A YEAR IN REVIEW

A Snapshot of WRAG
Together, we worked hard in 2021, shaping how WRAG’s efforts might better center racial equity and justice, so our region can become a place where all people can thrive. With the support and voices of brave nonprofit leaders, our programming in 2021 also forced some introspection and opened doors for mutual accountability in this sector. Collectively, we – the WRAG staff, board, and members – have focused our energy on identifying who we are, who we have been, and how we can actualize whom we want to become in service to the best interest of this region.

The result of this work is WRAG’s new strategic framework. WRAG's new strategic framework is the product of collaboration with the board, staff, members, and nonprofit leaders. The new strategic framework has the potential to shape how philanthropy can positively impact the Greater Washington region - but only if we remain committed and agree to hold each other accountable when we falter.

WRAG understands that the status quo for philanthropy will not lead to a more just and equitable region. As we continue our work in the philanthropic sector, we cement our goals to mobilize, convene and advocate philanthropy. We believe that we need to support our community and network of philanthropists, so we can learn, grow and collaborate on the outcomes of our reimagined journey.

Looking back at our work in 2021 is essential to evaluate where we succeeded, where we faltered, and what we can do to repair and create a more resilient and liberated region with a keen eye for equity, racial justice, systems change, and community-led solutions.

Ruth LaToison Ifill
President and CEO
WRAG'S 2021 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

"The current vision and mission of WRAG create a strategic foundation for how we operationalize our commitment to racial equity and justice. Guided by our commitments and to impact, WRAG used this timing of organizational change to reimagine its contribution and leadership within philanthropy to the Greater Washington region."

North Star

We believe that a racially just and equitable region must be the vision for all of philanthropy—across all funding priorities, geographic scopes, and types and sizes of giving vehicles.

WRAG is a place for us all... for all of us committed to a racially just and equitable Greater Washington region.

The Work

CONVENE
Create spaces to learn about community issues from experts and from each other

MOBILIZE
Harness philanthropic influences and partnerships to increase attention to and investments in neighborhoods, communities, and the region

ADVOCATE
Catalyze collective action of members and stakeholders towards systems change around key issues that impact the region

Click here to read WRAG's 2021 Strategic Framework.
A partnership has been formed to address the urgent income needs of community members in our region and support the growing movement for guaranteed income as a policy tool to advance racial justice. The Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers; if, A foundation for Radical Possibility; Restaurant Opportunities Center of DC (ROC-DC); the Greater Washington Community Foundation; Amalgamated Bank; and the Amalgamated Foundation; have collaborated to launch a guaranteed income pilot for hospitality workers displaced by COVID. Let's GO (Guarantee Opportunity) DMV! is a 5-year, double bottom-line guaranteed income (GI) pilot that will implement fundraising and impact investment to provide guaranteed income payments to 75 hospitality workers.

Learn more about the work behind Let's GO DMV! by clicking here.

The DMV has one of the nation's highest rates of unhoused residents. The pandemic exacerbated the long-standing regional affordable housing crisis that displaces and forces many families and individuals to struggle and be housing insecure. Due to WRAG's commitment to create and foster a more equitable Greater Washington region, WRAG has started engaging in partnerships with the Housing Association of Nonprofit Developers (HAND) to convene philanthropy in regional forums and to develop working groups that focus on housing justice. To learn more about WRAG's current housing justice efforts click here.
CONVENINGS

40
Events hosted by WRAG
In 2021, WRAG hosted 40 convenings focused on our work areas on Healthy Communities, Housing, Racial Equity, Guaranteed Income, Children, Youth and Families, and Civic Action.

Nearly 1,000 Registrants
Number of registrants at WRAG convenings and working groups.

207
Registered participants 2021 Annual Meeting
Our 2021 Annual Meeting focused on "Our Reimagined Journey" Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, WRAG decided to host a virtual convening.
In October 2021, we shared the work of the 2020 Census Working Group. A collaboration with the Meyer Foundation, United Way of the National Capital Area if, A Foundation for Radical Possibility, and the Bainum Family. The 2020 Census Funders Working Group and individual funders provided a variety of grants to support Census. From the report "The final census data showed significant population increases from 2010 to 2020 of 14.6% for DC, 7.9% for Virginia and 7.0% for Maryland (compared to an overall increase of 7.4% for the U.S.). Overall, the combined efforts of community groups, nonprofit organizations, local governments, and the philanthropic sector in the Washington, DC region contributed to higher overall responses than in the 2010 Census" 

Click here to read the report.

**Children, Youth, Families, and Education Working Group**

The Children, Youth, Families and Education Working Group (CYFWG) at WRAG is focused on understanding the needs of young people and families across the region and identifying how funders can best support the nonprofits that serve them. In 2021, the Children, Youth, Families, and Education working group continued its work on convening about children, youth, and education in the region during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the course of the pandemic, the working group supported DC's out-of-school-time programs since OST programs have proven to be continued lifeline for children and families.

These programs provide communities, families, and children with the academic, social-emotional, and childcare support the District's communities need. This effort from the CYFWG encompasses the goals and mission of WRAG to foster equity in the Greater Washington region, more explicitly advocating for increased funding in programs that can create a more equitable experience for DC's students.

Click here to learn more about the CYF Working Group.
WORKING GROUPS

Racial Equity Working Group

Racial Equity Working Group members are dedicated to understanding better how structural racism - particularly anti-Black racism - manifests in our region and taking strategic actions toward dismantling it collectively. In October 2021, the REWG convened to draft an identity document that defined: **Why we exist** (our purpose), **Who we are** (learners, collaborators, creators & conveners), and **What we will accomplish** (our goals). This was a defining effort to cement the working group's identity and complemented our efforts and work as outlined in our strategic framework.

The REWG defined its purpose as "a space of learning, action, support, and accountability for members of WRAG who have a commitment to racial equity in the Greater Washington Region and who take strategic action to advocate for and create transformational practices within their institutions and the broader philanthropic sector."

Click here to learn more about the REWG

Healthy Communities Working Group

In September 2021, the Healthy Communities Working Group hosted a presentation and overview of the Regional Variant Project. This effort was the first of its kind to use the sequencing information from positive COVID cases in the DMV to find links between cases based on the number of mutations.

This effort is led by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the DC Department of Forensic Sciences with support from HCWG members: CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, de Beaumont Foundation, Healthcare Initiative Foundation, the Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, and the Northern Virginia Health Foundation.

Click here to watch the recording
WRAG MEMBERSHIP

WRAG members come from across the philanthropic sector in the Greater Washington region.

The majority of WRAG members are family foundations.

![Bar Chart]

A diverse network of philanthropic organizations, foundations, and nonprofits is required to deepen WRAG’s work to mobilize, convene, and advocate for a more equitable Greater Washington region.

**Regional Breakdown of WRAG Members**

**Corporate Members**

Corporate Foundations and giving programs from the following industries:
Consulting, logistics, communications, banking, and healthcare.
FISCALLY SPONSORED PROGRAMS

WRAG acts a fiscal sponsor for several nonprofit programs, highlighted below

BREAK A DIFFERENCE

Break A Difference’s mission is to strategically engage individuals and institutions through service to make positive impacts in communities and in those who serve. As a nonprofit, we accomplish this by engaging corporations in large-scale service projects, preparing skilled leaders to serve on nonprofit boards, expanding the volunteer service capacity for nonprofits, and partnering with organizations to engage college students in week-long immersive service trips, otherwise known as Alternative Breaks. We recognize service and volunteering as powerful tools to tackle such important matters as leadership development, team building, and employee engagement.

CAPITAL EXPERIENCE LAB

The Capital Experience Lab empowers students to harness the resources of our world-class city in the service of their dreams, to navigate diverse environments, and to achieve postsecondary success. Drawing on over 59 years of DC-based classroom experience between us, we have developed an experiential learning model that supports student achievement, personal agency, and a sense of ownership, belonging, and home within our city. Capital Experience Lab will launch its first class Fall of 2022.

FRANK KAREL FELLOWSHIP

The Karel Fellowship honors and advances the legacy of Frank Karel, who established, led and nurtured the field of strategic communications in philanthropy during his 30 years as chief communications officer for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. Among Karel’s strong beliefs was that the public would best be served if the next generation of advocates was reflective of America’s ever-growing diverse communities. Towards that end, each summer, the Fellowship matches first-generation and/or minority students with leading nonprofits in the D.C. area, where they work on social justice issues under the guidance of a communication mentor.
The Sports & Entertainment Impact Collective (SEIC) is an unparalleled sports and entertainment philanthropy organization that combines academic training, professional development and custom events. Recognizing the synergy and collaboration across two cultural pillars, sports and entertainment, SEIC brings together a unique group motivated by the common interest of building a more sophisticated industry with greater community impact. SEIC offers the gold standard in educational opportunities that result in success and growth for leaders from across the sports and entertainment industries. Our students, faculty and event participants represent diverse organizations with a variety of programs, outcomes and obstacles. SEIC’s three areas of engagement remove the barriers that exist for leaders in social impact to take time and afford high quality, trusted training. SEIC’s goal is for leaders to return to their organizations after participating in one of our programs more motivated, more connected and ready to move the field forward.

Fiscally Sponsored Programs

HAITIAN LADIES NETWORK®

The Haitian Ladies Network® is the largest global platform connecting more than 75,000 women and girls of Haitian descent from across the U.S., Haiti, and the world. Based in Washington, DC, the Haitian Ladies Network® is a powerful professional and social network led by a seven-member steering committee. Our mission is to create a space for professional networking and inter-generational engagement for Haitian Ladies and to facilitate meaningful collaboration with women in Haiti. Annually, we host the Haitian Ladies Weekend, a 3-day event which includes a symposium, brunch and cultural events.

NATIONAL FAMILY SUPPORT NETWORK

Founded in 2011, the National Family Support Network (NFSN) is a membership-based organization comprised of statewide networks of two or more Family Support and Strengthening programs, such as Family Resource Centers, working together within a collective impact framework to ensure coordinated quality support for families. As the United States’ coordinating body for Family Strengthening & Support networks, the NFSN currently has 30 member networks, comprised of more than 3,000 Family Support and Strengthening organizations, representing the great geographical and demographic diversity of the nation. The mission of the National Family Support Network is to promote positive outcomes for all children, families, and communities by leveraging the collective impact of state networks and championing quality family support and strengthening practices and policies.

SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT IMPACT COLLECTIVE

The Sports & Entertainment Impact Collective (SEIC) is an unparalleled sports and entertainment philanthropy organization that combines academic training, professional development and custom events. Recognizing the synergy and collaboration across two cultural pillars, sports and entertainment, SEIC brings together a unique group motivated by the common interest of building a more sophisticated industry with greater community impact. SEIC offers the gold standard in educational opportunities that result in success and growth for leaders from across the sports and entertainment industries. Our students, faculty and event participants represent diverse organizations with a variety of programs, outcomes and obstacles. SEIC’s three areas of engagement remove the barriers that exist for leaders in social impact to take time and afford high quality, trusted training. SEIC’s goal is for leaders to return to their organizations after participating in one of our programs more motivated, more connected and ready to move the field forward.
FISCALLY SPONSORED PROGRAMS

WALKER'S LEGACY FOUNDATION

Walker’s Legacy is a global platform for the professional and entrepreneurial multicultural woman. We exist to inspire, equip, and engage through thought-provoking content, educational programming and global community.

We strive to level the playing field by ensuring that, when it comes to business, you are not alone. The Walker’s Legacy Foundation (WLF) exists to provide the entrepreneurial, financial, and professional support needed to improve economic prosperity and reduce economic inequality for multicultural women and girls, globally. In 2020, WLF conducted a COVID-19 Impact Research Study focused on multicultural women small business owners, graduated over 400 women from their PROSPECTUS Business Accelerator, and expanded their national reach to support and uplift multicultural women and girls in Rochester, New York.

WASHINGTON AIDS PARTNERSHIP

The Washington AIDS Partnership (WAP) brings together ideas, people, and resources to end the HIV epidemic in the Greater Washington region. In 2020, WAP participated in the Greater Washington Community Foundation’s COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, working with its philanthropic partners to award much-needed funds in the community. WAP relaxed their reporting requirements and streamlined their application process so that grantees could focus on providing services. WAP’s Health Corps team, a youth development initiative that places young people in the health care field for a year of service, has screened for COVID-19 at local health centers, staffed hospice programs, and conducted virtual and in-person health education sessions, engaging over 21,000 individuals. They also stepped up to help a local nonprofit, Food & Friends, serving in their kitchen to ensure the organization was able to continue providing meals and groceries to chronically ill individuals. Over 38,000 meals were provided to local residents through this partnership.

WRAG is the fiscal host to eight fiscally sponsored programs, learn more about WRAG's fiscal sponsorship and apply here.
The Leadership Fund at the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers (WRAG) houses general operating contributions, allowing unrestricted funds to support our mission-based and vision-building work. WRAG works to promote increased, effective, and responsible philanthropy to improve the health and vitality of the Greater Washington region and all who live here.

WRAG's critical work of mobilizing philanthropy around racial equity and social justice profoundly impacts our local and national ecosystems. Mobilizing philanthropy allows us to engage with and uplift community needs, promote civic engagement and place-based advocacy, provide critical education and training for funders, create robust issue-based programming, create space for affinity and identity groups, and so much more.

The Leadership Fund provides the resources needed to build mutual accountability between philanthropy, nonprofits, and community members.
ABOUT WRAG

WRAG organizes, equips, invests in, and activates its members, partners, communities, and other stakeholders for a more racially just and equitable Greater Washington region. Our contribution to this vision includes:

- **Shifting the practices** of the local philanthropic sector to be anchored by racial equity;

- **Creating spaces and opportunities for philanthropy** to collectively learn, teach, plan, invest, and act pursuant to a racially just and equitable region; and

- **Attracting and allocating more investments** from all sectors to support the leadership of organizations in the Greater Washington region to advance racially just and equitable strategies and outcomes.

Interested in becoming a member?

- Make grants to multiple grantees in the Greater Washington, D.C. region?
- Want to improve the quality of your grantmaking or corporate giving?
- Provide philanthropic services in the Greater Washington, D.C. region?
- Focus on the field of philanthropy or nonprofit leadership at a University, think tank, or academic institution?
- Focus on grants and/or public partnerships at a Government office in the Greater Washington D.C. region?

Contact us about membership opportunities!

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