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GET INVOLVED
Friends and relatives,

I am honored to be writing this note to introduce you, dear reader, to our first ever annual report! We have been making huge strides as an organization and 2019 was a culminating year where so many years of hard work and dedication paid off on multiple fronts. From our daylighting project with Phalen Creek to the development of Wakáŋ Tipi Center to our ongoing monthly programs - we have a lot to celebrate.

We hosted so many fresh, new and innovative programs led by our staff and community experts. We strengthened existing partnerships and forged new ones. And two years after a board resolution to become Native-led, 2019 made that goal a reality with the permanent hire of a Native executive director and onboarding two new Native board members.

It was an exciting year full of firsts and we have no intention of slowing down! We hope you enjoy this recap of our year and continue to join us in this incredible journey. Our circle of support has made all of this possible - we are so grateful to have earned the confidence and trust required to lead this work.

With gratitude,

Maggie Lorenz
Executive Director, Lower Phalen Creek Project
Lower Phalen Creek Project is a 501(c)(3) Native-led environmental nonprofit serving the East Side River District area of Saint Paul. Over the past 20 years, our major projects have included the establishment and restoration of Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, creating local trail connections, and rain garden installations. One of our longest-standing efforts is the restoration – or “daylighting” of Phalen Creek, which runs from Lake Phalen to the Mississippi, and was buried underground in a storm pipe nearly a century ago.

Alongside these conservation projects, LPCP recognizes that the East Side also has deep cultural roots, in particular, as the homelands of the Dakota People. Our latest project honors these roots and the Dakota site in Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Wakáŋ Tipi (Dwelling Place of the Sacred) with the development of Wakáŋ Tipi Center; a 9,500 sq ft cultural and environmental interpretive center to be located in the Sanctuary.
1997
East Side and Lowertown community activists create Lower Phalen Creek Project (LPCP) to reclaim and restore a parcel of neglected Dakota land containing the sacred site Wakáŋ Tipi Cave.

2005
Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and its 6 ecosystems are opened to the public after volunteers removed 50 tons of trash and 13 tons of contaminated soil.

2011
LPCP begins the process of creating Wakáŋ Tipi Center, a cultural and environmental interpretive center at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.

2015
In addition to being awarded a $3 million bonding bill for the construction of Wakáŋ Tipi Center, LPCP officially becomes a Native-led organization.
1. Wakáŋ Tipi Center
A first-of-its-kind cultural and environmental interpretive center.

2. Wakpá Thaŋká
Before industrialization and widespread settlement, the river connected Phalen Creek, Wakáŋ Tipi, Makhápaha, and the people to each other in a web of reciprocal relations.
BRUCE VENTO NATURE SANCTUARY

Warner Rd
Commercial St

4. Wakáŋ Tipi Cave
- Floodplain forest
- Dry prairie
- Oak savanna
- Oak woodland
- Bluff prairie
- Spring-fed stream and wetlands

3. Imniža ska
- Dakota name for the area of Saint Paul. The word refers to the white sandstone bluffs found in Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and along the Mississippi River.

4. Wakáŋ Tipi Cave
- Dakota oral history tells us of the sacred beings who dwell within this cave and as such we honor these spirits through our language. Wakáŋ Tipi means *Dwelling Place of the Sacred.*
Lower Phalen Creek Project offers monthly public programming in the areas of urban conservation, environmental education, and cultural connections and healing.

Lower Phalen Creek Project has led numerous projects on the East Side including the reclamation and restoration of 27 acres of abandoned wasteland (now Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary) installation of rain gardens, and bike and pedestrian trails and connections. In 2019, we partnered with the City of Saint Paul and local school and youth groups to tackle invasive species, introduce more native plants, and contribute to thriving East Side green spaces.
Knowledge is a critical component to the protection and support of recovering ecosystems. We rely on a growing network of passionate ecologists, naturalists, and Native community members who share their cultural and traditional ecological knowledge to help us share this work with our community. Programs include our annual Pollinator Festival, seasonal activities like winter wildlife tracking, and regular visits from school groups of all ages.

- Dakota Waniyetu Winter Walk storytelling
- Native Plants Walk at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary
- Birding Walk at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary
- Nature Photography Walk at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary
- Pollinator Festival
- Winter Bird Count
- Harding High School Field Trip
- Upper Mississippi Academy Field Trip
- Golden Eagles Field Trip
- Great River School Field Trip
All of our work — at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, at Swede Hollow Park, and throughout the East Side — takes place on Dakota land. It is our duty to honor and care for this land with the perspectives, language, and culture of the Dakota people at the forefront of our work. To this end, we host a variety of programs that reinforce the relationships Indigenous people have with these spaces, including Dakota star knowledge teachings, water walks, and land acknowledgments.

- Community Discussion about the City Hall Murals
- Dakota Waniyetu Winter Walk storytelling
- Swede Hollow Dakota Park Tour
- Why Treaties Matter: Opening Event
- Why the history of Treaties Matter
- Why Treaties Matter: Dislocation, Violence, and Resettlement
- Why Treaties Matter: What We Should Do About Educating
- Wakan Tipi Center Community Conversation at the Dakhóta Omníciyé: Thokatakiyá Máni Pi
- Dakota History Walk at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary
- Native Plants Walk at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary
- Wakáŋ Tipi Center: Community Visioning
- Wakan Tipi Walk
- Land Acknowledgment Event
- Harding High School Field Trip
- Golden Eagles Field Trip
- Great River School Field Trip
- Upper Mississippi Academy Field Trip
1774 people engaged

31 programs offered

5 youth field experiences at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary with a focus on Dakota storytelling and environmental education.

293 youth served through our field experience programs
On May 22nd 2019, a group of 20 Native students from Harding High school joined us at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary for some restoration work and environmental and cultural education. St. Paul Parks and Recreation joined us to provide some environmental education while we brought in Rowen Immanuel and Fern Renville to assist in cultural and traditional ecological knowledge. Together, these students planted and put in over 100 sage plugs, 15 chokecherry shrubs, and 10 juneberry shrubs. All of these are Native plants with deep cultural significance for the Dakota people, the first people of Minnesota. These students, and our staff, left with a deeper understanding of our culturally important plants and what it means to be in relation with them.
On Indigenous Peoples Day 2019, Lower Phalen Creek Project teamed together with the Native Governance Center to bring the community an event about Indigenous Land Acknowledgement. Hosted at Metropolitan State, this was an evening filled with great conversation amongst an amazing panel of Native professionals, elders, and youth. Our panelists, Dr. Kate Beane (Flandreau Santee Dakota and Muskogee Creek), Mary Lyons (Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe), Rose Whipple (Isanti Dakota and Ho-Chunk), Rhiana Yazzie (Diné), and Cantemaza (Neil) McKay (Spirit Lake Dakota) encouraged folks to always do their homework when exploring Land Acknowledgements. They highlighted how pivotal it is that everyone does the work to know the history of the land we reside on, learn about the treaties, incorporate Native languages in all of our practices, work towards returning the land, and always uplift the hard work that our Native community members are doing. Through this event, our community learned that a land acknowledgment is never a one-step process, but accompanied by action, it can be a tool for education and forming relationships with local Native communities.
In March and April of 2019, we teamed up with the East Side Freedom Library to host a series of events that highlighted the Why Treaties Matter exhibit. This exhibit, developed by the Minnesota Humanities Center, explored the complicated history of treaty negotiations, agreements, and violations here in Minnesota. While the East Side Freedom Library so lovingly hosted the exhibit, we were pleased to partner with them to organize a series of public events that explored not only our historic relations to treaties, but also our present and future relations. On March 24 we hosted our opening event that welcomed Native dance, drum, and singing from Wakinyan Luta Oyanke and Oyate Teca while learning more about treaties from Dakota elder and historian, Chris Mato Nunpa. On Sunday, March 31, we hosted our second event, Why the Histories of Treaties Matter. This event, facilitated by Lakota language teacher, Barry Frantum, uplifted the voices of our Native youth as a panel Dakota and Anishinabe relatives explored their views and relationships to treaty history. Our youth panelists did an incredible job conveying the importance of knowing your history and the land you reside on. On April 14 we hosted our third event, Expropriation, Dislocation, Violence, and Resettlement, that served as a conversation between Native community members and members of immigrant and refugee communities. And finally on April 28 we hosted our closing program, Why Treaties Matter: What Should We Do About this History, which focused on current issues such as Indian Mounds Park, the City Hall murals, and the names of public buildings and spaces for perpetrators of genocide against Native peoples.
Lower Phalen Creek historically flowed out of Lake Phalen, meandering for about four miles through what is now the East Side of St. Paul, emptying into the Mississippi River on the far side of Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. This creek served as a corridor for the Dakota people who lived here, as they made their way up the chain of lakes by canoe to White Bear Lake - one of many areas where they gathered wild rice. By the 1930’s, the creek was sent entirely underground in a large storm pipe to make way for housing and other development.

In January of 2019, LPCP contracted Interfluv Inc. to complete an initial water feasibility study to determine the optimal areas to daylight the creek. Two stretches of the creek came out as most viable: (1) Johnson Parkway between Maryland Ave. and Phalen Blvd. (Reach 7), and (2) Along the Bruce Vento Regional Trail between Frank Ave. and Swede Hollow Park (Reach 5). The restoration of this creek is the namesake and inspiration that started our organization back in 1997 and after more than 20 years, that vision is still a driving force in our work and we are excited to continue!
As Lower Phalen Creek Project began to work towards the restoration of the 27-acre site now known as Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, the incredible story of Wakāŋ Tipi, a cave nestled in the base of the bluff at the far east end of the Sanctuary, began to unfold. The cave (also known as Carver’s Cave) is a site of great cultural and historical importance in the region, but this history is little known, and there is a lack of accessible information available. Through research and site studies, the significance of this place as a Dakota Sacred Site became unmistakable; sharing the story and protecting the site became paramount.

LPCP began to reach out and build relationships with local Dakota community members as well as the four federally recognized Dakota communities in the state. Over the course of time, LPCP made an intentional decision that the stories of this place should be told by Dakota voices. A 2017 survey of local residents and park users revealed a great desire for authentic Dakota interpretation of this site and a history and perspective of the area through an Indigenous lens. The same year, the organization resolved to become Native-led. In 2018, LPCP was awarded $3 million in bonding funds from the State of Minnesota to design and build Wakāŋ Tipi Center; a cultural and environmental interpretive center to be located at the entrance to Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, approximately one mile west of the sacred cave site.

2019 was a huge year for the development of Wakāŋ Tipi Center. After securing $3 million in state bonding in 2018, our work in 2019 shifted to raising the remaining $4.7 million required to complete this $7.7 million project. We created a capital campaign committee, selected and hired an architect - Cunningham Group and Full Circle Indigenous Design - and hired a Director for Wakāŋ Tipi Center, Maggie Lorenz. We assembled a Dakota-led steering committee to complete pre-design and raised $860K from private donors and foundations.
PHIDAMAYAYE!
THANK YOU!

Wakáŋ Tipi Center Pre-design Team
▸ Thomas Draskovic
▸ Mark Kahn
▸ Chip Lindeke
▸ Maggie Lorenz
▸ Sam Olbekson
▸ Mary Kay Palmer
▸ Chris Stark

Community Advisory Committee
▸ Joe Bendickson
▸ Mishaila Bowman
▸ Nolan Berglund
▸ Jerry Dearly
▸ Franky Jackson
▸ Janice LaFloe
▸ Maria McCoy
▸ Crystal Norcross
▸ Ethan Neerdaels
▸ Sam Odegard
▸ Jim Rock
▸ Cheyanne St. John
▸ David Woods
▸ Michael Kurtz

Thank you,
Wakáŋ Tipi Center Donors!
▸ Anonymous
▸ Driscoll Foundation
▸ F.R. Bigelow Foundation
▸ Margaret A. Cargill Foundation Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation
▸ Hardenbergh Foundation
▸ McKnight Foundation
▸ McNeely Foundation
▸ The McNeely Foundation Fund of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
▸ Metropolitan Council Parks Equity Fund
▸ National Endowment for the Humanities
▸ Nicholson Brothers Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation
▸ Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
▸ Gordon and Jeanne Shepard Family Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation
▸ The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
▸ State of Minnesota

WAKÁŊ TIPÍ CENTER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

$4,039,455 2018

$4,899,255 2019

$7,700,000 Total campaign goal
## STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSE

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<td>Support Services</td>
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<td>Management &amp; General</td>
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<td>Total Expense ($)</td>
<td>232,060</td>
<td>232,665</td>
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## STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Without Donor Restrictions</td>
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<td>Total Support and Revenue</td>
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<td>Total Expense</td>
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<td>Change in Net Assets</td>
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<td>Net Assets- Beginning of Year</td>
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<td>1,083,051</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets - End of Year ($)</td>
<td>229,634</td>
<td>1,771,973</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

|                  | Without Donor Restrictions | With Donor Restrictions | Total |
|                  | Without Donor Restrictions | With Donor Restrictions | Total |
|                  | Without Donor Restrictions | With Donor Restrictions | Total |
| Total Support and Revenue | 387,905               | 688,922               | 1,076,827 |
| Total Expense    | 232,060               | -                     | 232,060  |
| Change in Net Assets | 155,845               | 688,922               | 844,767  |
| Net Assets- Beginning of Year | 73,789               | 1,083,051             | 1,156,840 |
| Net Assets - End of Year ($) | 229,634               | 1,771,973             | 2,001,607 |
## Statements of Financial Position
### December 31, 2019 and 2018

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<tr>
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<th>2018</th>
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<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
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<td>Current Assets</td>
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<td>Property - Net</td>
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<td><strong>Total Assets ($)</strong></td>
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<th><strong>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</strong></th>
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<td>Current Liabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Without Donor Restrictions</td>
<td>229,634</td>
<td>73,789</td>
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<td>With Donor Restrictions</td>
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<td>Total Net Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities and Net Assets ($)</strong></td>
<td>2,025,804</td>
<td>1,171,620</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STAFF AND BOARD

DAN MCGUINESS  
Board Chair

THOMAS DRASKOVIC  
Secretary

CYNTHIA WHITEFORD, JD
MAGGIE LORENZ  
Executive Director  
& Wakáŋ Tipi Center Director

MISHAILA BOWMAN  
Communications  
& Outreach Coordinator

BONITA JENNÉ  
Financial  
Coordinator

CHIP LINDEKE  
Treasurer

NEW 2019 BOARD MEMBER  
PATRICE KUNESH, JD

NEW 2019 BOARD MEMBER  
DR. KATHERINE BEANE
We gratefully acknowledge the support of the following people and organizations. We work hard to ensure that all of our donors are thanked and recognized. Please contact Mishaila Bowman at mbowman@lowerphalencreek.org for any corrections.

$50,000 +
Anonymous

$25,000 - $49,999
Bush Foundation
Katherine B. Andersen Fund of The Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
McNeely Foundation

$10,000 - $24,999
Anonymous
Capitol Region Watershed District
Nexus Community Partners

Northwest Area Foundation
Bruce F. Vento Science Educator Scholarship Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation

$5,000 - $9,999
BNSF Railway Foundation

$2,500 - $4,999
Charles P. and Mary E. Belgarde Foundation
Headwaters Foundation for Justice – Earth Cloud Fund
Nicholson Family Foundation

$1,000 - $2,499
Kerry Campbell and Chip Lindke
Inter-Fluve Inc.
Peter Gove
Melanie Kleiss Fund of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation

$500 - $999
Bremer Bank
James and Karen Frisell Family Foundation
Stuart and Mary Ellen Knappmiller
Patrice H. Kunesh
Landmark Environmental LLC
Mairs and Power

$500 - $999

Family Fund of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation
Cynthia Whiteford and David Nelson
Dan and Nan McGuiness  
Paul Mohrbacher and Ruth Meany Murphy  
Jean Rivard

**$250 - $499**
Maggie Arzdorf-Schubbe  
Christine Baeumler  
Robert Bierscheid  
Stewart Crosby  
Nichole Fairbanks  
Mark Harrison  
Jennifer Halcrow  
Karen and Stephan Kistler  
John E Larsen  
Weiming Lu  
Patrick Nunnally  
Mary Kay Palmer  
Bill R. Zajicek and Romi Slowiak

**$100 - $249**
Kathleen Anglo  
Virginia Arthur  
Sierra Asamoa-Tutu  
Peter Berrie  
Shelley Buck  
Chris Cardozo  
Carol and Cliff Carey  
Jane Carlstro  
Anne Carney  
Oriane Casale  
Merritt Clapp-Smith  
Sarah and Whitney Clark  
Shawn Dobbins  
Thomas Draskovic  
Rick Duncan  
Kevin Earley  
John Erler  
Shirley Erstad  
Cardina Esparza  
American Indian Family Center  
John Fetzer  
Sue Gens  
Nor Hall  
Jay and Page Cowles  
Timothy Johnson  
Jacob Jurss  
Mark Kahn  
John Kaul, Jr.  
Mary Kunesh-Podein  
Kathy Lantry  
Rayanna Lennes  
Lewellen Donor Advised Fund of Fidelity Charitable  
Elizabeth Griffin and Don Lorr  
Rob Mairs  
Erin Murphy  
Christina Ogata  
Jane Prince  
Karen Reynolds  
Paul Sawyer  
Luverne Gerald Seifert  
Tracy Sides, PhD MPH  
Victoria Slagle  
Craig Smith  
Jennifer Somers  
Russ Stark  
Ernie Steck  
Teri Thao  
Dan Titcomb  
Thomas J. Triplett  
Sherry Van Duyn  
Don Varney  
Tony Vavoulis  
Joshua Wasniewski  

**Up to $100**
Anonymous  
Monica B  
Carly Badheartbull  
Kate Beane  
Joe Bendickson  
Charissa Blue  
Gina E. Bonsignore  
Jeffrey Borden  
Alice Bowron  
Angela Brown  
Nicole Marie Buck  
Ruth Campbell  
Carol Carey  
Lisa Carlson  
James C. Davis  
Chelsea and Tyler DeArmond  
Barbara Elfrstrand  
Bethany Esse  
Nicole Emerson  
Bill Fullerton  
Alicia Garcia  
Cynthea Gillespie  
Andy Gitzlaff  
Maren Hancock  
Stephanie Harr  
Julia Hobday  
Tonja Honsey  
Cole Red Horse Jacobson  
Edward Jackson  
Mimi Jennings  
Jessica Lackey  
Doug Limon  
Maggie Lorenz and Barry Hand  
Richard J Martinez  
Chris Mato Nunpa  
Elizabeth McCray  
Peg Meyer  
Kaela Meyers  
Jeffrey Miersch  
Karla Miller  
Gary Noren  
Sam Olbekson  
Thomas O’Sullivan  
Carrie Owen  
Dorothy Paddock  
Robert Pilot  
Imants Pone  
Tristan Price  
Peter Rachleff and Beth Cleary  
Victoria Reinhardt  
Peter Rowell  
Tatiana Semenova  
Alicia Smith  
Mona Smith  
Promise Starr  
Rose Stenglein  
Mary Texer  
Susan Tietjen  
Angie Tillges  
Anna Waugh  
Lark Weller
Hello! My name is Carissa and I am a local historian in St. Paul. My love for the natural world, along with the call to be an ally and supporter of Indigenous communities, brought me to volunteering with the Lower Phalen Creek Project. What I have enjoyed the most is the sense of family and unity that LPCP brings to any event it hosts and to any event it shows up to support. Wopida tanka to the whole team that is Lower Phalen Creek Project.

Carissa Thomas, Volunteer

We have an opportunity here to give a strong presence to the Dakota community, who have been pushed out. What is great about this site is that it’s a former industrial site that’s being reclaimed as a nature sanctuary, but also that Dakota People are regaining part of their identity.

Sam Olbekson, Architect, Full Circle Indigenous Planning and Cunningham Group

Urban Roots youth interns have been working at Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary since the park was established, helping to do restoration. I want me, the youth that I work with, and the community that we interact with, to better understand the Dakota cultural significance of this site as well.

David Woods, Urban Roots Conservation Program Manager
“Having the opportunity to work with the architect and other stakeholders early in the design process not only opened the door for cross cultural dialog to take place, it created a welcoming environment for interested parties to come together and express shared interest toward long term preservation goals for this incredibly important place that so many of us treasure. One of the key components for successful consultation is having willing partners, we here at the PI THPO look forward to strengthening the relationships we have created with our friends at Wakáŋ Tipi Center/ Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and extend our gratitude for this wonderful opportunity.

Franky Jackson, Compliance Officer Prairie Island Tribal Historic Preservation Office

“I really enjoy being outside so I liked the field trip to Bruce Vento to plant. One thing I learned that really stuck with me is how to plant trees effectively, you have to make sure to plant it flush with the ground and loosen up the roots. The environmental part was inspirational to me; knowing that one day what I planted will grow and turn into something more that will prosper. It also made it feel special to plant these trees at a sacred site. It was a phenomenal experience that anyone can do and get involved with. I want to continue to be involved with this kind of work.

Cruz Novotny, Harding High School volunteer
WHAT'S NEXT?

2020 GOALS AND FUTURE ASPIRATIONS

In 2019 we made enormous headway on our two major projects and 2020 we will continue that work by moving from pre-design into schematic design with our Wakáŋ Tipi Center project and begin our work with an interpretive planner to help us flesh out the stories we will tell at the Center. We will continue our community engagement with Daylighting Phalen Creek and begin work on a technical feasibility study for a specific stretch of the creek along Johnson Parkway. Our 2019 annual board retreat planning meeting calls for an additional full-time Program Manager position that will develop, manage, and implement our Conservation and Environmental Education programs. We have a lot of amazing opportunity that lies ahead. We couldn’t be more excited to dive in!

SOCIAL MEDIA NUMBERS 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Facebook</td>
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<td>Instagram</td>
<td>193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>2,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

FOLLOW US and Sign Up for our Newsletter
2019 has been a year of great success for Lower Phalen Creek Project and none of it would have been possible without support from our volunteers, partners, donors, and engaged community members like you! Help us keep this momentum going as we venture into the years to come.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
lowerphalencreek.org
to sign up for our newsletter

FOLLOW US
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