



NEW COMMUNITY CENTER TO OPEN IN HEART OF SEATTLE FOR YOUNG ADULTS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

December 7, 2022, Seattle, WA -- A group of invested parents and community advocates have come together to create the Summit Community Center (SCC – www.summitcommunitycenter.org) that will open in the heart of Seattle on January 30, 2023. The SCC is being created for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), initially aged 18-29, to fill a void that currently exists in the community and to create a place for young adults of all ability levels to continue learning, growing, making friends, and engaging in the community. Our founding principle is to celebrate these young adults as unique individuals and to recognize the value and contributions they bring to their SCC community and the community at large. We intend for the SCC to grow with this initial population of young adults to be a life-long support system. ***Young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities represent a key marginalized community that deserves quality services, support, and opportunities in order to thrive and the SCC is here to deliver!***

We have hired Alicia Nathan, an expert in transition issues for young adults and passionate advocate for the IDD community, as our founding Executive Director. We have also signed a lease on our initial site right in the heart of Capitol Hill ([Community center for neurodiverse young adults joins plans for Capitol Hill Station | CHS Capitol Hill Seattle](#)) and construction is well underway to prepare for our opening on January 30, 2023. Momentum in the community continues to grow for the SCC, as we line-up key community partners such as Special Olympics Washington, the University of Washington, Seattle Theatre Group, Outdoors for All, and many others to help us fully realize our vision and support all members across our pillars of education, community, recreation, growth, and foster true independence for these young adults.

Local donors and foundations have been incredibly supportive of the SCC, in fact we were just awarded first place and a generous donation from Pitch Your Peers Seattle (PYP Seattle; pitchyourpeersseattle.org), an organization founded to engage women in local philanthropy and to collectively fund grants to nonprofit initiatives that serve King County. By the end of this year, PYP Seattle will have granted over \$900,000 to 17 King County nonprofits since its inception in 2017. This year's grant pool totaled \$242,500, of which ***Summit Community Center will receive \$151,500 as the 1st place grant recipient.***

"Everyone deserves to feel a sense of belonging and purpose and have meaningful opportunities for enrichment. I think the PYP Seattle members saw and felt what I did, which is that the SCC will help to foster these critical elements for the young adult IDD community. It is also incredibly exciting for us to invest in such an important endeavor from the beginning -- I hope and believe that PYP Seattle, both as a membership and as individual members, will have a long and meaningful partnership with Summit," - Aly Burks, SCC Grant Champion, Co-founder and Vice President, Pitch Your Peers Seattle.

Momentum in membership sign-ups and local donor interest continues, but we need your help to get the word out! Please help us in sharing information about this tremendous new resource for a chronically marginalized population in the greater Seattle community. We can offer interviews with Alicia or our partners and additional information as needed.

Thank you,

Erin Brewer
Co-Founder, Co-Board President
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