in order to pursue their mission and help their communities?

A major piece of the puzzle is providing capacity building at an affordable rate. Thus, the Fellows Program was born and we learned new and innovative ways to build capacity in emerging, environmentally focused organizations in underrepresented neighborhoods.

2016 marked the completion of a 2-year relationship with Green Lents. With the help of 7 Fellows over 2 years, Green Lents made tremendous progress in increasing their organizational capacity and strengthening their existing programs, such as the tool library, pollinator habitat and the Malden Court Community Orchard. The Green Lents board doubled in size, the first staff member was hired, and new partnerships led to an increase in revenue.

As we wrap up our partnership with Green Lents we want to express our appreciation for all their support. We carry these skills with us as we welcome our 2017 partners - Friends of Gateway Green and Green King. We’re looking forward to building new relationships and helping them achieve their goals through the hard work and innovation that comes with having a Fellow on site.

Amie Diffenauer
Fellows Program Director

FELLOWS PROGRAM

The Fellows Program was instrumental in setting up Green Lents for success as a small organization that can strategically and effectively make a positive influence with all members of the community we serve.

Jalene Littlejohn
Board Chair, Green Lents

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FINANCIALS

**REVENUE**

- Partner organizations: $260,696
- Federal AmeriCorps Award: $341,988
- Donations and Contributions: $1,706
- Foundation grants: $68,537

Total: $672,927

**EXPENSES**

- Program: $537,782
- Administration: $102,361
- Fundraising: $0

Total: $640,143

**GRANTS**
- The Collins Foundation
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
- Dant Family Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
- Katharine Diack Fund of the Oregon Community Foundation
- The Gray Family Foundation
- Meyer Memorial Trust
- Oregon Volunteers
- Ride Connection
- Jim and Patty's Coffee People
- Lara Jones
- Lori Avis
- Matt Honoré
- New Seasons Market
- NE Tool Library
- OMSI
- Portland Nursery
- St. Honore Bakery
- SCRAP
- Stumptown Coffee Roasters
- Whole Foods Market
- Zupan's Market
- Drive Oregon
- Friends of Gateway Green
- Green King
- Green Lents
- Growing Gardens
- Johnson Creek Watershed Council
- Multnomah County, Transportation
- Multnomah County, Health Department
- Multnomah County, Office of Sustainability
- National Wildlife Foundation
- Oregon Food Bank
- Portland Community College, Rock Creek
- Portland Community College, SE Campus
- Portland Community College, Sylvania
- Portland Parks and Recreation
- Portland Public Schools
- Sandy River Basin Watershed Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trash for Peace
- Trillium Charter School
- Washington County, Solid Waste

**CONTRIBUTORS**
- Birds and Bees Nursery
- Bowery Bagels
- Burgerville
- Don Pan Bakery
- Fred Meyer
- Grand Central Bakery

**PROJECT PARTNERS**
- Adelante Mujeres
- Association of NW Steelheaders
- Clackamas County, Resource Conservation
- Clackamas County, Transportation
- Clean Water Services
- City of Gresham, Solid Waste
- City of Portland, Environmental Services