2020 annual report

gratitude to our staff, board, and funders

the transformation of our programs

the internal growth of Powerful Voices
At Powerful Voices, 2020 has been a year of building, re-imagining, and of homecoming. This is the most difficult year we have faced as a community, and it has taken our collective resiliency to navigate COVID-19, a challenging presidential election, the turmoil and righteous uprising of Black Lives Matter protests, and more. We are so proud of all that our community has accomplished, but more than that, we are so proud of the ways we have all reimagined what it means to be in unity with one another.

This year has shown that in times of difficulty, the Powerful Voices community will continue to show up for Black and brown girls* and their communities.

*A GIRL IS ANYONE WHO IDENTIFIES AS ONE!
To say 2020 was a year of rapid and intense change is an understatement. This past year transformed us all. We were lovingly, and at times violently compelled to grow beyond limits we perceived as fixed and insurmountable. We uncovered strengths in ourselves and our communities that proved just how radically necessary community care is and how immensely resilient BIPOC communities are. We began our individual and collective journeys back to ancestral ways of surviving, caring and understanding the natural rhythms of life. Nothing that exists in opposition to the greater good is built to last and the true power lies within people, not institutions. The year 2020 showed us how expansive the digital landscape can be and that our imaginations can be spaces of great conceptual healing. 2020 was a year of homecoming.

Over this past year, Powerful Voices has overcome some major challenges in response to internal transitions and global calls for equity and justice that were necessary to bring the organization back into alignment with our core values.

- We paused our programs to invest in our BIPOC staff more intentionally while we adjusted to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our programs team took time to listen to the young folks we work with and better understand what they need to feel supported and connected through our programs.
- In response, we created a self-care toolkit called Powerful Packets and distributed several dozen comfort kits to youth in spring of 2020.
- Following the success of the Powerful Packets, we launched a new 8-week summer program called Care4U that focused on youth mental health and resilience practices. This program featured a women of color therapist panel where youth could ask questions about therapy and address concerns and misconceptions about mental health and resources that are available.
- We also came together as an organization and reflected on our anti-racism values and developed a statement in solidarity with the liberation movement for Black lives. In response to the uprisings that followed the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, we felt it was time to be more vocal and deliberate about our commitment to racial justice.
Throughout these changes, we grew our Powerful Voices family to include a Program Specialist, Donor Relations Manager, and Program Director (later Executive Director), two of whom are returning members.

2020 may have been a year of tumultuous social, environmental, and political upheavals, but it has also been a year that has challenged many of us to reach beyond the isolation of quarantine to maintain connection and belonging in our communities. This year urged us to come together through Mutual Aid efforts, calls for collective healing and community care, and demands for those who benefit from white supremacy, capitalism, and patriarchy to be accountable before desires for unity can be realized.

This reckoning and the healing that will follow gives me hope that the work we do in creating brave spaces rooted in transformative justice with BIPOC girls and gender non-conforming youth will impact the future of this nation and many others for generations to come.

In the spirit of anti-racist movements dating back centuries, our revolution starts at home. Will you join us?

In solidarity,

CHIMAERA
Executive Director
Sitting down together to create self care plans was really helpful! Building in time on my planner to practice self care made it more likely for me to do it.

- Care4U Participant
This year was also the 25th Anniversary of Powerful Voices! We celebrated this amazing milestone and fundraised for our future at our (virtual) Annual Luncheon on October 24, 2020. With over 200 supporters, we raised $75,000 for young girls* of color in the Pacific Northwest. Thank you to everyone who attended and made this luncheon so successful!

In 2021, we are excited to launch three exciting new programs to meet the needs and interests of young people in our community. Keep a lookout on the Powerful Voices social media and website to support these new programs when they launch!

Through our partnership with the United Way of King County and our participation on its Racial Equity Coalition, we have dispersed over $46,000 to over 70 BIPOC households in King County!

Thank you to all of our donors, sponsors, partners, and grantors who make our work possible.

WE TURNED 25!

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$622K OUTCOME
While we intentionally lightened our programs as we transitioned to virtual work, we have been working on building a strong foundation for the next 25 years of Powerful Voices. Hiring new staff members, establishing new protocol and procedures, moving to a new office in Beacon Hill, and more have all been part of this process. We are ecstatic to continue our growth as an organization from a place of stability. By far, our most exciting update of the year was the hiring of our new Executive Director, CHIMAERA.

THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING STAFF + BOARD

- **CHIMAERA**
  - Executive Director

- **ASHA ABDULAHI**
  - Program Specialist

- **AISHA AL-AMIN**
  - Donor Relations Manager

- **TAYLOR WELLS**
  - Programs Specialist

- **RAINA ENRIQUE**
  - Programs Specialist

- **UYEN VU**
  - Operations + Capacity Building Manager

- **JORDAN FARALAN**
  - Communications + Community Engagement Manager

- **RITASHA PRASAD**
  - Board President

- **RACHEL PARK**
  - Secretary

- **EBONY BOOKER**
  - Vice President

- **HILLARY BEHRMAN**
  - Director

- **MORGAN DAWSON**
  - Director

- **ASHLEY THOMAS**
  - Director

- **KAYLA S. LEWIS**
  - Treasurer

- **KIMBERLY HOLLINS**
  - Board Education Chair

- **AISHA B. KASALI**
  - Director

- **VANNESSA RIVERA**
  - Director

- **KIA GUARINO**
  - Director

- **AISHA B. KASALI**
  - Director

- **NICOLE SIRIVANSANTI**
  - Director

- **CYNTHIA DAVIS-VANLOO**
  - Director