Investment Report



Joseph Boateng
Chair of Investment Committee

Thank you for choosing Seattle Foundation as your partner in philanthropy. We know that you share our commitment to creating a region of shared prosperity, belonging, and justice. We appreciate your confidence in us to manage your assets in service of a greater goal: fostering a community where everyone can thrive. We are pleased to share these results from Q4 and we welcome any questions or feedback.

Market Conditions

U.S. Equity markets continued their strong performance, ending 2024 with gains of over 20% for the second year in a row; fueled by long-anticipated rate cuts and enthusiasm around AI technologies, large-cap tech companies led markets higher. Beneath the headlines, the U.S. consumer remained the underappreciated engine driving the economy. Accounting for over two-thirds of domestic GDP, their steady spending helped the economy maintain its momentum throughout 2024, while higher interest rates cooled the economy and brought inflation down

from peak levels. Global markets were also positive with gains over 17%. It's important to note this as the portfolios have both U.S. and non-U.S. exposure.

The fourth quarter concluded the U.S. election cycle, which boosted stock prices in November due to investors' expectations of a pro-business agenda including favorable tax and regulatory policies. U.S. services sector activity picked up in December, driven by strong demand. However, the quarter ended with negative equity returns, which were impacted by concerns over interest rates, market uncertainty over potential unanticipated policy changes and its broader impact, as well as geopolitical risks

Investment-grade bonds experienced a decline over the fourth quarter but generated positive returns for the year due to higher interest rates. Credit spreads narrowed significantly, nearing historic lows and well below the 10-year median, while lower-quality bonds outperformed higher-quality ones during this period.

We anticipate that the current trend of narrow stock performance will shift, giving way to a new phase. At that point, the primary concern will be whether portfolios are structured to achieve absolute returns that can effectively preserve wealth, maintain purchasing power, and ensure sustainable impact for the Foundation.

Portfolios

The Balanced Pool is the Seattle Foundation's primary investment pool and is actively managed to deliver returns at 5% plus CPI over a long-term horizon. It maintains a diversified portfolio that includes exposure to global equity markets, alternative investments, and more conservative asset classes such as U.S. Fixed Income. Over the last 10 years, the Balanced Pool has gained 6.7% per annum. The Pool returned -1.9% in the fourth quarter and registered a 9.1% gain in the last 12 months. The portfolio's forward returns tend to be highly correlated to complexity of an investment climate—greater challenges translate to higher returns.

In addition to our Balanced Pool, we offer other investment options to meet our fundholders' needs. Our Socially Responsible Pool, designed to meet ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) requirements while also providing competitive economic returns, returned -1.8% for the quarter. Our Intermediate-Term Pool, designed to meet the expectations of donors with a grantmaking horizon in the 2-7-year range, returned -2.4% for the quarter. The Foundation also manages a Short-Term Pool for donors with very short grantmaking horizons. This pool, which is intended to preserve capital as best as possible, returned 0.7% for the quarter. Lastly, the Foundation offers an Index Pool, which is all passive, and a Growth Pool. These pools returned 1.6% and -2.5% in the quarter, respectively.

We are thankful for the opportunity to support you in creating powerful, rewarding philanthropy to make King County a stronger, more vibrant community for all. We welcome your questions and comments about Seattle Foundation.

Sincerely,

Joseph Boateng

Chair of Investment Committee



Investment Pool Target Asset Allocation Performance Seattle Foundation Custom Benchmark 6.0% **Short-Term Pool** Fixed Income Cash & Equivalents 4.0% 0-2 year giving horizon 2.0% 0.0% 3 Mos 1 Yr 3 Yrs 5 Yrs 7 Yrs 8.0% **Intermediate Pool** Domestic Equity 3-7 year giving horizon 4.0% International Equity 2.0% Fixed Income Real Return -2 0% Cash & Equivalents -4 0% 3 Mos 1 Yr 3 Yrs 5 Yrs 7 Yrs 12.0% **Index Pool** 10.0% Domestic Equity 10+ year giving horizon 8.0% International Equity 6.0% Fixed Income 4.0% Cash & Equivalents 2.0% 0.0% 1.6% -2 0% 3 Mos 1 Yr 3 Yrs 5 Yrs 7 Yrs 12.0% Socially Domestic Equity Responsible International Equity 8.0% Investment Pool 6.0% Fixed Income 44% 4.0% 10+ year giving horizon 2.0% 0.0% 1.8% -2.0% 3 Yrs 5 Yrs 10 Yrs 16.0% Domestic Equity **Balanced Pool** International Equity 12.0% 10+ year giving horizon Fixed Income 8.0% Real Return Real Estate 4.0% Private Equity 0.0% Cash & Equivalents Opportunistic Credit -4 0% 3 Mos 1 Yr 3 Yrs 5 Yrs 10 Yrs 16.0% 12.0% Domestic Equity **Growth Pool** International Equity 8.0% 10+ year giving horizon Fixed Income Real Return Cash & Equivalents -4.0% 3 Mos 1 Yr 5 Yrs 7 Yrs 3 Yrs

Seattle Foundation returns are net of investment management fees. The fee schedules for each investment pool vary based on the pool's holdings, performance, and size. Current management fees range from 0.09 to 1.04% and generally will not exceed 1.5% in any investment pool. Returns are not net of fees for investment consulting and custodial services. Individual fund performance may vary due to the timing of contributions and grants. The Balanced Pool has a number of private asset investments that periodically provide valuation updates too late to be reflected in this report.

Seattle Foundation Philanthropic Partners may request a change to their investment pools no more than once in a 12-month period during two windows annually. The current window closes March 31, 2025 and transfers will occur no later than May 31, 2025. Please note endowed funds are solely invested in the Balanced Pool. If you have any questions, please contact your Philanthropic Advisor or our Philanthropic Services team at pseattlefoundation.org or 206.515.2111.



Investment Philosophy and Strategy

Effective stewardship of assets is key to Seattle Foundation's ability to fulfill its mission of igniting powerful and rewarding philanthropy to make Greater Seattle a stronger, more vibrant community for all. Reflecting the infinite life of a community foundation, we take a long-term approach to our investment management to maximize the philanthropic resources available over time to meet community needs. Our long-term return objective is to generate annual returns of 5% plus inflation over a full market cycle of 10+ years through prudent management of a diversified portfolio.

We are oriented towards a total-return approach to investing, which aims to blend income and capital appreciation to address the challenge of preserving long-term purchasing power while dealing with unanticipated inflation. This approach to investment management is consistent with the Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA), as implemented by Washington State.

As a prudent steward, the Foundation has the following main priorities for our Balanced Pool: *maximize total return and protect principal*. In addition to the Balanced Pool, the Foundation offers five other pools for philanthropists with different investment interests (Socially Responsible Investment and Index), risk profiles (Growth) and giving horizons (Intermediate and Short-Term). Outside management for funds larger than \$750,000 is also available.

Investment Committee

The Investment Committee, a standing committee of the Board of Trustees, is charged with overseeing the investment activities of the Foundation. This includes advising the Board of Trustees on the investment policy, asset allocation strategies to meet the return objectives, and monitoring portfolio performance. The committee consists of members selected for their investment expertise and judgment.

Joseph Boateng, CHAIR

Joseph Boateng joined **Casey Family Programs** as its first Chief Investment Officer in 2007 and is responsible for overseeing the foundation's \$2.6 billion endowment. Before joining Casey, he was a member of the Johnson & Johnson Investment Committee, responsible for managing over \$17 billion. Joseph received his MBA from UCLA and is an alumnus of the Said Business School at Oxford. He is a CFA Charterholder, CPA/PFS, and Chartered Global Management Accountant designee.

Sheng-Sheng Foo

Sheng-Sheng Foo is Director of Investments at **Casey Family Programs**, where she has investment responsibilities across asset classes globally in supporting the foundation's endowment. Prior to this, she worked at The University of California Investment Office and previously oversaw the Public Markets portfolio at The California Endowment. She has an MBA from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and is a CFA charter holder and earned the Certificate in Quantitative Finance (CQF).

Michelle Goldberg

Michelle Goldberg is the former General Partner for venture capital firm **Ignition Partners** and has over a decade of investment experience. She currently sits on a number of boards, including Bakkt, Glympse, Visible Technologies, and Ice.com. She received an MA from Harvard University and a BA from Columbia College.

Steve Hil

Steve Hill is the former director of the **Department of Retirement Systems and Health Care Authority** and former Senior Vice President of Human Resources at **Weyerhaeuser**. His investment committee experience includes service on the Washington State Investment Board, Consumer Reports (Finance Chair), Washington State University Endowment, and the Weyerhaeuser Pension committee. Steve received a BS from UC Berkeley and an MBA from UCLA.

Jason Malinowski

Jason Malinowski is the Chief Investment Officer of the **Seattle City Employees' Retirement System**. Prior to joining the City of Seattle, he was a Managing Director at BlackRock, serving as the Head of Risk and Quantitative Analysis for Alternative Investments. He received a BA in Economics and Mathematics from New York University and a MA in Policy Studies at the University of Washington, Bothell.

Patrick Martinell

Patrick Martinell is an Investment Officer and Director of Research with the **University of Washington**. He also spent two years at the Washington State Investment Board (WSIB) on the Risk Management and Asset Allocation team and 14 years at Cascade Asset Management. Patrick holds a double degree in Economics and Mathematics from Claremont McKenna College. He is a member of the Seattle Society of Financial Analysts and a CFA Charterholder.

Jeff Nita

Jeff Nita is the retired Vice President, Treasurer and Pensions for **Weyerhaeuser Company**. At Weyerhaeuser, he led capital markets and treasury activities, risk, and oversight of its pension investments. He has served on the board of Seattle Children's Hospital and Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and at both organizations served as chair of their investment committee. Jeff has a BA and MA in Public Policy from UC Berkeley.

Kenla Torres-Sibley

Kenla Torres-Sibley is a member of the asset allocation division and leads the external public manager team for the **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Trust** and **Cascade Investment**. Prior to joining Cascade, she was an Investment Director at Brown University's endowment. Kenla holds an MS in Investment Management from Boston University and a BS in Finance and Economics from the University of South Florida. She is a member of the investment committee of the United Negro College Fund's Gates Millennium Scholars program.

Grea Wilson

Greg Wilson is a Portfolio Manager at **Pugh Capital Management**. He has spent his career analyzing, trading, and developing strategies supporting the mortgage-backed, asset-backed, and commercial mortgage-backed sectors across Pugh Capital's products. Greg earned his MS in Finance from Seattle University and his BA in Economics and Psychology from Claremont McKenna College.