Funds Distribution Report

Recipient Organization:
Geeking Out Kids of Color

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Organization's General Goals:
Our mission is the liberation of BIPOC youth through technology and mentorship, by developing decolonized tech education programs to nurture community leaders of change.

Date of Award:
2022 Q4

Level:
$500 to $2,500

For more information, please read the attached report from Geeking Out Kids of Color.

TDS-44873

Geeking Out Kids of Color Report to the Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund

On behalf of our team at Geeking Out Kids of Color, thank you to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund for supporting our multicultural technology education programming over the past year. The funding contributed toward a successful year as we expanded our reach to engage more than 380 elementary through college-aged students through partnerships with Seattle, Highline, and Federal Way schools and other youth-serving organizations, including Southwest Youth and Family Services and After-School All-Stars.

Expanded partnerships to engage more youth
This past year, GOKiC established new partnerships with Midway Elementary School in Des Moines and Mount View Elementary School in White Center, both part of Highline Public Schools, and Lakota Middle School in Federal Way to offer students our multicultural technology education programs. GOKiC continued to offer our program in partnership with Southwest Youth & Family Services' New Futures program at King County Housing Authority sites in White Center and Burien. These partnerships were made possible largely with funding GOKiC secured through three distinct projects supported by King County's Best Starts for Kids Expanded Learning Initiative administered by School's Out Washington. Learn more about this initiative and view all the funded projects.

We launched our afterschool program in October 2022, coordinating with the school leadership, teachers, and key staff at our partner organizations to ensure we design responsive and engaging programs connected to students' learning in school. At Mount View Elementary, in addition to the school partnership, we also connected with the other providers offering afterschool classes/programs to coordinate and expand our network. This joint venture with the Highline School District, Arts Corps, Girls Inc., and GOKiC highlights how, when pooling our resources, we have created a program that benefits our community in profound and lasting ways.

We also continued establishing our City of Seattle Supporting Youth and Young Adults for Success-funded Collective Youth program at Chief Sealth International High School, building technology skills and promoting career exploration in tech all through a social justice lens. We renewed our contract with the City of Seattle to continue and grow this program in 2023. We also secured additional multi-year funding through the City of Seattle Department of Early Learning and Education to support this program. With our expanded reach, GOKiC hired additional educators to increase our capacity to serve more youth. The following offers an overview of our impact by the numbers.

- 220 elementary students served
- 105 middle school students served
- 90 high school students served
- 40 college students served
- We served predominantly BIPOC youth - 40% Latinx, 30% Black/African American, 10% Asian, 10% Middle Eastern/North African, 10% Unknown
- Nearly 100% of youth served qualify for free and/or reduced-price meals.
- Additionally, GOKiC purchased new laptops across all sites to ensure students had access to equipment to engage in the technology education curriculum.

Program highlights
Thanks to funding partners, we purchased new laptops and technology equipment at each of our program sites which is critical to teaching our curriculum dependent on specifications to support software we utilize and other equipment such as robots, 3D printers, and more.

GOKiC Enrichment for Elementary and Middle School Students
GOKiC designs a new curriculum each quarter focused on technology skill building and a social justice issue. The following provides examples of the curriculum we taught this past year, adjusting to make it age and developmentally appropriate for our elementary and middle-school-aged students.

- *Immigration Equity in Minecraft*: Students learn about immigration, what it is, the challenges and biases faced in this process, and the importance of it all through the context of playing Minecraft.
- *Counterstories and Visual Novels*: Students learn about counterstories understanding that just because a story is dominant or prevalent does not make it true (model minority myth, poor people are lazy, etc.). Students then learn coding and how to use the counterstories in the visual novel they code.
- *Robots, More Than Just For Fun*: Students build and learn to code their own individual robots and understand their potential uses to help people
- *Using AI/ML: What is ChatGPT?:* Students learn how to use ChatGPT for different purposes as well as explain what it is and how it works, whether it's for personal entertainment, for understanding homework better, or for gathering information.

Over the past few years, we have deepened our focus on social emotional learning in our curriculum design and overall programming. Through our involvement in the Best Starts for Kids Expanded Learning Initiative, we support our staff through the Youth Program Quality Intervention process, an evidence-based continuous quality improvement process that includes an assessment to identify goals and ongoing coaching and training shown to increase quality practices around youth engagement and leadership development. Areas we saw improvement over the past year include creating safe spaces, scaffolding learning, creating an engaging environment, supporting youth interests, and supporting plans and goals.

The following feedback from one of our educators speaks to how our curriculum builds technology skills while supporting the whole child: "Immigration is important to our students and us because most of our students either come from immigrant families or immigrated countries themselves. So it's something that's real, but we also know that it is a heavy topic, so we want to try and explore those things through the world of Minecraft. We want to relate to these students and teach them they're not alone."

Collective Youth Program for High School & College Students
Over the past year, our Collective Youth program at Chief Sealth International High School included various activities and materials that engaged and inspired students. We offered coding projects using platforms like Ren'Py and Tinkercad, which allowed students to explore game development and 3D modeling. Additionally, our interns benefited from hands-on experiences through software internships with a senior software developer at Microsoft, while our high school interns learned about community outreach and creating a safe space for learning through an anti-racist, anti-sexist curriculum.
The program operated at two sites: the University of Washington (UW) and Chief Sealth International High School. The high school location has been ongoing for the past two years, while the UW location

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was launched in the fall of 2022. By forming the Collective Youth Club at the UW, we gained access to valuable resources, including free room rentals, which allowed us to hold meetings, workshops, and events on campus without financial constraints. Additionally, the University provided us with free marketing opportunities to reach a broader student audience, effectively promoting our program and its benefits. The club's establishment also opened doors to funding opportunities specifically designated for student-led initiatives. This financial support enabled us to expand our programming, offer additional resources, and implement new initiatives aimed at closing the digital skill gap and supporting underserved youth.

The following testimonials from some of the students in the program speak to its impact and success in supporting their self-confidence and building tech skills and a vision for their future:

- "The Collective Youth program has been a game-changer for me. As a student of color in a predominantly white institution, it can feel isolating at times. But being a part of this program has given me a community of like-minded individuals who are all striving towards the same goal: success in the tech industry. I have learned so much from my peers, the interns, and the volunteers, and I feel more prepared than ever to pursue my career goals." - Anam, college student
- "Before joining the program, I didn't have a lot of experience with technology. But thanks to the support and guidance of the interns and volunteers, I have learned so much about coding, programming, and other tech-related skills. I now feel more confident about my ability to succeed in a tech-related field, and I'm excited to continue my learning journey." - Fana, high school student

Organizational updates
We recently created a new position and hired a new team member, Lidia Sanchez to serve as our first Program Director. In her role, Lidia will help support the education team in strengthening program quality through updated evaluations, surveys, pedagogy training, and staff development. Lidia will also support new partnerships with other organizations to bring GOKiC to their community through our education team or GOKiC in a box, a new way of offering our program and having people from other communities implement our curriculum, making it accessible to more youth and communities across the country. This new role will provide the support GOKiC has needed to streamline and support our education team as we engage with more partners and reach more youth.

Our work in action
We invite you to view photos and videos to learn more about what makes our unique approach from the voices of our staff and youth we engage in our programs.
- GOKiC's Operations Manager, Maria, speaks to the unique and impactful role of GOKiC as one of the organization's selected as a finalist in BECU's People Helping People Award process
- GOKiC's Facebook and Instagram provide photos and videos highlighting our work.

Again, thank you to Tulalip Tribes Charitable Fund for your support of our GOKiC Hub program this past year, and we look forward to the opportunity for a continued partnership.

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