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In 2021, we experienced tremendous change and growth while our community faced unprecedented numbers of murders, violence, legislative attacks, and disregard. We’re still feeling the effects of the pandemic and our community is more vulnerable than ever. **Despite their attempts to erase us,** we have made astounding achievements because of your consistent and generous support. Together, we’re building a strong network of allies and accomplices invested in the safety, protection, and advancement of **Black Trans Liberation.**
In 2021

Our greatest achievement was the investment in the leadership of our **Black Trans Task Force**.

The task force is now the leadership committee of the entire organization, composed of the majority of our staff, who ensure our work is rooted in the protection of Black trans life. As many of you know, our **WA Black Trans Task Force** are community organizers, artists, and healers who have worked to shift our organizational model to marry Black movement organizing with nonprofit programming.

**Our team has worked tirelessly to build a new model of nonprofit work, grounded in Black and Trans praxis, and centered on the liberation and protection of Black Trans femmes.**
Towards the end of 2021

We saw the onslaught of the beginning of a malicious, yet effective, campaign to use the lives of trans youth and Black trans girls to win elections. These attacks follow a pattern of tired and tried strategies of bigots to attack the most vulnerable, the low hanging fruit, to make inroads on a strategy that will take away the rights of trans people to exist. We have seen this before in the 1960’s in the U.S. South: the targeting of children in hopes of undermining movements towards civil rights and freedom. These aggressors have no regard for life, for the life of children, and although the risks to these children are clear to these children, they do not care. They did not care on September 15, 1963 and they do not care now. Their only concern is the subjugation of women, people of color, and LGBTQ people.

Let us be clear, they are coming for all trans and nonbinary people, all Black trans femmes, and ultimately all women of color.
This attack is about regulating bodies, and asserting the right of a certain people to control and regulate gender and femininity. It is not coincidental that attacks on women’s reproductive rights coincides with these current attacks. If they succeed, women’s rights, in general, will be on the chopping block.

**We are a resilient people, and their plans will not succeed, but these next four years will result in the hyper-visibility of our community. Our team is concerned that the collateral damage will be Black trans women and girls.**
In 2021, we prepared ourselves for this fight. We have been preparing ourselves to resist. Our resistance will not be just a fight, it will be ensuring that we thrive in the midst of this war on our bodies. Thriving means celebrating the wisdom and beauty of who we are and who we have been.
Following the leadership of our Black trans staff, Lavender Rights Project built the following infrastructure in 2021, three areas of impact to disrupt violence in our community:

- Gender-Based Violence Prevention
- Economic Justice
- Housing Justice

We are collaborating to create a safe, sanctuary city, county, and state for Black trans and trans non-binary people.
Lavender Rights Project began writing a curriculum for transgender competent bystanders, building a network of community responders, and advocated with King County for housing justice for trans people, and especially Black trans people. We continued our advocacy with the City of Seattle and the State of Washington for housing, safety, and wellness for our community.

Our staff understands that the law will not lead to liberation in our community; however, there are basic protections and avenues for restorative justice through the law. In light of this realization, we have shifted our legal services to serve our community, focusing more on our civil rights cases, and keeping our sights on cases that might develop into impact litigation. We are developing a wraparound care model in legal services that takes care of the needs of our clients while they seek reparations from harm through political influence and litigation.

We have grown our understanding of organizing to include direct services, especially because we are asking Black trans people to lead the work. We need our community to be fed, housed, and thriving in order to build a base of movement organizers that will assist in this work of liberation. Internally, we have expanded benefits and steadily increased the salaries of those leading this work and externally built a mutual aid program for our fellow community leaders.
2021 Highlights

Black Trans Thriving Platform for legislative change in the city of Seattle to be replicated elsewhere.

Participated in and won a push to shift 16 million dollars of jail funding in the city of Seattle to housing for Black gender diverse persons.

Worked closely with partners on the introduction and passage of HB5313

Grew our legal services for the Black community in general, and specifically Black trans persons.

Developed a new mission, vision, and inspirational logo for the organization.

Distributed $116,136.71 of mutual aide and rental assistance relief to Black trans and gender diverse persons.

In collaboration with other LGBTQ+ legal orgs, an Amicus Curiae brief for protection of trans kids.
Statement of Activities

Revenue

Total: $2,119,724
Individual Donations - $445,142.04
Non-Profit & Foundation Contributions - $317,958.60
Corporate Sponsorships - $127,183.44
Non-Government Grants - $678,311.68
Government Grants - $360,353.08
Fee for Service - $169,577.92
Misc - $21,197.24

Direct Aid Given Out to Black
EXPENSES

Total: $1,484,441
Programs: $1,202,397.21
  Direct Services - $445,332.30
  Legal Services - $400,799.13
  Policy and Legal Advocacy - $192,977.36
  Housing Advocacy - $74,222.06
  Fiscal Sponsorship - $89,066.47
Management and General: $133,978.11
Fundraising: $148,067

Programs: 81%
- Direct Services
- Legal Services
- Policy and Legal Advocacy
- Housing Advocacy
- Fiscal Sponsorship

Management and General: 27%
Fundraising: 10%
Other: 9%

Trans Community: $116,136.71
Donors in 2021

**Grant Funders**
BECU
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
City of Seattle
Group Health Foundation
King County Department of Community & Human Services
Marie Lamfrom
Legal Foundation of Washington
Pride Foundation
Satterberg Foundation
Seattle Foundation
Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness
Social Justice Fund
Solidaire Fund
WA Department of Commerce
WA Office of Crime Victims Advocacy

**Corporate Sponsors**
Asian Counseling & Referral Service
Bakery Nouveau
BECU
Beneficial State Bank
Black Coffee NW
Buffalo Exchange
Cafe Demeter
Catholic Community Services LA
Digital Manatee
Economic Opportunity Institute
Fiamma Burger
Freedom to Thrive
Ideo
Impact Assets
Kulu Cloth
La Fiamma Pizza
Legal Voice
Mbar
Molly Moon’s Homemade Ice Cream
Ostara Consulting Group
Parametric Portfolio Associates LLC
Phi Pottery
Plz Come Again Music Productions
Puget Sound Drag Club
Rain City Fit
Rudy’s Barbershop
Saturna Capital Corporation
Sod House Bakery
Starbucks LGBTQ Cohort
Woodinville Unitarian Universalist Church

Major Donors
Estate of Neil Patrick Powers
Sam McVeety and Jordan Goldwarg
David Almeida
Erica Hieggelke

Individual Donors
1,670 individual donors in 2021

Satterberg Foundation
Seattle Foundation
Social Justice Fund Northwest
“Lavender Rights Project has been a lifesaver many times over. Whether it's been rent and housing assistance, connecting with other resources, or creating a space where community is prioritized. I wouldn't have made it through the pandemic in the same shape if not for their proactive assistance and guidance.”

- Direct Services Client

“Thank you for working on my case. I can't tell you how it feels to be able to move on with my life, and to not have to constantly think about this.”

- Legal Services Client

“LRP helped me more than any other org I have worked with. It made me feel seen and cared for while reminding me I'm not alone in this world that wants us gone. I would not be where I am without them, I would still be homeless and starving living out of my car on these streets, and I thank them everyday for what they have done.”

- Direct Services Client
“Working in housing has opened my eyes to the foundation of hope that a secure, safer, and sound home can do for a human’s quality of life. It personally felt like an honor and privilege to carry on the visions of Black trans people that have trusted me to do this work.”
- Ebo Barton, Director of Housing Services

“Being a part of LRP almost feels like a lifeline for me, to at least impart a smidge of organizing and focus into this much needed work. And to be around folks who understand the weight of carrying around a genocide that’s visible but invisible at the same time.”
- Akoth Ombaka, Deputy Director
“But when I see our clients get the assistance they’re looking for... especially when they see it's from someone just like them in the community. That's power. That’s hope. That gives me the energy to keep going, keep doing what I am doing here at LRP. And it's one of the best damn feelings in the world.”

- Nicole Perry, Paralegal

“If you’re well-connected and know a lot of people, how can you help amplify information and calls to action? Everyone can play a huge part in the liberation of QTBIPOC. We just have to actually start doing it. We don't have to be anyone other than ourselves to get involved in these causes. We are enough. Let's do this, community.”

- Randy Ford, Major Gifts Associate
“The legal system is often a barrier to true justice. The law itself, however, can be used as a tool for creating pathways to liberation. We take a more holistic approach to justice-seeking, including legal advocacy and wrap-around services by and for our community. We are committed to centering Black trans women and femmes in our services, always. We are committed to systemic disruption, but not at the expense of the basic needs of our community. We are now committed whole-heartedly to Indigenous solidarity and decolonization.”

- Jaelynn Scott, ED

“What fuels me every day is my desire to utilize the skills I have to serve the Black trans community, and that the work I am doing alongside my colleagues is making a direct impact. With Lavender Rights Project, I get to blend my love of events and hospitality with a mission that encompasses my whole heart: uplifting Black trans women and femmes. The idea that I can have access to spaces that will make tangible change is something that I have been longing for. In my opinion, there is crossover in the hospitality work and the community work that I do—where I can create something that has value, that has impact, that has a takeaway for folks to feel seen and engaged.”

- Angel Patterson, Development & Communications Associate
Programs

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Gender-Based Violence Prevention

In 2021, we cultivated a relationship with King County to take deeper steps towards disrupting gender-based violence. Our internal staff focus group built out a value system and plan for taking direct action in the coming years. Their efforts came to fruition with the hiring of our Gender-Based Violence Prevention Community Engagement Manager (GVBPCM), Mahkyra Gaines. Mahkyra then began clarifying and activating our strategic plan to address our areas of focus:

- Disrupting violence against incarcerated gender diverse communities of color and changing policies in King County Jail to protect and provide dignity to trans people housed there.
- Amplifying advocacy efforts to end violence against Black trans women and femmes, and bring back power to Black gender diverse community members throughout King County.
- Creating a sanctuary that protects, serves, and develops the culture of Black transgender people in King County, Washington.

Over the course of 2022, our strategic plan for these goals will push our work deeper into the mainstream. We will be launching accessible training programs that will teach allies and accomplices how to disrupt gender-based violence before and/or when it happens. We will strengthen pre-existing relationships for co-learning, co-building, and highlight more historically shadowed voices through new platforms. LRP is committed to making our communities tangibly safer, with measurable change and key metrics that we can share in the coming years.
Black Trans Advocacy

Lavender Rights Project continued to play a pivotal role in the well-being of Black gender diverse communities across the South Sound. Our rental assistance and emergency aid program for Black gender diverse people distributed over $115,000 of support to those in need of assistance with managing Covid, crisis care, housing, medical, and transportation needs. We also provided counseling, referrals, and conducted mediation for 78 Black trans people in crisis.

Our Black Trans staff solidified its role in LRP and became the leadership council of the organization. As a result, they became fully integrated into every department and provided leadership for our housing and gender-based violence prevention program. There were stronger relationships created amongst staff, built at the speed of trust.

During the legislative session, our staff worked alongside other community leaders of color to successfully advocate for state funding that will support Black trans people at risk of houselessness. In collaboration with civil rights advocate and attorney Nikkita Oliver, they developed a Black Trans Thriving platform advocating for Black trans-centered policy initiatives in Seattle and King County. Alongside the QIaw Foundation, we launched a Black trans legal professionals support group that is now meeting monthly. We regularly consulted with other community leaders, implemented their feedback into our services, and expanded networks with national organizations for concurrent action. All of this work was centered on the protection of Black trans life and the strategic liberation of all LGBTQ persons across the country.
Housing

Some of the most important work we did last year was LRP’s community collaborations to form “the House,” a permanent supportive housing facility with specialized services for Black gender diverse people experiencing or at risk of houselessness. To support this work, our leadership council created strong relationships with King County, Chief Seattle Club, and the WA State Legislature. These partnerships have allowed us to begin securing funding and tour properties for our housing facility—slated to open later in 2022.

In collaboration with our development team, LRP ignited a community mutual aid campaign for “The House,” and an overwhelming number of donors gifted furniture and supplies for our future tenants. We were also invited to distribute Emergency Housing Vouchers, which created opportunities for houseless community members to obtain affordable housing. 75% of our applicants were approved, which is amazing!

Lastly, we facilitated a series of workshops with Washington Low Income Housing Alliance (WLIHA), BeSeattle, Washington Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), and BitFocus, which manages a secure online database for homelessness services provided in King County. We contributed to several focus groups on housing and houselessness, like the Health through Housing System Leaders and the Community Partners Roundtable. Our monthly Housing Coalition committee ensured that there were resources available prioritizing Black trans women and femmes in King County.
Programming & Policy

Over the past year LRP has expanded its policy influence and programming in several meaningful ways. We were sought out by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), WA State Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC), and the University of Washington to provide gender and racial equity workshops with an intersectional and disability justice lens. In 2021, we educated over 1500 individuals about working with queer and gender diverse communities, with an emphasis on activating accomplices to protect Black trans women and femmes.

Simultaneously, our policy team worked with other organizers across the state to increase access to transgender healthcare, reduce state auditors fees for name change services, improve the treatment of transgender folks at King County Jail, address basic income equality in Washington, and end solitary confinement in the state. The policy team played a major role in supporting our GBVP programming that launched towards the end of the year.
Legal

In 2021, the legal services department completed a number of name and gender marker changes, including incarcerated persons and transgender minors. We assisted queer families with second parent adoptions and helped protect trans youth. Our team settled several employment law cases, including supporting queer employees who were terminated after organizing against unsafe work conditions. LRP partnered with six smaller and mid-sized non-profit organizations and guided them through internal employee relations policies and practices.

Outside of our standard legal cases, LRP attorneys worked on supporting trans healthcare legislation with other organizers in the community. Separately, we developed and taught two CLE (continuing legal education) courses: one for the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) which covered working through the barriers that insurance companies have created for gender diverse communities, and another about estate planning for trans elders. LRP also had numerous collaborations with the ACLU, Washington Defenders Association, Legal Counsel for Youth, and QLaw.

One of the collaborations resulted in an Amicus Curiae brief for the Washington Court of Appeals that supported trans youth in the foster care system. Lawyer Megan Dawson also joined the WSBA’s Diversity Committee and participated in the Washington State Supreme Court’s Gender and Justice Commission as a member of the Domestic Sexual Violence Committee.
“The work that the Lavender Rights Project is doing is essential and irreplaceable. Not only are they protecting literal life for folks experiencing multiple marginalizations, the LRP team carries, in an embodied, beautiful way, the vision of collective liberation that we all need. My hope is that LRP will have all it needs to thrive for years to come.”

- Candace T.
Your support is critical in the protection of Black Trans Life. When you donate to LRP, you are investing in not only Black Trans Liberation but the liberation of us all! All donations, big and small, bring us closer to creating the world we want to see.

We welcome you to join us in the movement