



## Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (DRCC)/Technical Advisory Group (TAG)

<https://www.duwamishcleanup.org>

DRCC/TAG represents an alliance of residential, tribal, environmental, and small business groups affected by ongoing pollution and cleanup of Seattle's Duwamish River, a 5.5-mile-long EPA SuperFund toxic hazardous waste site. Its Vision is an empowered Duwamish Valley Community thriving in a healthy and just environment. DWCC Mission: **Advocate** clean, healthy, equitable environment for people and wildlife. **Empower the community** around the Duwamish River through programming and community events. **Promote place-keeping**, ensuring the preservation of cultural identities; **Transform** the river, community and sense of home and place.

### **What are the compelling reasons for Impact 100 to partner with this organization?**

DRCC manages a holistic approach to improving life for people, animals and climate along Seattle's only river, while unflinchingly centered on community, making it relevant now and in the future. The organization is at a crossroads - while just this year reaching a milestone of being able to provide health insurance to employees, they - and others - have expanded a view of their work and what it takes to do it. Recently they brought on Adrienne Hampton, Climate Policy and Engagement Manager, to focus on policy and further cultivate relationships to drive long-term changes in policy and industry.

### **What community/communities does the organization serve?**

DWCC serves 25,000 residents and the environment of zip 98108 in So. Seattle, which includes Georgetown, South Park, Beacon Hill and Delridge. Its population is marked by high poverty and low life expectancy (73 years) - 8 years shorter than the average in Seattle/King County, and 13 years shorter than the highest. The population is 42% foreign-born, 40% Latino (many undocumented), and 70% people of color. In addition to being on the 3rd most polluted river in the nation, the area is surrounded by State highways 99 and 509, I-5, airports and commercial rail lines. These factors combine to produce significant health, public safety, and economic inequities that require a holistic, community-based, systems-based approach to repair.

### **How does the organization deliver on its mission and strive to make its vision a reality (what are its core services and initiatives... in its simplest form, what does the organization do)?**

DRCC draws links between longstanding health, economic and environmental issues along with gentrification, displacement and climate change. Programs include:

- Healthy Home Initiative/Air Program partners with the American Lung Assoc. to evaluate factors leading to poor indoor air quality in Duwamish Valley resident's homes. This program expands employment opportunities, helps other organizations invest economically in the Duwamish Valley, and provides residents with knowledgeable representatives.
- Duwamish Valley Affordable Housing Coalition. DRCC is organizing and mobilizing vulnerable community members to prevent displacement.

- Duwamish Valley Youth Corps is the only area youth engagement program focusing on environmental justice, mentorship, and job skills for youth 13+. Youth work on hands-on projects, and gain communication and leadership skills. They host a Spanish speaking radio show La Voz de la Justicia which reaches 2,000+ listeners.
- Maritime High School - The maritime industry is the third largest economic driver in the state, with a workforce that's retiring so DWCC will help prepare students from the community with experiential learning based on research in both classrooms and on the river.
- Community Stewards engages community members and facilitates training in stewardship and non-native plant identification and removal.

**How does the organization maintain proximity to the community it serves?**

Most of DRCC's staff, volunteers and board are all residents or deeply linked with the Duwamish Valley. DRCC prioritizes equity and accessibility to provide a voice to community members, many of whom have been unheard/under-represented for decades. The organization engages in community-based participatory research and community members have repeatedly prioritized youth engagement, community cleanups and stewardship, asthma mitigation, and housing. Community-driven protocols are faithfully followed, e.g., always providing childcare for meetings and interpretation/translation services. They hire from within the community, open pathways between policy-makers and residents, and in every way possible, elevate community voices.

**Describe how the organization plans to use an unrestricted grant to further its transformative impact on the community it serves. What would be the impact of the grant?**

DRCC recently has expanded its vision for change and while as a BIPOC and woman-led community-based organization it has received more attention, the vast majority of its funding is restricted. An unrestricted grant would help it complete its transition from an environmental organization to one with a more expansive view that is better able to holistically tackle the intersectional issues of climate, racial and social justice.

**Describe how the organization affects community and systems**

DRCC has been tackling the health inequity linked to environmental pollution by advocating for issues such as a cumulative approach to environmental monitoring (vs parts) and holding city, state and federal agencies accountable for legislative injustices on issues from health to displacement to investment. The organization is also working for stronger regulations of key industries along the river such as recycling, transport, and iron & metal.

**Does the organization's leadership and financial position reflect stability and capacity to execute its mission?** Yes the team at DRCC has conducted strategic planning, in partnership with RVC, providing a solid infrastructure to advance operations. The team is comfortable with complexity, and poised to capitalize on the intersectionalities of residents and larger ecosystems both environmental and structural.