

# Nehemiah Initiative Seattle

## Building Beloved Community

*“Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require a qualitative change in our souls as well as a quantitative change in our lives.”— Martin Luther King Jr.*

**2021** was the Nehemiah Initiative’s startup year. Highlights of the year include:

- Establishment of the NIS as a nonprofit corporation in the State of Washington
- Assembled a Board of Directors & Officers
- Secured domain names ni-seattle.org and www.nehemiahinitiativeseattle.org
- Launched a new website
- Advised on drafts for the Seattle Office of Planning and Community Development land use development allowance ordinance for religious organization-owned property (ROOP)
- Advocated for the passage of the land use ordinance and rallied our community collaborators to provide letters of support and testimony before Seattle City Council
- Promoted the NIS in the media, higher education publications and the national network of the Enterprise Community Partners Faith-Based Development Initiative
- Consulted with four churches on next steps on their respective developments
- Established the Sankofa Beloved Community Development Fund as a NIS fundraising program
- Identified three study sites for the UW Autumn 2021 McKinley Futures Nehemiah Studio
- Completed and filed an application for IRS Section 501c3 charitable status



## BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY

continues to act as our guiding principle in the establishment of programs to fight gentrification-caused displacement by removing surplus community-held property from the for-profit, speculative real estate market.

A recent research study at the UW College of Built Environments validates that our Black churches hold over \$150 million in real estate assets.

In 2021, we began to identify the details of how we will accomplish the objectives of the repurposing of faith-based organization owned land for affordable homes development.

As of December 2021, we have introduced nine Black churches to our faith-based development process.

## DONATION CONTACT

Donald King, President/CEO

Email [donald@ni-seattle.org](mailto:donald@ni-seattle.org)

Website [www.nehemiahinitiativeseattle.org](http://www.nehemiahinitiativeseattle.org)

## ANGELS

We have been blessed by the generous donations of:

- City of Seattle Equitable Development Initiative
- Enhabit/Community Energy Project (CEP)
- Foster Garvey, Attorneys at Law
- Housing Development Consortium
- Jim & Patty Rouse Charitable Foundation
- Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church
- Seattle Peace Chorus

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## OUR YEAR AHEAD

In 2022, The Nehemiah Initiative Seattle (NIS) will continue to provide advocacy, development knowledge-building and predevelopment funding.

Thanks to our generous donors (our Angels), the NIS is expanding staff to build capacity and engage in an aggressive approach to our work with an urgency that matches the threat of displacement of Black residents, businesses and institutions in Central Seattle and beyond.

NIS is seeking an experienced **Program Administrator** to join our organization to manage our signature programs and maintain communication with our partner churches, community collaborators and donors.

Program Administrator tasks also include:

- Maintenance of website and newsletter
- Management of media/public relations
- Collection of financial data for CPA
- Arrange BOD and community meetings

A job description, compensation and employee benefits for this position will be posted on our website at: [www.nehemiahinitiativeSeattle.org](http://www.nehemiahinitiativeSeattle.org)

## 2022 PROGRAMS

### Our 2022 Signature Programs

- Homeownership
- Leadership in Development
- Sankofa Beloved Community Development Fund

### Homeownership

The NIS will partner with established, local homeownership programs to provide for sale opportunities in our affordable housing developments. It is an important objective of the NIS to contribute to the economic vitality of our community and engage in efforts to decrease the Black/White wealth gap through homeownership.

### Leadership in Development

The NIS will partner with the UW College of Built Environments to host a series of knowledge-transfer classes to introduce the development process to church leadership who are considering development.

### Sankofa Beloved Community Development Fund

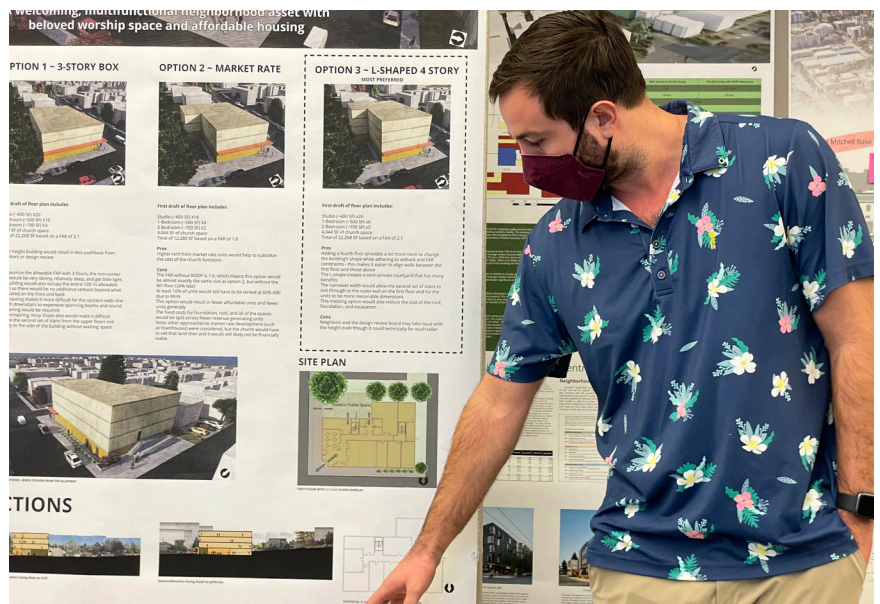
The NIS is embarking on an aggressive campaign to raise funds for predevelopment services fees for our prepared partner churches to advance their projects to “shovel ready” status. **MAKE A DONATION!**



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## AUTUMN 2021 | NEHEMIAH STUDIO



Autumn 2021 students began the quarter with a walking tour of the Central District neighborhoods of each church site on October 1, 2021

## McKINLEY FUTURES NEHEMIAH STUDIO

In 2022, the NIS will begin planning for its fourth year of partnership with the UW College of Built Environments with funding from the McKinley Futures Studio, to host an interdisciplinary design studio with a focus on the study of historically Black church sites to determine their development potential, housing unit yield and financial performance. We are grateful to Jan McKinley and her late husband, David McKinley, for their continued support.