



COMMUNITY IMPACT

# Vibrant Democracy Initiative

Strengthening leadership and amplifying voices of communities underrepresented in our democracy.

## WE ARE CREATING A MORE EQUITABLE FUTURE IN GREATER SEATTLE.

Everyone deserves the opportunity to have their voice heard. Yet we know that many people do not feel informed, empowered or engaged enough to participate in our democracy. Vibrant Democracy aims to strengthen leadership and mobilize engagement to amplify the voices of people of color and other underrepresented communities.

We've long known that some communities are underrepresented in voter registration and turnout. As our region diversifies, the growing number of limited English speakers, refugees and immigrants who are new to this culture and communities that have been historically disenfranchised face the most significant barriers.

However, voter access is just one component to Vibrant Democracy. How people are able to engage and have their voices heard on issues like affordable housing, transit access and other civic issues are necessary to create a more equitable future for all. Engaging communities in change efforts that affect them leads to more effective results and improved sustainability of long-term change.

Our ability to create a more equitable future in Greater Seattle requires engaged and informed residents and with them, representative and truly democratic processes will be possible.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT VIBRANT DEMOCRACY  
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Vibrant Democracy is the bridge, increasing participation and engagement of people most affected by inequity. The Vibrant Democracy Initiative complements Communities of Opportunity and Neighbor to Neighbor – two other initiatives brought forth through Seattle Foundation's Center for Community Partnerships.

## THE BRIDGE TO STRENGTHEN VOICE AND PARTICIPATION

Vibrant Democracy concentrates its investments in three areas:



### Engagement Pipeline

Investments in leadership development coupled with broader organizing strategies to strengthen the voice of communities through individual leadership and participation in community change and mobilization efforts



### Partnership Mobilization

Flexible grants designed to foster new and unique partnerships in order to strengthen community influence



### Voter Education Fund

A partnership with King County Elections aimed at increasing the civic participation of traditionally underrepresented communities



“With the Vibrant Democracy Initiative, Seattle Foundation has moved ahead as a regional philanthropic leader, by both listening and responding to the needs and issues of equity in our community.”

— PETER BLOCH GARCIA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,  
LATINO COMMUNITY FUND